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RIPP SPORTING



PRE-TRIP INFORMATION

Althouse Island

WELCOME TO YOUR ULTIMATE FISHING EXPERIENCE...

www.rippsporting.com

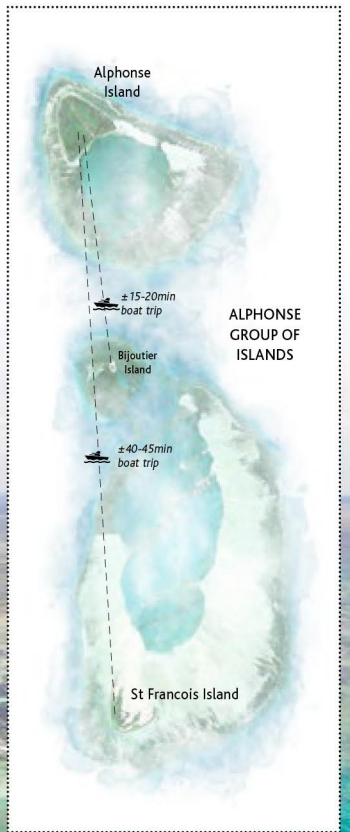
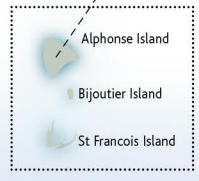
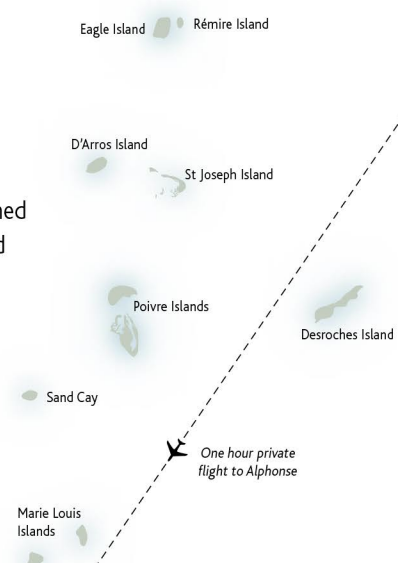
JANUARY 2020

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS
DIRECT FLIGHTS TO/FROM SEYCHELLES



Alphonse Atolls

The Alphonse Atoll Group is considered one of the most pristine, untouched Edens of the world, making it a nature lover's paradise. The magnificent island threesome comprising Alphonse, St Francois and Bijoutier lies in the very heart of the Indian Ocean as part of the Seychelles outer island group. Lying 7° degrees south of the Equator and 400 kilometres southwest of Mahé, it is blessed with one of the world's healthiest climates, and miles of unblemished shorelines, lagoons and sea flats.



ALPHONSE ISLAND

Get Ready for a Trip of a Lifetime...

YOUR ARRIVAL DAY...

On arrival you will be met by the Alphonse Island management team and transported to the hotel, indemnities will be signed followed by a comprehensive briefing on what to expect during your stay. We will then show you to your accommodation to settle in and unpack.

Once unpacked, your fishing tackle will be collected from the veranda of your accommodation and taken down to the fishing centre. Later that afternoon you will make your way on your bicycle to the fishing centre and tackle setup will commence. We have a fly shop that stocks flies, leader, clothing, sunglasses, accessories and offers a complimentary rod and reel loan service. See the tackle and gear list at the end of this document for more information.

Our guide team will assess your tackle and flies as well as give advice and answer any questions that you might have about your week. Once everything is rigged and ready for the week, you can either fish unguided on the Alphonse flats, relax around the pool or at the "Le Lys" bar while sipping an Indian Ocean cocktail, until dinner is served at 19h30.

YOUR FISHING DAYS...

Breakfast is served from 06h00 onwards and morning wake-up calls can be booked from 05h45. Anglers meet at the fishing centre at 06h45 and once all anglers have assembled, the team is ferried to the mother ship and a 40 minute trip to the mooring in St Francois lagoon commences.

Teams consisting of two anglers and one guide will then be transferred to their relevant skiff for the eight hour fishing session. All the skiffs will have Yeti cooler boxes with ice, drinks and desalinated water in our Yeti Rambler bottles. Lunch packs will be taken onto the skiffs unless otherwise requested. At 16h00 the Guides will start returning to the mother ship, and for safety reasons everyone needs to be on board the vessel by 17h00. There will be a fresh water bucket provided to rinse your reels and gear at the end of each fishing day. Once everything is squared away the mother ship will start the 40 minute journey back to the mooring at Alphonse Island. Unless needed for extra fishing on Alphonse, your rods, tackle and gear can stay on the mother ship so it's ready for the next day.

OUR GUIDES

Alphonse fly fishing Guides are professional, well trained and have a comprehensive knowledge of the areas in which they operate.

They are all fluent in English and some speak French and Creole.

Guiding takes place on a rotational basis allowing anglers to experience all the different characters within the guide team.

Anglers will fish in pairs sharing a skiff and guide each day.

All the Guides carry waterproof VHF radios and are in constant communication with each other as well as the base on Alphonse.

They are all qualified skippers, have STCW qualifications and their boat handling skills are impeccable.

All Guides have had first aid experience.

The Alphonse Island guide team along with the Island Conservation Society have worked tirelessly to ensure that the fishery at St Francois and Alphonse is protected from over fishing. The Guides are conservationists at heart and some of them also hold qualifications in the field of ecology.

The Alphonse guide team stand out from the rest as they pioneered many of the techniques in catching the various species that call Seychelles home, such as milkfish and triggerfish. Alphonse accounts for more than 90% of the worlds milkfish caught and released on an annual basis.

SKIFFS

The skiffs range between 16 to 18 ft in length and have single tiller arm engines. Guests require a level of fitness that will enable them to board the skiffs. These skiffs are the only means of transport around St Francois when fishing. All the skiffs are equipped with flares, flotation devices, first aid kits, rod holders, storage compartments, anchors and Yeti coolers.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

Fishing at Alphonse & St Francois



The Alphonse Group is one of the most famed saltwater fly fishing destinations in the Indian Ocean and is one of the most prolific bonefish fisheries in the world. St Francois is approximately seven miles long and four miles wide, consisting of firm white sand bottoms interlaced with channels and cuts. The maximum number of anglers that are allowed to fish St Francois is limited to 12 per day.

The uniqueness that sets St Francois apart from many other saltwater destinations is the ability to wade over 10 000 acres of hard white sand flats in search of the various species on offer.

A typical fishing session will involve wading away from the skiff for a few hours. Bonefish wades will involve either fishing to cruising or tailing fish as they forage for crustaceans. On falling tides it is often the case that huge shoals of bonefish can be targeted when leaving the flats in what has been described as a continuous river of bonefish.

Whether you're after tailing singles and doubles or shoals, our Guides have the ability to make it happen. St Francois is rumoured to have the densest population of bonefish recorded worldwide.

Some flats support larger bonefish specimens than others and a fair lagoon average would be about four pounds. The largest bonefish caught to date was a whopping nine and a half pounds! The average catch returns over the last three years are 12 – 15 bonefish per person per day and depending on the angler's skill, often many, many more! It is not uncommon for good fly anglers to land 20 – 40 fish in a day's succession.

In addition to the abundant bonefish flats, the lagoon envelopes coral finger flats and coral heads allowing anglers to catch several of the now 60 species targeted on fly, including three species of triggerfish, seven species of trevally, milkfish, barracuda, sailfish, dogtooth tuna, yellowfin tuna and a plethora of other flats and offshore species. Sight fishing for giant trevally is one of the most exhilarating forms of fly fishing one will ever experience, especially when they grow in excess of 150 lbs.

At certain times of the year, milkfish feed on plankton near the surface and are then enticed to eat flies. Alphonse is where the "milkfish on fly" dream began and these speedy, high flying fish, which have been caught up to 40 lbs, entertain our guests every season.

The fishing is very much tide dependent so the prevailing conditions will dictate which species you will focus on. The factors controlling numbers of fish caught are weather, timing of the tides and, perhaps most importantly, skill and the decision to go for size or quantity.

BLUEWATER FLY FISHING

We have three offshore vessels, which can be chartered for either a half or full day excursion.

Our skippers and deck hands are experienced at rigging, teasing and switching to the various bluewater pelagic species, such as sailfish, wahoo, dogtooth and yellowfin tuna.

GAME FISHING

Our three fully rigged offshore vessels can be chartered for either a half or full day conventional fishing excursion.

The Alphonse teams practice a strict "NO CONVENTIONAL / SPIN FISHING" on or close to the islands, flats and reefs. This is to preserve the resident species that use the shallow reef as an access point onto the flats and surrounding areas.

We do however fish for pelagic species as Alphonse relies on fresh fish for its guests so we do offer game fishing trips to fill this quota.



EXPERIENCES

on Alphonse

Over and above our world class fishing, Alphonse will keep you enthralled in picture-perfect surroundings...



ALPHONSE ACTIVITIES

- Alphonse Cycle Tour**
- Bijoutier Island Visit
- Blue Water Fishing
- Dolphin Viewing
- Guided Fly Fishing Alphonse
- ICS Walk**
- Reef Flats Expedition**
- Scuba Diving
- Spa Therapies
- Sunset Lagoon Cruise
- St Francois Nature Hike

INDEPENDENT ACTIVITIES**

- Cycling & Running Paths
- Snooker & Table Tennis
- Giant Chess
- Tennis
- Paddle boards
- Stand-up paddle boards
- Kayaking
- Snorkelling

ISLAND SPECIALITIES**

- Sundowners on the Beach
- Flats Lunch
- De-tackling Drinks & Snacks

** COMPLIMENTARY ACTIVITIES ON ALPHONSE ISLAND.
 PRIVATELY BOOKED ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS WILL BE CHARGEABLE.
 ALL ACTIVITIES ARE WEATHER AND TIDE PERMITTING.



ISLAND FACILITIES

- Beach Bar & Dining Area
- Restaurant Dining Area
- Smoothie Café in the Veggie Garden
- Entertainment area with Snooker Table & Table Tennis
- Lounge Area with Wi-Fi
- Sunset Bar
- Swimming Pool
- Azure Spa
- TechnoGym
- Tennis Court
- Giant Chess Board
- Boutique
- Extensive Watersports Centre with PADI bubble maker, discover scuba, open water, advanced and specialty scuba courses
- Tackle & Gear Shop
- Island Conservation Society Research Centre
- Tortoise Sanctuary

ACCOMMODATION AMENITIES

Our Beach Suites, Bungalows and Villas all come equipped with the following:

- Air-conditioner
- Ceiling Fan
- Safe with Keys
- Stocked Mini-bar
- Landline Telephone
- Beach Towels
- Laundry Service
- Beverage Station with Nespresso Machine
- Shaver Outlet
- Hair Dryer
- Mosquito Net (on request)
- Private Bicycles
- Sun Loungers

IMPORTANT POINTS

Please Take Note...

WEATHER

Seychelles is typically hot and somewhat humid with midday temperatures hovering at $\pm 35^{\circ}$ Celsius [$\pm 90^{\circ}$ Fahrenheit].

Evenings are also invariably warm with the exception of the first and last few weeks of the season, when there may be a strong, cooling breeze.

THE FISHING SEASON AT ALPHONSE

The main fishing season runs from early October to the end of May.

HOURS OF DAYLIGHT

Due to its proximity to the equator, there is no real twilight in the Seychelles. The sun rises quickly at around 06h15, and sets with equal swiftness at about 18h30. This varies by only minutes throughout the year, giving nearly a full 12 hours of daylight for 365 days a year.

CONSERVATION DONATION

There is a conservation donation of US\$175 per week [US\$25 per day] for anglers. This will be included on your confirmation invoice and is settled prior to arrival. All packages exclude this conservation donation which is given to the Island Conservation Society for the preservation of nature in the Seychelles.

FROM SCENE OF ACCIDENT MEDIVAC INSURANCE

You are required to obtain "From Scene of Accident Medivac Insurance". Please supply these details prior to arrival on the Island.

Alphonse Island and agents cannot assume any financial responsibility for consequences incurred if this has not been obtained.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

You are required to obtain travel insurance that will cover any costs incurred due to flight or trip delays for any reason.

INDEMNITY FORM

You are required to sign an indemnity form once on Alphonse.

INOCULATIONS & HEALTH

No inoculations are legally required for entry. However, you may want to check with your local immunization and inoculation clinic for their recommendations on health precautions for travel to the Seychelles. Some travellers elect to protect themselves against hepatitis A with an immunoglobulin injection [short-term protection] or the longer lasting vaccine. Other inoculations may be required if you are planning a trip extension to parts of Africa.

WATER CONSUMPTION

We have a desalination plant on Alphonse, and water from the faucets is safe to drink. We do not stock mineral water and will only supply it if you specifically requested prior to your arrival.

FLIGHT TIMES

NB: Please confirm the departure time of your flight from Mahé to Alphonse as times are subject to change. The flights leave and arrive Mahé from the IDC hangar. The flight is approximately one hour.

LUGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

Your check in luggage is strictly limited to 15 kg [33 pounds] per person, and 5 kg [12 pounds] carry-on luggage. This is a strict policy that allows us to deliver fresh food produce to the boat. If it is not possible to load extra luggage, it will have to be repacked and left in Mahé until your return.

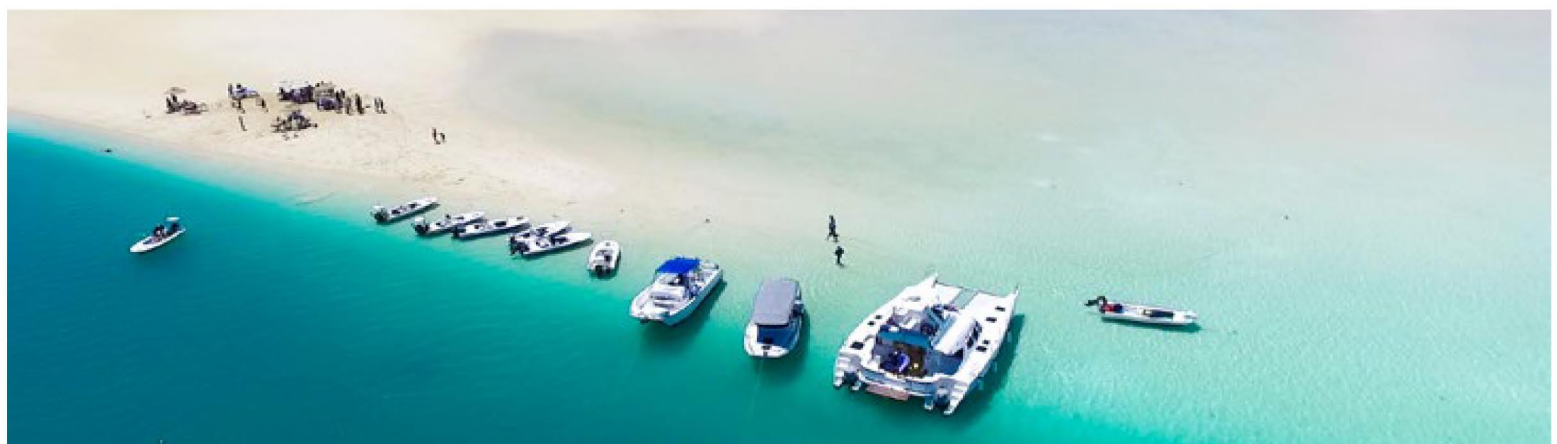
PLEASE ADHERE TO THE LIMITS. It is suggested that lighter soft-shell luggage is used. Pack a separate bag with excess equipment to avoid having to repack at the airport. Excess luggage can be left with an Alphonse representative at the hangar.

INTERNET CONNECTION

There is Wi-Fi in the bar and reception area. Upon arrival you will be given a code that will be valid for the week for two to four devices [according to your needs]. There is no charge for this.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

The Island has 24-hour electrical current [240 volt, 50 cycles AC] with British plug points. A European electrical current adapter [three-point, square-pin] is necessary.



ALPHONSE ISLAND TELEPHONE NUMBER

Should someone wish to get hold of you while on Alphonse, please save this number +248-4-22-9700 [GMT+04:00]. When dialing internationally, precede with appropriate access code.

GRATUITIES

Tipping is never mandatory and if you wish to show appreciation to the staff and require a suggested amount based on an average which guests normally tip then please use the below amounts as an indication.

General Hotel Staff: ±US\$250 per person per week or US\$35 per day as a guideline. This is to be left at reception upon departure for equal distribution.

Fly Fishing Guides: ± US\$650 per angler per week or US\$110 per day guideline, which is given to the fishing manager at the end of the week. The Guides work on a rotational basis so your tip will be divided equally.

Diving Staff: ± US\$20 per dive for the diving team, which is given to the respective manager at the end of the week and will be divided up by the dive team and skippers.

Activity Centre Team: ± US\$10 per day for the activity team if you have joined any activities, which can be left at reception upon departure for equal distribution.

Any gratuities will be much appreciated by the staff and we thank you for your generosity.

CURRENCY

You do not need to change your US\$ [US Dollars], € [Euros] or £ [Pounds] into the local currency SCR [Seychelles Rupees]. The lodge accepts Rupees, Dollars, Euros and Pounds. We accept all major debit and credit cards. We do not accept American Express.

DUTY FREE ALLOWANCE

200 cigarettes or 50 cigars, one litre spirits and two litres wine.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Should you need to cancel your trip, at this stage of the booking, a fee of 100% shall be levied. This cancellation must be confirmed in writing.

- A 10% fee shall be levied if cancellation is made more than 180 days prior to arrival.
- A 10% fee shall be levied if the reservation is moved to an alternative date within the same season.
- A fee of 50% shall be levied if cancellation is between 180 and 90 days prior to arrival.
- A fee of 100% shall be levied if cancellation is 90 days or less prior to arrival.

WADING

The hard white sand, turtlegrass or coral flats of the Seychelles make for easy wading, separating it from other destinations in the world. As most of the fishing will be done whilst wading, good protective footwear is essential. Standard diver's neoprene booties with a reinforced rubber sole are not appropriate. A more protective flats wading boots must be worn. There are a number of purpose made boots on the market, which are excellent. See suggested brands in tackle and gear check list at the end of this document.

DANGERS TO WATCH OUT FOR WHILST WADING

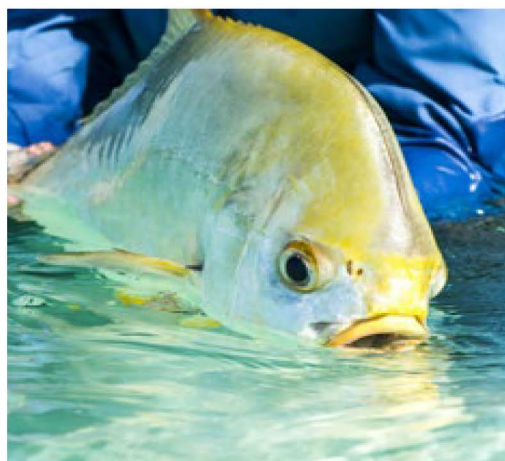
Stingrays: Some atolls host large numbers of stingrays on the flats. Most species have a venomous, barbed spine near the base of their tails that they can use for defence. These spines can inflict a nasty wound, should an unwary wader inadvertently stand on a stingray. These often sedentary or slow moving fish are easy to see and avoid, and to date no anglers have had any problems with these docile creatures.

Stonefish: Found mainly in the shallows on the coral edges of reef flats, stone-fish are not only lethally toxic but are also very well camouflaged and will not move unless touched.

A stonefish has 13 strong hollow spines through which it injects its venom and these will pass through a thin rubber sole with ease. For this reason all wading should be done wearing thick-soled wading boots.

Cone Shells: Fish-eating cones live in crevices among the coral or half covered by sand awaiting their prey which they attack by shooting out a dart that injects a paralysing venom. The venom from certain species can be fatal, however proper footwear will ensure your safety.

Sharks: Frequently encountered whilst wading in Seychelles, sharks are inquisitive and may pause for an instant and give you the once over, but if you remain calm and quietly stand your ground, these magnificent creatures will not bother you.



TACKLE & GEAR

Check List

TACKLE & GEAR

Alphonse has a fully stocked tackle and gear shop with an extensive collection of flylines, flies and various other items for sale, should you need extra, run out, or would like to take something home with you. We also stock Yeti coolers and flasks, Alphonse shirts and caps, and Thomas & Thomas rods for purchase.

ROD & REEL LOAN

Fly fishing outfits consisting of Thomas and Thomas fly rods and Shilton reels, loaded with 300 yards of Cortland braided backing can be loaned at no charge. Fly lines will need to be purchased from the shop and it is recommended that you pre-order a fly pack for your expedition, which would include all the flies you would need for the various different species on offer. There is a full range of flies that are custom tied for Alphonse destinations on the right hooks and with the correct material. It's important that angler's pre book the rod hire as well as tackle to insure that we have sufficient stock. All tackle sales may be settled at the end of your trip upon check out at Alphonse Island. All rod breakages are for your account and will be billed at US\$150 per rod.

RECOMMENDED BONEFISH & PERMIT OUTFIT

- 2 x 9-foot 8 or 9-weight fly rod [1 x Spare]
- 1 x High quality large arbor saltwater series reel, with a strong smooth drag to match the fly rod. Load the reel with two to three hundred meters of 50lbs braid.
- 1 x High quality weight forward tropical floating line, suitable for warm water conditions.

RECOMMENDED TRIGGERFISH & MILKFISH OUTFIT

- 1 x 9-foot 10-weight fly rod
- 1 x High quality large arbor saltwater series reel, with a strong smooth drag to match the fly rod. Load the reel with three hundred meters of 50lbs braid.
- 1 x High quality weight forward tropical floating line, suitable for warm water conditions.

RECOMMENDED GIANT TREVALLY, BLUEFIN TREVALLY, BARRACUDA & BLUEWATER

- 2 x 9-foot 12-weight fly rod [1 x Spare]
- 1 x High quality large arbor saltwater series reel, with a strong smooth drag to match the fly rod. The reel should be loaded with three hundred meters of 80lbs braid.
- 1 x High quality heavy weight forward tropical floating line, suitable for warm water conditions.
- 1 x 750 grain sinking line for dredging

TERMINAL TACKLE

- 1 x 15 lb fluorocarbon tippet material
- 1 x 20 lb fluorocarbon tippet material
- 1 x 25 lb fluorocarbon tippet material
- 1 x 130 lbs Suffix Zippy soft mono

FLIES

It's critical all anglers carry a complete selection of flies tied the correct way with the correct materials and on the correct hooks. We recommend the following fly selection, which will cover all your fishing. A full selection of flies can be purchase on Alphonse.

BONEFISH

- 4 x Gotchas #6
- 4 x Christmas Island Special [Orange] #6
- 4 x Pillow Talk # 6
- 4 x Fleeing Crab Cream/Tan #8

PERMIT & TRIGGERFISH

- 4 x James's Sand Prawn #2
- 4 x James's Sand Prawn #4
- 4 x Fleeing Crab Cream/Tan – Orange Legs #2
- 6 x Alphexo crab [White, Tan and Olive] #2

MILKFISH

- 4 x Milkydream Chartreuse #2
- 4 x Milkydream Olive Rams Wool #2

GIANT TREVALLY, BLUEFIN TREVALLY & BARRACUDA

- 4 x GT Brush Fly [Tan] #5/0 . SC15-2H
- 4 x GT Brush Fly [Black] #5/0 . SC15-2H
- 4 x Not Your Average Popper [NYAP] #8/0

BLUEWATER & BILLFISH

- 1 x Pink, White & Purple Cam Seglar Sailfish Tube Tandem #8/0 x 2.

CLOTHING & ACCESSORY

Check List

Although a minimal amount of clothing is required when fishing the flats, it is important to follow the recommended list.

- 3 x UV proof flats shirt [soft natural colours – as bright colours alert fish!]
- 1 x UV proof zip-off pants [soft natural colours]
- 1 x UV proof short pants [soft natural colours]
- 1 x Rain jacket [must be lightweight]
- 1 x Sungloves
- 1 x Cycling / lycra shorts for wearing under your flats shorts to prevent chafing
- 1 x Flats wading boot, with thick soles and good ankle support
[Please refrain from using neoprene booties. They do not offer adequate protection!]
- 1 x Gravel guards
- 1 x Waterproof fly box to prevent your flies from rusting.
- 2 x Polarized sunglasses [Costa Del Mar's 580 amber and green mirror lenses]
- 1 x Sunscreen [SPF 30+]
- 1 x Lip block
- 2 x Buffs
- 1 x Hat / cap
- 1 x Stripping gloves
- 1 x Waterproof backpack
- 1 x Headlamp or torch
- 1 x Soft tissue for drying & cleaning lenses
- 1 x Pliers for removing hooks and squashing barbs

Should you need any further information please refer to the Alphonse Fishing Fact Sheet or feel free to contact us.

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