

# LIGHTING UP THE NIGHT



# Liam Gunn heads out under cover of darkness to test two intriguing new headtorch choices from Samalite

**L**et's face it – on average, the typical shore angler will spend more time fishing in the dark than in daylight. That being the case, a high quality and reliable head torch is always an important tool to have in your arsenal.

Samalite, a reputable name in creating robust lighting solutions, have developed two impressive yet distinctively different head torches, both designed to meet the diverse needs of anglers, bait diggers and potentially bloggers and photographers, the HL3XF-L and the HL3000W-PBL. Both models promise powerful illumination, extended run times, and durable construction. I got a hold of one of each to put to the test and see how they fared.

## DESIGN AND DURABILITY

The HL3000W-PBL's construction is designed for rugged outdoor use. Its lightweight profile and sturdy build make it suitable for use in coastal environments, where exposure to saltwater and rough terrain is common. I found the HL3000W to be excellent for self-take photos at night, where I simply set it up behind my camera tripod, and gained some great quality light helping me to improve the quality of my photos quite noticeably.

## WHICH IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Both the Samalite HL3XF-L and HL3000W-PBL are powerful, no-nonsense torches designed for different

segments of the fishing community.

The HL3XF-L offers a versatile, high-brightness solution suitable for general nighttime fishing on rocks, beaches or perhaps even winter uptiding, providing a balance of power, battery life and portability. The HL3000W-PBL, on the other hand, is ideal for those looking for maximum illumination over broad areas and long sessions.

Choosing between the two ultimately depends on your specific needs. If you require a reliable, all-round head torch for various scenarios, the HL3XF-L offers excellent value and performance. For those engaged in more demanding activities that require intense brightness and wide-area coverage, the HL3000W-PBL could be a great option.

## HL3XF-L

The HL3XF-L is positioned as a high-powered rechargeable head torch ideal for general beach and rock fishing. It boasts an impressive 3600 lumens—enough to light up large areas and assist in navigating rocky terrains or dark beaches safely. The floodlight beam stretches to 200 metres, providing ample visibility for lighting up reefs, gulleys and features around you while you tactfully try and nail that personal best!

In keeping with their usual 'does what it says on the tin' the HL3XF-L has

three simple settings. The high setting delivers 3,600 lumens for around four hours, perfect for busy sessions where maximum illumination is required. For medium and low settings, the torch offers 2,200 lumens for 7 hours and 1,500 lumens for 11 hours, respectively.

This flexibility extends battery life significantly, ensuring the torch can last through a long night without needing frequent recharges, though I did find the low or medium settings more than ample and using the torch this way got me through multiple night sessions back

to back before needing a re-charge. The overall weight is manageable, making it comfortable for extended use without causing fatigue or becoming uncomfortable. The comfort of the head band does make a fairly noticeable difference when worn for a few hours. The HL3XF-L is well-suited for general beach and rock fishing, where broad, good quality illumination is crucial.

**HL3XF-L: RRP £299.95**

- 3600 Lumen - 4.5 hours
- 2200 Lumen - 7 hours
- 1500 Lumen - 11+ hours

## HL3000W-PBL

For those serious about bait digging, long-haul sessions or perhaps the video bloggers amongst us, the HL3000W-PBL offers a different set of advantages. With a massive 5,600 lumens output, this torch is designed for maximum illumination and extended run times, making it a formidable tool for the more serious angler.

The HL3000W-PBL's strong suit is its sheer brightness – 5,600 lumens at maximum output, which can illuminate large areas and provide clear visibility even in complete darkness. It features

a first-of-its kind 180-degree wall of light, ensuring total coverage of the area in front of the user. This wide-angle beam is particularly useful for bait diggers and foragers, who need to see their surroundings clearly without needing to constantly move their head to change angle.

The wide-angle beam also avoids blinding other nearby anglers, which should be a welcome feature on a busy stretch of beach. I could also see this perhaps being useful for more stealthy missions, where the angler may want to keep a highly focused torch beam off

the water, to avoid spooking wary fish. Run times were pretty impressive: over 7 hours on the highest setting, with medium and low settings providing up to 9 and 11 hours, respectively.

The torch is powered by a lightweight Li-ion battery pack weighing only 890 grams, making it comfortable for prolonged use without strain – the extension cable didn't get in the way of my fishing at all.

**HL3000W-PBL: RRP £558**

- 5600 Lumen - 7+ hours
- 3900 Lumen - 9 hours
- 2300 Lumen - 11+ hours