

Cast a Vote for Loons, Lakes, and You

Lead fishing tackle is toxic

- Lead poisoning from accidental ingestion of lead fishing tackle affects 25 bird species such as loons, swans, pelicans, geese, ducks, cormorants, cranes, and herons.
- Loons are especially vulnerable because they eat rocks from the lake's bottom to help them digest. Toxicosis from ingested lead tackle causes 30% of adult loon deaths in Wisconsin.
- An estimated 3 million pounds (1500 tons) of lead sinkers/jigs are accidentally deposited in U.S. waters every year.

Live lead free

Lead is banned in paint, gasoline, and in most other products used today. On Monday, April 12th at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Spring Hearings on Fish and Wildlife Rules, citizens will have the opportunity to vote on a resolution to phase out the use of lead fishing tackle that is most likely to cause harm to wildlife—that which is one inch in length and less than one ounce in weight.

Please take a stand for loons, swans, and Wisconsin waters by voting at your county's spring hearing!

It's time to tackle the problem in Wisconsin:

- New Hampshire, Maine, New York, Vermont, and Massachusetts have banned the use or sale of lead tackle hazardous to wildlife
- U.S. National Parks banned lead tackle in all parks by the end of 2010
- Great Britain banned the use of lead sinkers in 1987
- The European Union has banned lead in all consumer products, including fishing tackle.
- Canadian national parks and national wildlife areas banned the use of lead tackle.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has banned lead tackle in many national wildlife refuges.



Wildlife Rehabilitator Marge Gibson massages a trumpeter swan's abdomen to help it pass the lead it swallowed.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Are people really at risk from lead fishing tackle?

A: Lead particles can cover rugs, walls, furniture, clothing, and hands. Children are at highest risk because they are more likely to put things in their mouths and absorb as much as 5 to 10 times more lead than adults. Lead can enter groundwater, which makes it potentially hazardous to plants, animals, and people. Read about lead's effects on people at Lead Action News <http://www.lead.org.au/fs/fst7.html>



*Actual Contents of a loon's gizzard who died of lead poisoning.
The bottom row are lead fishing weights, which are similar to
the sizes of rocks loons ingest to help them digest their food.*

Q: What happens to a loon who swallows lead tackle?

A: Even a small lead split shot is 100% fatal if swallowed. Wildlife endure a lot of suffering before death including seizures, respiratory distress, and the loss of muscle co-ordination, such as the ability to hold their head up. Ironically, many loons who swallow lead tackle drown.

Q: Is it expensive to replace my lead tackle?

A: Non-lead alternatives are available and the pieces of tackle that are less than an inch and less than an ounce are not expensive. A list of non-lead manufacturers and retailers, is available at www.northland.edu/loonwatch

Q: How/where can I dispose of lead tackle?

A: Lead tackle is toxic and should not be thrown in the garbage. Take unwanted lead tackle to a hazardous waste facility. For a complete list of places that collect lead tackle in Wisconsin, visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/documents/leadrecyclers.pdf>

Q: Where can I find more information about the impacts of lead tackle on wildlife?

A: LoonWatch has posted links to many researchers, wildlife rehabilitators, and reports about lead tackle at www.northland.edu/loonwatch

Q: If I vote for this resolution, will lead be banned from bullets too?

A: The question at the Spring Hearing only addresses lead fishing tackle and will have no implications for hunters.

Q: Where do I go to vote on Monday, April 12th at 7:00 PM in my county?

A: 2010 County Spring Hearing Locations

Adams: Adams County Courthouse, Friendship, WI	Marathon: D.C. Everest Middle School, Schofield, WI
Ashland: Ashland Senior High School, Ashland, WI	Marinette: Crivitz High School, Crivitz, WI
Barron: Old County Courthouse, Barron, WI	Marquette: Montello High School, Montello, WI
Bayfield: Bayfield County Courthouse, Washburn, WI	Menominee: Menominee County Courthouse, Keshena, WI
Brown: Southwest High School, Green Bay, WI	Milwaukee: Nathan Hale High School, West Allis, WI
Buffalo: Alma High School, Alma, WI	Monroe: Sparta Meadowview School, Sparta, WI
Burnett: Burnett County Government Center, Siren, WI	Oconto: Suring High School, Suring, WI
Calumet: Calumet County Courthouse, Chilton, WI	Oneida: James Williams Middle School, Rhinelander, WI
Chippewa: Chippewa Falls Middle School, Chippewa Falls, WI	Outagamie: Riverview Middle School, Kaukauna, WI
Clark: Greenwood High School, Greenwood, WI	Ozaukee: Webster Middle School, Cedarburg, WI
Columbia: Portage Junior High School, Portage, WI	Pepin: Pepin County Government Center, Durand, WI
Crawford: Crawford Co. Courthouse, Prairie du Chien, WI	Pierce: Ellsworth Senior High School, Ellsworth, WI
Dane: Schwan Performing Arts Center, Monona, WI	Polk: Unity High School, Balsam Lake, WI
Dodge: Horicon City Hall, Horicon, WI	Portage: Ben Franklin Junior High School, Stevens Point, WI
Door: Sturgeon Bay High School, Sturgeon Bay, WI	Price: Price County Courthouse, 126 Cherry St., Phillips, WI
Douglas: Superior Senior High School, Superior, WI	Racine: Union Grove High School, Union Grove, WI
Dunn: Dunn County Fish and Game Club, Menomonie, WI	Richland: Richland County Courthouse, Center, WI
Eau Claire: South Middle School, Eau Claire, WI	Rock: Pontiac Convention Center, Janesville, WI
Florence: Florence Natural Resource Center, Florence, WI	Rusk: Ladysmith High School, Ladysmith, WI
Fond du Lac: Theisen Middle School, Fond du Lac, WI	Saint Croix: St Croix Central High School, Hammond, WI
Forest: Crandon Area School District, Crandon, WI	Sauk: UW Baraboo Campus, Baraboo, WI
Grant: Lancaster High School, Lancaster, WI	Sawyer: Winter High School Cafeteria, Winter, WI
Green: Monroe Middle School, Monroe, WI	Shawano: Shawano Middle School, Shawano, WI
Green Lake: Green Lake High School, Green Lake, WI	Sheboygan: Sheboygan Falls High School, Sheboygan Falls, WI
Iowa: Dodgeville High School, Dodgeville, WI	Taylor: Fair Grounds, Multi purpose building, Medford, WI
Iron: Mercer Community Center, Mercer, WI	Trempealeau: City Center Gym, Whitehall, WI
Jackson: Black River Falls Middle School, Black River Falls, WI	Vernon: Viroqua High School, Viroqua, WI
Jefferson: Jefferson County Fair Park Activity Center, Jefferson, WI	Vilas: Saint Germain Elementary School, Saint Germain, WI
Juneau: Olson Middle School, Mauston, WI	Walworth: Delavan-Darien High School, Delavan, WI
Kenosha: Bristol Elementary School, Bristol, WI	Washburn: Spooner Ag Research Station, Spooner, WI
Kewaunee: Kewaunee High School, Kewaunee, WI	Washington: Washington County Fairgrounds, West Bend, WI
La Crosse: Onalaska High School, Onalaska, WI	Waukesha: Waukesha Expo Center, Waukesha, WI
Lafayette: Darlington High School, Darlington, WI	Waupaca: Waupaca High School, Waupaca, WI
Langlade: Antigo High School, Antigo, WI	Waushara: Waushara County Court House, Wautoma, WI
Lincoln: Tomahawk Elementary School, Tomahawk, WI	Winnebago: Webster Stanley Middle School, Oshkosh, WI
Manitowoc: UW-Manitowoc, Manitowoc, WI	Wood: Pittsville High School, Auditorium, Pittsville, WI