

Keep Loons Safe While Fishing

- **Please use non-lead fishing tackle.**
Many anglers consider some non-toxic alternatives to have superior performance to lead tackle. Non-lead alternatives made of steel, bismuth/tin, tungsten, stone, and ceramic are effective and readily available.
- *New Hampshire state law prohibits the use of lead jigs less than 1 inch long (including the hook) and sinkers 1 ounce or less. Loons continue to die from both illegal and legal-sized tackle. Please **only** use non-lead tackle to protect loons.*
- *Remove all lead tackle from your tackle box and safely dispose of it*
- *Educate others about the dangers of lead fishing tackle and ask them to use non-lead alternatives*
- *Ask your local sporting goods store to carry non-lead fishing tackle*
- *Reel in around loons! Loons may die from becoming tangled in fishing line.*
- *Dispose of monofilament properly*

Thank you for keeping our
loons safe!

The Mission of the Loon Preservation Committee

LPC's mission is to restore and maintain a healthy population of loons throughout New Hampshire; to monitor the health and productivity of loon populations as sentinels of environmental quality; and to promote a greater understanding of loons and the natural world.

*To learn more about loons, please visit
The Loon Center at 183 Lee's Mill Road,
Moultonborough, NH*



Loon Preservation Committee
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*Photos of loons courtesy of Mark Wilson.
X-ray courtesy of Tufts University Cummings
School of Veterinary Medicine*

Let's Get the Lead Out!

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While Fishing



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Let's Get the Lead Out!

Lead fishing tackle is a major cause of loon mortality in New Hampshire, accounting for 50% of all documented adult loon deaths in the state. These deaths are completely preventable.



How do loons get lead poisoning?

Loons may ingest lead tackle by:

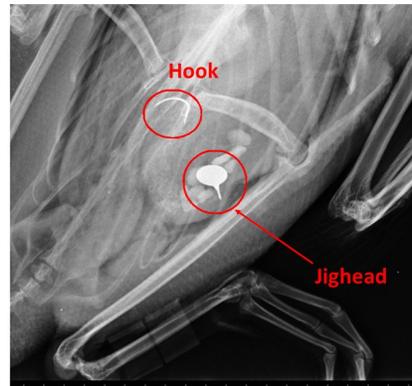
- eating a fish that is trailing a fishing line with a lead jig or sinker
- striking at a line being trolled or retrieved through the water with lead tackle attached
- picking tackle off the bottom of the lake, mistaking it for a pebble they normally ingest to aid in digestion



A loon with lead poisoning

How does lead poisoning affect loons?

- Ingested lead tackle is fatal to loons
- Loons suffering from lead poisoning will exhibit tremors, gasping, inability to fly, and will eventually pull themselves up on shore
- A loon will die within 2-4 weeks of ingesting lead tackle



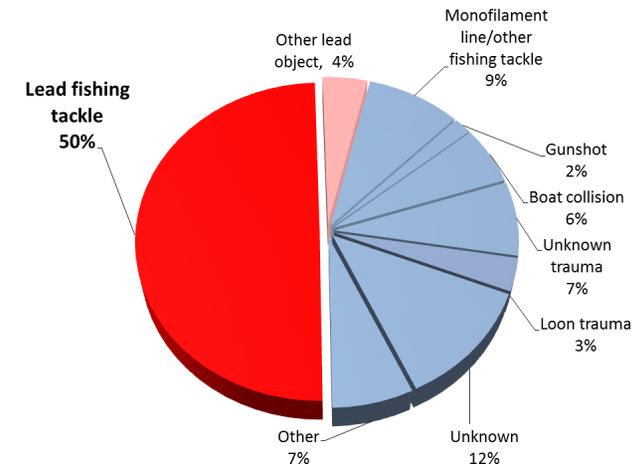
X-ray of loon killed by lead tackle

What tackle kills loons?

Lead-headed jigs (left) and lead sinkers (right) are fatal to loons. Non-lead alternatives made of steel, bismuth/tin, and tungsten are available and safe for loons.



How does lead poisoning affect loon populations?



Known causes of mortality in New Hampshire adult loons, 1989-2010

Since 1989, 50% of documented adult loon deaths in New Hampshire resulted from lead poisoning caused by fishing tackle. Annually, 1-2% of the adult loon population of New Hampshire is lost to lead poisoning. The loss of so many adults each year has a large impact on the loon population. The loss of an adult loon may result in the loss of that loon's nest or chick as well, further negatively impacting the population. These deaths are all preventable by using non-lead fishing tackle.