Addressing Lead Contamination in Our Lakes and Tackle

Bancroft Area Stewardship Council March 18, 2026

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Fishleadfree.ca

Addressing Lead Contamination in Our Lakes and Tackle

- Lead has been removed from many products due to toxicity concerns ***paint, gas, pipes, toys, pencils, cosmetics, and more.***

- Our lakes and fishing tackle still face lead pollution challenges. Where there is fishing pressure there is lost lead fishing tackle.

- The lead equivalent of **20,000 car batteries or 44 fully loaded dump truck worth of lead** enters our lakes and rivers **annually** from lost fishing tackle

Threat Of Lead Tackle

Lead fishing tackle is dangerous because:

- It **pollutes** our water and **kills our wildlife**
- It **Poisons game**, making fish and waterfowl dangerous to ingest
- Our wildlife are at **increasing risk** of consuming lead tackle and spreading lead poisoning up the food chain –including humans

Lead & Its Impact

- It **kills our wildlife**, from endangered loons and eagles to game fish, otters, and turtles

- It is the leading cause of death in the province of Ontario for the Common Loon - Ontario's official bird.

- It only takes **one piece of lead the size of a grain of rice** to kill an adult eagle or loon

- Causes weakness, disorientation, tremors, inability to fly, dive, or eat, and **death**, often within days or weeks.

The Impact on our Loon Community

- **Lead Fishing Tackle is the #1 Killer of Loons – Why?**
  - Lead is invisible to Loons - Loons ingest pebbles for digestion & ballast
  - Loons swallow fish whole - “hook, line, & sinker”

- **Approximately 95 % of the worlds breeding population of Common Loons are found in Canada,** highlighting our Countries crucial role in species conservation.

It’s a preventable tragedy

Let’s Get The Lead Out - Petition For Change

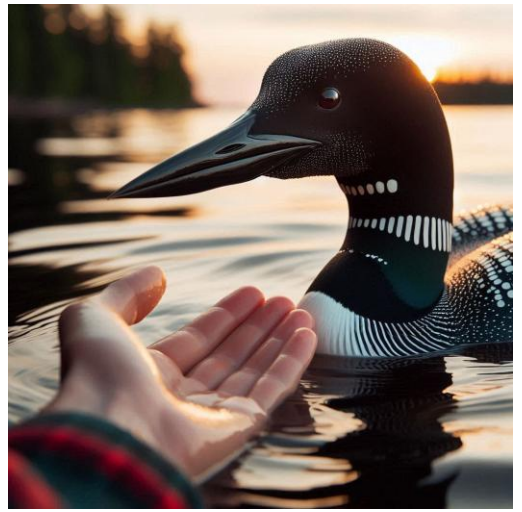
- Restricting the use of certain types and sizes of lead fishing tackle is a critical and practical step toward safeguarding Ontario's environment and biodiversity.
- It balances the needs of anglers for cheap tackle with the need to protect of our wildlife and waters.
- Moreover, this change would bring Ontario's fishing regulations in closer alignment with Parks Canada, which already prohibits lead tackle in national parks to prevent harm to wildlife.

Petition For Change – Download at Fishleadfree.ca

Help amplify our voice by collecting signatures from your network of friends, neighbours, and community members. It's better for our lakes and loons.

Most people care, they just need to be asked.

Our petition asks the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to ban the sale and use of lead sinkers, weights & jigs under 50 grams (1.75 oz) in weight, and any lead-headed tackle under 6.5cm (2.5") in length.



The call of the Loon is a plea for our help. Sign our petition and help us nudge anglers towards the better choice.

Fishleadfree.ca - Our YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/@letsgettheleadout

Fridge Magnet

The Hidden Danger: How One Lead Sinker Can Kill a Loon

The Hidden Threat to Loons: What 5,000 Necropsies Revealed!