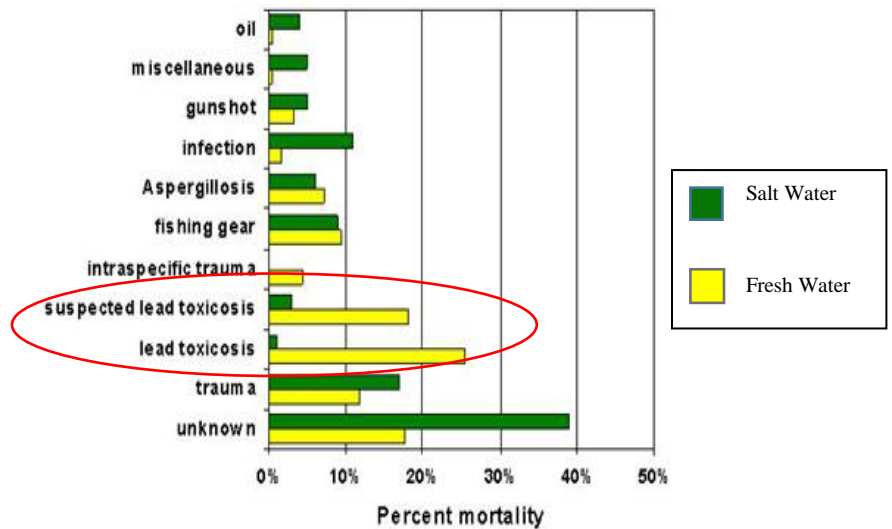




Causes of mortality in adult loon



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

Image source: <https://vtcostudies.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



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