A new study published in the Journal of Wildlife Management and Wildlife Monographs reveals the devastating effects of lead fishing tackle on loon populations. **Poisoning from lead fishing tackle has been identified as the leading cause of mortality in adult common loons**, but the population-level effects of mortality from ingested lead tackle on loons have not previously been determined. When investigators examined a long-term dataset (1989-2012) on common loon mortality in New Hampshire, 49% of adult loon deaths resulted from lead toxicities from ingested fishing tackle. Jigs accounted for 53% and sinkers for 39% of lead tackle objects removed from loons. Loons appeared to obtain the majority of lead tackle from current fishing activity rather than from a reservoir of lead tackle on lake bottoms. **The researchers estimated that lead tackle mortality reduced the population growth rate by 1.4% and the statewide population by 43% during the years of the study.**


*Wily. “Lead fishing tackle may be threatening loon populations.” ScienceDaily 12 October 2017. sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/10/171012163926.htm*