



Let's go trout fishing

Trout Fishing is Awesome!

This may surprise many Tasmanians, but people from across the other side of the world are very envious of our trout fishery. Some international visitors come here just to fish for trout and for many other anglers; Tasmania is very high on the list of global fishing destinations, yet it is right here in our own backyard!

Trout are everywhere, great fun to catch and good to eat

Trout are a remarkable fish that live in a huge variety of locations, just a short drive from your house. In fact, if you head to your nearest creek, stream, river or dam, you will probably find trout. They are beautiful looking fish with striking



Rex Hunt loves Tasmanian trout fishing - and especially small stream fishing. Bait, lures or flies are all effective.



Above: A large brown trout caught by Patrick Morehouse from Four Springs. Below, a Lake Leake rainbow caught by Viv Spencer.

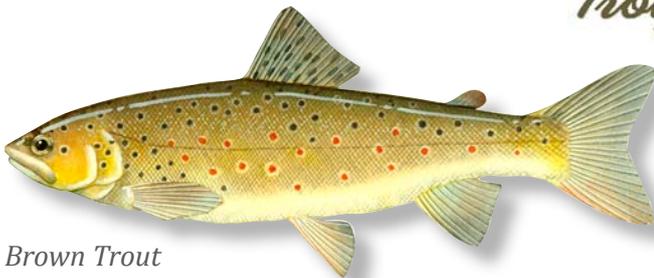
colours and spots. They eat a variety of food and once you catch them, you can choose to let them go or keep a couple for dinner, as they are delicious to eat. Trout fishing is a popular pastime for friends and



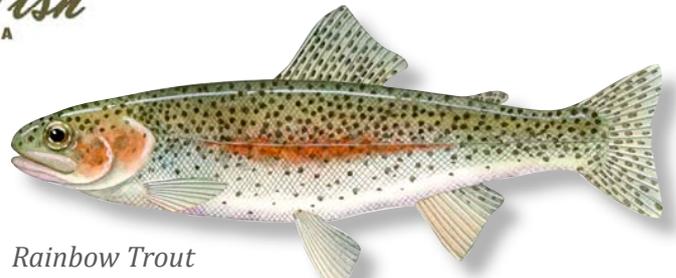
family to socialise and for individuals to escape the daily grind. Kids especially love catching trout and their fond memories will last forever.

A bit about trout

These speckled wonders were introduced into Tasmania way back in 1864 after a long journey by boat from England. Since then, they have managed to successfully make their way into virtually every piece of freshwater around, from near city centres all the way to the highland lakes. Brown trout, rainbow trout, brook trout and Atlantic salmon can all be caught in Tasmania and all you need is a licence if you are 14 or over, some basic fishing gear and a few tricks up your sleeve!



Brown Trout



Rainbow Trout



Brook Trout



Atlantic Salmon

What you need

A licence if you are older than 14. A Junior licence 14-17 is \$12. Other licence prices vary. Visit <http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au> Service Tasmania or a tackle store for more information and to get yours.

For lure, bait and trolling a rod of around two metres in length and a reel in the 2000-4000 range will be fine.

You may find that you have a rod and reel at home that will easily do the job, but either way, we will give you some tips.

(Many waters have restrictions on fishing methods, times and seasons, so it pays to check first).

You could even win a boat package worth more than \$22,000 by purchasing a full season licence before 30 November 2013.



How to catch a trout

Bait Fishing

Garden worms, wattle grubs, mudeyes, cockroaches, crickets and grasshoppers are the most common baits for trout and they all work well. Frogs may no longer be used as bait. For most bait fishing, a rod of around 2 metres in length, matched with any small to medium spinning reel - as long as it has fishing line! If you have fished for flathead then the same gear may be fine, though line with a breaking strain of 2-4kg suits best. A running sinker and single hook like in the diagram is the simplest form for most baits, but for grasshoppers, crickets and mudeyes you won't need any sinker or swivel at all. This is one of the most popular methods to catch a trout. Bait fishing is often the method used for many beginners first fishing experience.

A running sinker rig is the most simple of all. A swivel is often used as a stopper to keep the ball sinker away from the hook and bait. It is not always necessary, and the sinker should always be as small as possible. The leader and hook - being below the sinker and swivel drifts around naturally. In a river the back eddies and quiet deep holes are prime spots. You can walk slowly upstream and with only just a hook and bait (remove the sinker and swivel) cast up and



let the bait drift back towards you naturally. Ensure you wind in the slack as the bait drifts back towards you. In a lake, dam or lagoon try and fish without any added weight. You can fish your bait under a float as well. Ask your tackle shop for some advice on this.

Tip: Use the lightest sinker possible, light line and a Locked Blood Knot*.

* Tying instructions on page 8.



Trolling lures from a boat

If you have a boat then trolling lures is a great option. If you have ever trolled for Australian salmon then you have the idea! Armed with the same rod and reel mentioned earlier, you simply purchase some trolling lures like Tasmanian Devils or Lofty's Cobras and tow them behind your boat. Most of these will swim at a depth of only a metre or so. There are methods to get them swimming much deeper if required. The majority of floating/diving lures will reach their maximum depth by having around 50 - 75m of line out. Most of Tasmania's lakes and lagoons are suitable for trolling, as are rivers such as the Derwent River. Like any boating, it pays to do your homework on your intended water and practice safe boating at all times.



Greg Hynes - the originator of Lofty's Lures with a nice brownie.

Lofty's trolling tips

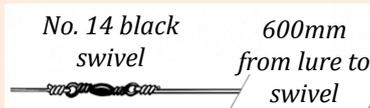
Line thickness is vitally important. Use 4 kg line or less with a maximum thickness of .025 mm, no anti kinks, no fly droppers, no snap swivels, no beads. Use a small number 14 black swivel 600 mm up the line, run the line through the centre of the lure and tie it to a number 2 split ring attached to the treble. The less attachments on the line the better, and the better the lure will work. Let the fish see the flash of the lure and nothing else.

When trolling a new lake check with the locals where the weed beds are; this is where the fish are. Troll with a good long cast out the back and then some more.

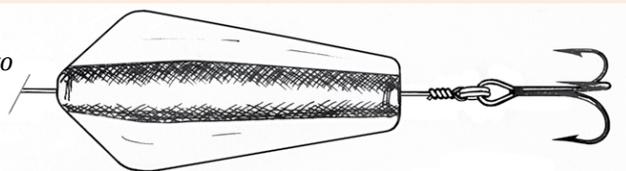
The lure needs to be well back. This is especially true in shallow lakes as the boat spooks them. Speed is critical, and a good fish finder with speed is worth the money. Most of my fish are

caught between 2.7 to 3.2 kph. If you haven't got a fish finder make sure the rod has a nice kicking action. If the rod stops its constant throbbing it's probably weed on your lure. Keep the rod level with the water, not stuck up in the air; it drags the lure up to the surface. I set the drag very lightly. It doesn't need to be high to set the hook, the fish will hook itself. You can land big fish by playing them out, instead of horsing them in. When you catch a fish take note of where you hooked it. Troll back over the area several more times. You are probably over a weed bed.

Your local tackle store will recommend the best lure colours for the waters you intend to fish.



Use Locked Blood knots. See how to tie it on page 8.



Line through lure to no. 2 split ring and treble.

Casting with Lures

Lure fishing is very popular these days, especially with the younger generation. The gear above might do the job, but lighter rods and thinner line will work more efficiently. Any tackle store can help you choose the right outfit, to suit your budget, and give you some casting tips. Soft plastics, celtas, Ashley spinners and various hard bodied lures are great fish-catchers and as you are always busy casting and retrieving, they are an active way to fish and loads of fun. The majority of lures imitate some sort of prey and the most popular for trout fishing in Tasmania are lures that look like our native baitfish. Lures around 50-75mm long and in black, brown and green shades are a great start.



Bibbed hard body lures have always been very popular for trout. Soft plastics, blade spinner and devons are also highly regarded by many.



River - lure fishing tips

Lure fisher Adrian Webb shares a few tips:

When fishing a wadable river make your way to the middle of it where possible, by doing this you should be able to cast and reach both sides of the river.

There will be parts of the river that will be too deep to wade out to, so just go out to a level that you feel comfortable with. DO NOT take any risks as no fish is worth drowning for.

Once you have made your way out to the centre or thereabouts, then start your first cast upstream to one river bank and work your way around by making the next cast about one metre apart until you have completed 180 degrees.

Do this at least three times then move upstream another six metres and repeat the same procedure. Using this method you cover every part of the river and your catch rate will be right up there with the best of them.

On bigger rivers - such as the Derwent, Huon, Mersey etc you will not be able to wade much of it. Concentrate on any piece of structure that may be a safe refuge for fish. Any point, dropoff,

snag or current line is worth a few casts. A tip on all flowing waters is to look for a bubble line - this often indicates a line where food is concentrated - and where the trout may lay in wait.

Lake - lure fishing tips

A methodical approach is the one most likely to reward. Don't just walk up to the edge and start throwing your lure as far as possible.

The fan effect is best. Start with short casts directly in front and then work your way left

and right - extending your casts as you go.

If you are using a sinking lure have one cast and retrieve it immediately - let the lure sink for a second or two with the next cast as you will cover the deeper water.

Concentrate on any point or drop off and work your way around the shore. Any type of structure is worth a few extra casts. If you catch a fish - remember what the area was like and try and find similar places.

Trout can also be in very shallow water in lakes so don't go barging in until you have fished the close in water first.

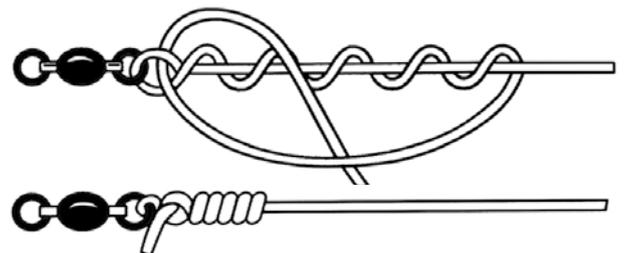
Time spent on observation is never wasted.



Locked blood knot

A common and strong knot for joining line to hooks swivels and terminal tackle is the locked blood, or clinch knot.

Pass the line through the eye of the hook, swivel or lure and make 5-6 turns around the main line. Hold the coils in place and thread the line back through the loop above the eye. Then thread the line back through the large loop. Hold the tag end and ensuring the coils don't overlap - tighten slowly. Clip tag end.



The Locked Blood Knot is strong and an important knot to learn in fishing.



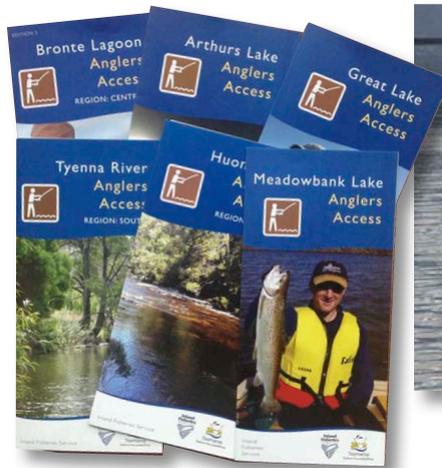
Fly Fishing

This is a challenging method and best suited to anglers once they have experienced some other methods first, to help understand water and the environment around trout. This method works extremely well though, especially when you see fish feeding on insects.



Angler Access Brochures

There are some 28 very detailed 'Angler Access' brochures available on Tasmanian destinations that give you specific information on each waterway, plus other smaller waters in that vicinity. To obtain these brochures, grab them from all good tackle stores or download them from: <http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au>



Inland Fishing Code

There are a few basic rules around trout fishing in Tasmania, but also in relation to certain waters. Firstly, there are some areas you are allowed to fish and others you are not. There are also some waters you can fish all year long but others may have a specific season applied. The general trout season is open from August to May for most waters. It's not complicated but you will find out more information in the *Tasmanian Inland Fishing Code*, by having a chat with your local tackle shop or researching your intended location online at: <http://www.ifs.tas.gov.au>



Places to try for trout

South

Derwent River

Right on Hobart's doorstep is the mighty Derwent River. It begins at beautiful Lake St Clair and winds its way down via several hydroelectric impoundments to where it becomes a tidal estuary around New Norfolk. This is an amazing trout fishery that has given up some trophy brown trout over the years. All methods are productive here but sport fishing with lures around Bridgewater has really grown in recent times.



The Derwent River is a fantastic trout fishery for its full length from shore or boat, bait, lure or fly.

Trolling, casting lures or flies from a boat, bait, lure and fly fishing from the shore will all bring some good results. Shore and boat access is excellent and trout are plentiful. There is disabled access at Bridgewater (Masons Point), New Norfolk (Esplanade) and Hayes (Windsor Corner). Many access points are family friendly and providing you follow the rules, hours of fun awaits you and your loved ones.

Lake Meadowbank

Meadowbank is a dammed section of the Derwent River located near Hamilton, just an hour from Hobart. It's a picturesque and protected location that is open to all methods of fishing and open all year round. There's a boat ramp and plenty of fish lurking if you're willing to investigate beyond the shoreline. Meadowbank is regularly stocked with brown and rainbow trout, plus Atlantic salmon from time to time. As with some other locations, fishing is sometimes best in the early morning and evening when fish seem less fussy.



Craigbourne Dam

Essentially an irrigation dam that just happens to be great for fishing too! It receives regular stocking of all species of trout and salmon, but it's the rainbow and Atlantic stocking that really gets anglers fired up. Some of the stocked fish are monsters and really put up a battle on light tackle! Bait fishing is very popular here, as is fishing with powerbait and soft plastics. This location is often referred to as a 'put and take' fishery, where most anglers keep the stocked fish for dinner.

Huon River

The Huon River is a wild river, steeped in history and originates from Lake Pedder. It winds its way through some amazing wilderness before becoming a tidal estuary at Huonville. One of the biggest trout ever caught in Australia weighed over 13kg and was caught by Sir Robert Hamilton in the Huon in 1887. There are around 20 designated access points on this river. Some of the rivers that flow into the Huon are amazing fisheries in their own right. In the lower sections, bait fishing, lure and fly plus some trolling in the estuary are all possible. In the middle reaches, lures are probably the most effective method. Brown trout are the most common throughout, but rainbows can be found further up the catchment. Atlantic salmon sometimes escape from fish farms and can be encountered too – these are great eating!



Large Atlantic salmon are regularly stocked around Tasmania at Craigbourne Dam, Meadowbank Dam, Brushy Lagoon, lakes Kara and Barrington in particular. Find the latest stocking at www.ifs.tas.gov.au



Great places to fish - in the South

In Southern Tasmania, awesome trout fishing is right at your back door! Some of the most popular waters are:

- 1 Derwent River:** Sea run trout and resident brown trout. All methods - shore or boat.
- 2 Craigbourne Dam:** Brown trout, rainbow trout and Atlantic salmon. All methods - shore or boat.
- 3 Huon River:** Brown trout, Atlantic salmon (farm escapees). All methods - shore or boat.
- 4 Lake Meadowbank:** Brown trout, rainbow trout and Atlantic salmon. All methods - shore or boat.

Or try these: Weld River, Tyenna River, Plenty River and hundreds of other waters within Tassie's Central Plateau region – also known as the Highland Lakes.

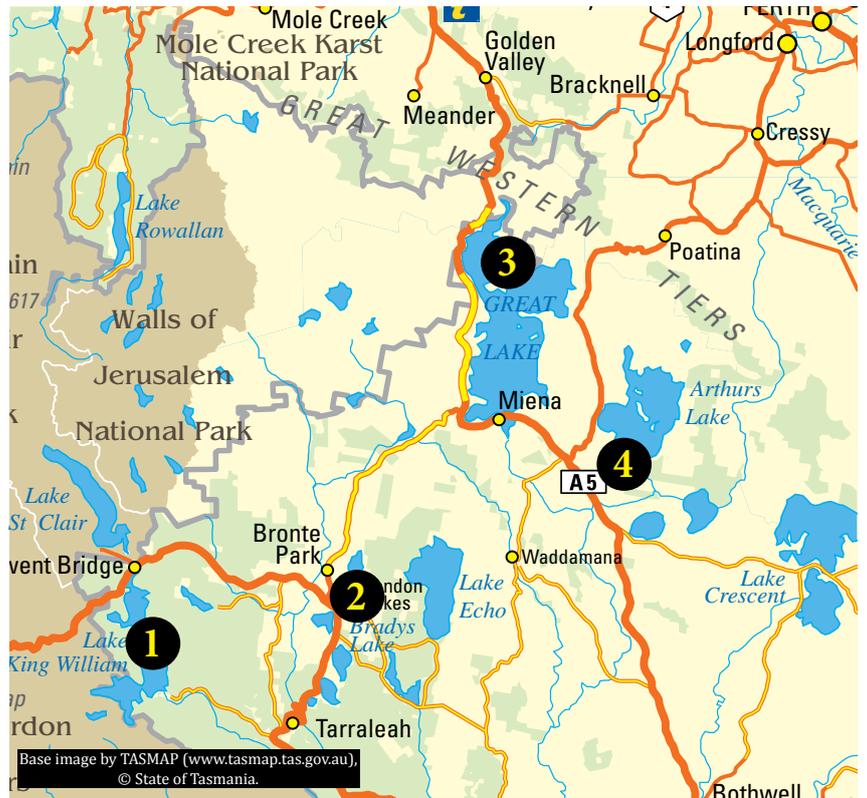


Highland Lakes

If you want to catch a trout, one of the most productive waters in the state is Lake King William – part of the Derwent River catchment and located in the central highlands. It has a large number of fish that respond well to all methods of fishing. It's another water open for the entire year and angler surveys reveal that on average, each angler catches around 3 fish per day. You could catch many more than this! Other popular waters include Bronte Lagoon, Dee Lagoon and Lake Echo – all waters that give up well-conditioned fish that are fantastic eating and can be good fighters. A short drive over the hill can see you at the famed Great Lake, Arthurs Lake and Woods Lake. Each of these attracts loyal anglers that know their favourite shore intimately and once you discover these, sensational fishing is there for the taking. There are dozens of other waters to fish in the area too. The 'Highland Lakes' can get a bit wild and cold at any time of year, so it pays to always be prepared with appropriate clothing. If you can stay warm and dry, you can fish longer! Most can be fished from the shore or boat.

North

Fishing options are excellent in northern Tasmania. Rivers like the South Esk, North Esk, Macquarie and St Patricks are steeped in history and have put smiles on the faces of anglers for many decades. There are numerous spots to 'soak a bait' on these rivers, though lure fishing is increasingly popular, as is the re-emergence of fly-fishing on these traditional rivers. Brown trout are the main fish you will encounter. For still waters, you can't go past Four Springs and Brushy Lagoon – both around 25 minutes out of Launceston. Both have some great-sized brown and rainbow trout, plus Atlantics are stocked in Brushy from time to time. Brown trout even swim around in Launceston's Cataract Gorge while tourists splash around in the water – there you go!



Four great places to fish - in Central Tasmania

- 1 **Lake King William:** Renowned as one of Tasmania's most productive lakes. It is open all year round and although the fish are small they are plentiful. All methods - shore or boat.
- 2 **Bronte, Bradys and Lake Echo:** Brown trout, rainbow trout and Atlantic salmon. All methods - shore or boat.
- 3 **Great Lake:** Located in the Central Highlands Great Lake is open all year round. It has fantastic shore access and several boat ramps. Brown and rainbow trout are readily caught. All methods are popular - shore or boat.
- 4 **Arthurs Lake:** A brown trout only water, this lake has seen it go from historic low levels to full over just a few seasons. Spawning has been fantastic and resulted in numerous smaller fish. This is unlikely to change for at least a couple of years. All methods are popular here - from shore or boat. There is good camping at Jonah Bay and Pumhouse Bay.



North West

For anglers looking to get into trout fishing in the Northwest, options are not very far away at all. Some of the major rivers include the Meander, Mersey, Leven and Emu Rivers, which all have numerous dedicated Angler Access points to cater for all anglers. Once again, brown trout dominate, but you may encounter the odd rainbow trout, especially in the upper reaches of each river. Though there are many private dams in the northwest that contain trout, access is limited and options are restricted to public fisheries like Huntsman Lake, just out of Deloraine; a dammed section of the Meander River and open to artificial lures and fly only, but ideal for a spot of trolling. Further west, some of the more popular lakes are Lake Kara, Lake Barrington plus the Pet and Guide Dams.

The North West also has some of the best sea run trout fishing in the State. Rivers such as the Inglis, Leven, Mersey, Forth, Rubicon and Arthur all have the potential for a double figure fish. Some of the smaller creeks and rivers will often surprise. Best time Late September through to Mid November.

Did you know that even Dove Lake at the foot of Cradle Mountain has trout? See, they are everywhere!

Please enjoy Tasmania's trout fishing - check the rules and respect both the environment and other people.

Great places to fish - in Northern and NW Tasmania

- 1 **South Esk River:** Tasmania's longest river at just over 200kms. Slow flowing for most of its length. Brown trout inhabit the whole length. Open to all methods
- 2 **North Esk and St Pats rivers:** Beautiful little streams with mostly small fish. Some small rainbows in upper St Pats. All methods.
- 3 **Four Springs and Brushy Lagoon:** Both close to Launceston. Four Springs is a renowned early season water with trophy rainbow and brown trout. Brushy is open all year and receives regular stocking with large Atlantic salmon. Both open to all methods - shore or boat.
- 4 **Huntsman Lake and Meander River:** Huntsman is open all year and provides good sport. Artificial only. Meander - all methods.
- 5 **Mersey and Leven rivers:** Premium river fisheries with fantastic access. Check out the comprehensive Angler Access brochures.
- 6 **Lake Barrington:** Barrington is open all year to all methods - from boat or shore. Rainbows, browns and regular stocking of large Atlantic salmon. In summer you will be competing with skiers and rowers.



Life is better with a boat!

You could WIN this Boat Package worth \$22,000



Go in the draw to win this boat. Buy a full season or five year licence by 30 November 2013.

In Tasmania so much more water is accessible if you have a boat. In trout fishing a boat was once only used to get to the fishing shore – and no one fished from a boat. Boats were occasionally used for trolling – and that was usually by rowing – not motors. Clinker built timber boats were the norm, but then along came fibreglass and eventually the tinnie.

Aluminium boats, along with modern outboards revolutionised access and these boats planed at higher speeds. Suddenly instead of walking or bouncing around a lake shore in a 4WD you could zoom across it and be at your favourite shore in a few minutes.

What is the ideal boat for Tasmanian trout fishing?

It really depends on style of fishing and lakes fished, but for many it seems a boat around 4.5 metres does most things. This size aluminium boat is light and easily towed behind a medium size vehicle, does not need a lot of horsepower and is easy to manoeuvre.

Inland Fisheries Service looked at all of this when searching for a way to reward anglers in the 'Win a Boat' promotion.

The boat you could win is one of Australia's favourites – 4.4 metre Sea Jay Discovery.

Weighing not much over 500 kg including trailer the Discovery 4.4 is easy to tow to your favourite ramp. Launching is a cinch and you will soon be on the water.

Powered by the highly regarded 40HP electric start Yamaha four stroke it gets up on the plane easily and does it in an environmentally friendly way as well using four stroke technology. Fuel consumption is miserly.

Trolling, if that is your method, is delightful with this motor. Featuring fuel injection and 'troll control' you can adjust the trolling up and down by 50RPM increments at the touch of a button. This is a really useful feature – as there is always an optimum speed trolling lures. With this motor it is easy to get it right. Power trim and tilt is also a feature that makes life easy, and with a four stroke you will barely hear it running.

The boat. Sea Jay are one of Australia's premium boat builders and this is a very popular model. Length overall is 4.4 metres and with a beam of 1.9 metres it gives you heaps of room. Sides are nearly one metre deep and it is suitable for up to four people.

Painted inside and out, this model is not only protected from the marine environment, but looks impressive as well. Carpeted fully throughout with a rear casting platform that provides a high vantage point to sight fishing or casting lures. There is a plumbed live bait tank that is useful as an esky as well.

Two pedestal seats and four sockets offer great flexibility to set up the boat to suit you.

Performance with the Yamaha 40 is fantastic - from trolling to scooting across a lake or estuary to find the fish. Maybe in summer you might want to tow the kids around on a ski biscuit and there is plenty of power for that too.

It handles a good chop with ease and gives a nice dry ride. Stability at rest is superb and with two or three moving about the boat you hardly notice any rocking and rolling thanks to the hull design.

The Sea Jay Discovery will provide you with a great fishing experience and a life full of fun.

Life's better with a boat!

How do you WIN?

If you're over 18 years old, **simply purchase a full season trout licence** by 30 November 2013 and you're in the running to win this amazing boat package, consisting of a 4.4m Sea Jay Discovery with a 40hp Yamaha Four Stroke engine, plus 2 x Personal Floatation Devices, Fire Extinguisher, Flare Pack, Bailer, Paddles, Anchor, Rope and Chain and Boat Registration. If you don't have a Motor Boat Licence don't worry.

A Boat Licence Course is included if required.