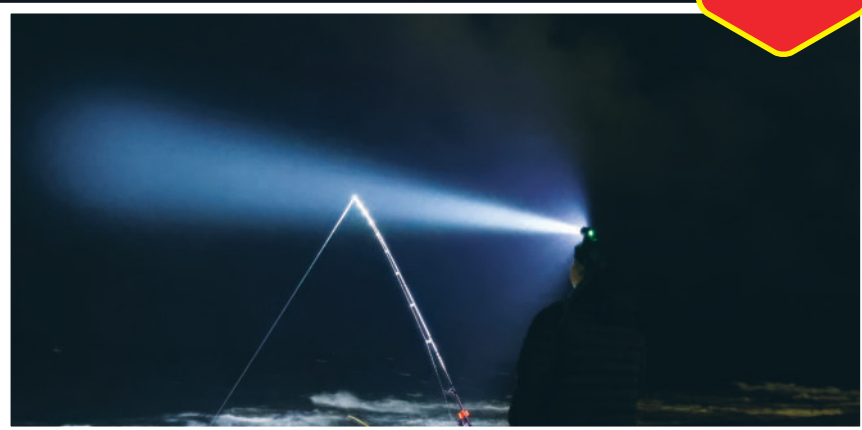


SAMALITE HL600F

Liam Gunn shines a light on the latest iteration of a headtorch that packs a punch with both its price and performance

SeaAngler
REVIEW



Many of us are simple creatures of habit. When we find a piece of gear that works reliably, we tend to stick with it. But, to many British sea anglers, reliability isn't just a bonus - it's an absolute necessity. A dependable headtorch isn't just about illuminating your rod tips, it is about enhancing safety and helping to build confidence. After all, how can you safely traverse rocky gulleys, slippery reefs and hike over cliffs without knowing where your next step may lead you? You don't want to cut corners. A good head torch isn't a luxury; it is a vital piece of safety equipment.

There are many head torches on the market with claims of several thousand lumen output for several hours, with high battery performance. For example, a lamp

may claim to produce 4000 lumens; however, in reality this output may only be possible for 10-15 seconds before the power-saving technologies kick in, reverting to a significantly lower overall output after this short burst. This can give a misleading impression of their true performance. This is where Samalite's approach differs.

WHO ARE SAMALITE?

Some of you reading this might have heard of Samalite from the early days of their production, with the first purpose-built fishing head torches reaching the market back in 2000. My curiosity was therefore piqued when I came across the HL600F. Unlike many of its competitors, the HL600F seemed to offer an honest set of figures.

The HL600F has in fact been in production for over 10 years. The model has remained consistent throughout the years. Instead of constantly rebranding, re-naming and creating new model names, the guys at Samalite focus instead on upgrading the technology within the head lamp. When the HL600F first arrived on the market, it produced 600 lumens. At the time, this was undoubtedly impressive. Today, thanks to technological advances, it delivers six times that output, more than living up to its expectations.

The HL600F is a purpose-designed fishing tool. It cleverly combines both a spot and a flood beam into an effective, easy to operate package. It simply features three modes, each accessed via the click of a single button making it more user-friendly when using gloves, and in cold weather.



ON TEST

I have used the same old headlamps for several years without the thought to change them out. So, when I got the HL600F I honestly wasn't sure how it would stack up at first. After all, on paper, the performance seemed to be similar offerings to the lamps I currently used.

What I found out quite quickly really surprised me - I was instantly very impressed with the quality of the brightness and spread of beam coming from the ultra-crisp LED lamps. When I compared this to lamps with the same specifications, I can honestly say that this little lamp stands head and shoulders above the rest in terms of the brightness, and quality of lighting offered. Where this lamp continued to impress

me was with the battery life. I found during my testing that the lamp actually ran for slightly longer than the claimed figures on almost every session - this for me solidified my opinion, as I have fallen victim to the disappointment of batteries falling short of claimed figures on several occasions!

I should also note that during testing, in the unpredictable weather in Scotland, the performance of the lamp remained steely impressive. The claimed run time, and lumen output were spot on, and quite frankly staggering compared to other offerings from other brands, reinforcing the company's reputation. ■

PERFORMANCE

The true brilliance of the HL600F lies in its performance-to-battery life ratio. Many torches on the market sacrifice run time for brightness, but Samalite's focus on quality LEDs and high-capacity batteries ensures you get sustained performance without compromise.

High Mode (3600 lumens) delivered a run time of approximately 4.5 hours.

Medium Mode (2200 lumens) lasted around seven hours, while Low Mode (1500 lumens), which I found more than sufficient for most sessions, delivered around 11 hours of continuous use.

EXTENDED USE

For anglers planning longer sessions, Samalite offers an extension cable and separate power belt, which can provide up to 29 hours of illumination at 1500 lumens. That's staggering and makes the HL600F suitable for long-haul trips, or weekend sessions where reliable lighting is critical.

The lamp employs the most modern, high-powered LEDs, married with high-capacity lithium-ion batteries. This combination results in a lightweight, portable package that doesn't sacrifice power or run time. The IP65 rating guarantees weatherproof performance, a crucial feature given the often harsh conditions faced during night fishing in the UK.

PRICE & VALUE

One of the most remarkable aspects of Samalite's history is their ability to maintain stable pricing. Over more than 10 years, the price of the HL600F has only increased by about £20, despite inflation and rising manufacturing costs. Whether you're navigating rocky coastlines, out on a cold winter's night, or simply need a dependable light, the HL600F is worth serious consideration.