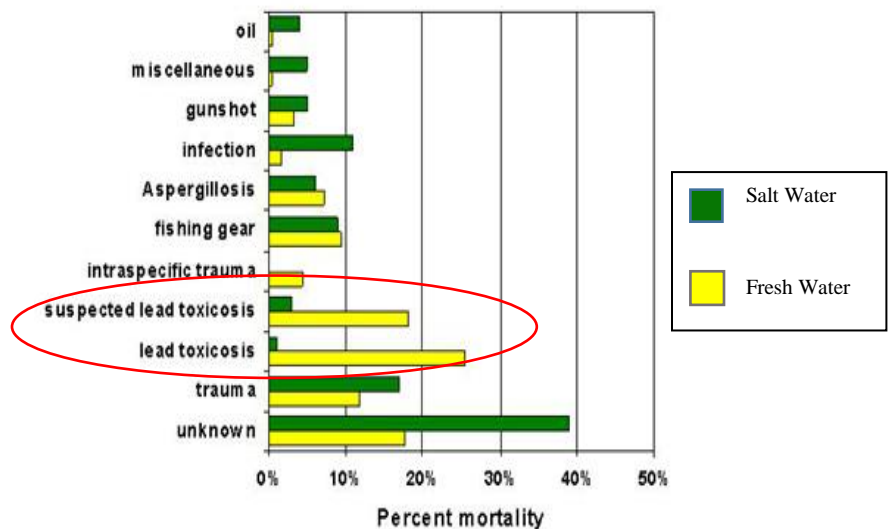




Causes of mortality in adult loon



Data source: <https://vet.tufts.edu/wildlife-medicine-program/research-2/loon-health-and-mortality/>

Image source: <https://vtecostudies.org/blog/first-documented-lead-poisoned-loon-collected-on-lake-winnepesaukee/>

“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.**”

Tiffany J. Grade, Mark A. Pokras, Eric M. Laflamme, Harry S. Vogel. Population-level effects of lead fishing tackle on common loons. *The Journal of Wildlife Management*, 2017; DOI: 10.1002/jwmg.21348

Wily. “Lead fishing tackle may be threatening loon populations.” *ScienceDaily* 12 October 2017. [sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/10/171012163926.htm](https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/10/171012163926.htm)

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MINNESOTA IS NOT LEADING ON **LEAD**



States That Have Banned Lead Sinkers

Six states within the Common Loon breeding range restrict lead fishing tackle.

New Hampshire

- NH Rev. Stat. §339:77 - Lead Fishing Sinkers and Jigs; Sale Prohibited.
- NH Rev. Stat. §211:13-b – Lead Fishing Sinkers and Jigs; Use Prohibited
- The sale and use of any lead sinkers and jigs are prohibited in New Hampshire. A violation carries a penalty not exceeding \$250.
- Lead jigs and sinkers account for 48% of mortalities among adult loons, which is the largest single cause of adult Common Loon mortalities in New Hampshire.

New York

- NY Env. Cons. L. §11-0308
- The sale of lead fishing sinkers weighing one-half ounce or less is prohibited in New York.
- In 2004, New York listed the Common Loon as a Species of Special Concern. It banned the sale of small fishing sinkers because ingesting lead fishing tackle is one of the leading causes of death for adult Common Loon and other wildlife in New York.

Maine

- Maine LD 730 – An Act to Protect Maine's Loons by Banning Lead Sinkers and Jigs
- The sale and use of lead sinkers smaller than 2.5 inches and/or less than 1 ounce are prohibited in Maine.
- The adult Common Loon population in Maine is small. Maine concluded that keeping lead sinkers out of Maine waters would increase the survival rate of these birds and allow for population growth of the species.

Massachusetts

- 321 CMR 4.01: Taking of Certain Fish
- Lead sinkers, weights, and jigs weighing less than 1 ounce are banned in Massachusetts.
- The regulation was implemented primarily to protect Massachusetts' small population of Common Loon.

Vermont

- 10 V.S.A. §4615: Lead sinkers; sales prohibited
- In 1978, Vermont placed the Common Loon on the state's Endangered Species List. Vermont enforced this law to prevent the Common Loon and other birds from becoming endangered in the future.

Washington

- WAC 232-28-619 Washington food fish and game fish – Freshwater exception to statewide rules.
- Washington enforces a ban on the use of lead weights and jigs that measure 1.5 inches or less when fishing on certain lakes in the state.

And one that has not...**Minnesota**

Minnesota has **NOT** banned lead fishing tackle to protect the Common Loon and other wildlife species from lead toxicity.



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