

# NEW HAMPSHIRE'S LOONS NEED YOUR HELP

*Senate Bill 89 (SB 89) Will Protect Our Loons from Toxic Lead Sinkers and Jigs.*

Loons are a threatened species in New Hampshire, and their numbers remain well below the level the state's lakes can support—despite 37 years of intensive management and outreach to increase the Granite State's loon population.

The Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) projects New Hampshire's loon population to decline in the future—even with continued management and outreach efforts—as a result of current and forecasted threats to the species.

Survival of adult loons is the most important factor in assuring the continued viability of our state's loon population. The largest known cause of New Hampshire adult loon mortality is ingestion of fishing tackle made of the toxic metal lead—specifically, lead sinkers and jigs (weighted hooks) weighing 1 oz. or less.



Photo by Kittie Wilson

New Hampshire lost 124 adult loons to ingested lead sinkers and jigs between 1989 and 2011. The loss of these loons, which do not reproduce until their sixth year of life on average, has had a large negative impact on our state's small loon population.

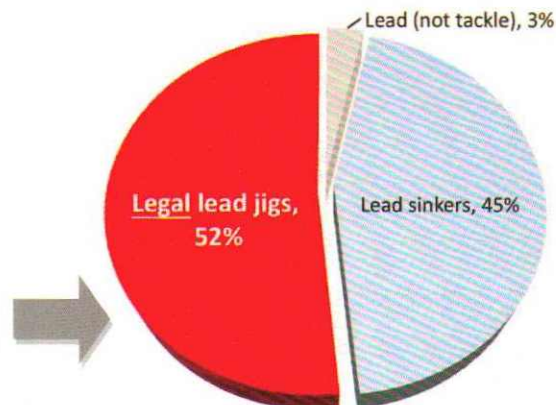


Documented Causes of Adult Loon Mortality in NH

**Lead fishing tackle is responsible for 49% of all documented mortality of New Hampshire's adult loons.**

Unfortunately, current State law banning the sale and freshwater use of small lead tackle misses the single largest known cause of adult loon deaths—larger lead-headed jigs.

**Larger (and currently legal) lead-headed jigs have been found in over half of New Hampshire adult loons killed by lead ingestion.**



Lead Objects Recovered from Dead NH Loons

Loon Preservation Committee

183 Lee's Mill Road • PO Box 604 • Moultonborough, NH 03254-0604 • 603-476-5666 • www.loon.org

## ABOUT THE LOON PRESERVATION COMMITTEE



The Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) was created in 1975 in response to concerns about a dramatically declining loon population and the effects of human activities on loons. 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 larger natural world. LPC raises funds primarily through private donations.

For over 35 years, LPC's state-wide monitoring, research, management and outreach to preserve loons and their habitats has included work by LPC staff and a large grassroots network of members, volunteers, and e-mail subscribers to:

- Educate the public about loons through exhibits, presentations, summer programs, signs, our website, and The Loon Center in Moultonborough;
- Monitor the number and breeding success of loons to identify trends and areas of concern;
- Band loons to study their life history;
- Rescue sick or injured loons to be rehabilitated and released;
- Recover dead loons and non-viable eggs to determine contaminant levels and causes of death;
- Quantify the challenges facing loons, and our success in helping loons cope with them;
- Digitally map loon nesting and nursery sites to identify and protect critical habitat;
- Build and float nesting rafts, and protect nesting loons on rafts and on natural nest sites;
- Implement all of the above as part of a comprehensive Loon Recovery Plan to ensure the long-term viability of New Hampshire's loon population.

LPC has created the most complete and longest-running database of loon populations and productivity that exists anywhere in the world and conducted the most comprehensive research ever undertaken on contaminants and other challenges facing loons. This research has revealed that lead fishing tackle is currently the greatest threat to New Hampshire's loon population.



Photo by Kittie Wilson



LPC is joined in its legislative efforts to secure adequate protection for our state's loons by the New Hampshire Lakes Association (NH LAKES). NH LAKES is a statewide, member-supported, nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the Granite State's lakes and ponds for our enjoyment today and for generations to come.

Loon Preservation Committee

183 Lee's Mill Road • PO Box 604 • Moultonborough, NH 03254-0604 • 603-476-5666 • [www.loon.org](http://www.loon.org)