

Our Loons Need Your Help!

Ingesting lead fishing tackle is fatal to loons. There have been 119 adult loon deaths caused by ingesting lead fishing tackle from 1989-2010. These 119 deaths represent 50% of the total adult loon mortalities collected during this time. Please consider writing a strong letter of support to Senators deciding the fate of SB 224 to help protect loons from lead poisoning.

Points to include in your communication:

- Legislation restricting the use of lead in fishing sinkers weighing one ounce or less and lead fishing jigs measuring less than one inch in length has not been as effective as hoped. In 2010, New Hampshire lost a record 11 adult loons to ingested lead fishing tackle.
- Senate Bill 224 has been introduced to close a loophole in the current law by restricting the use and sale of larger lead-headed jigs weighing up to an ounce.
- This bill has encountered stiff opposition from bass fishing advocates and tackle industry representatives who claim that jigs made of alternative, non-toxic materials are prohibitively expensive or unavailable. However, non-toxic jigs of all sizes up to an ounce are available at only slightly higher cost, and more tackle is being manufactured in response to recent regulations enacted in MA.

We need the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to pass SB 224 on March 8th to keep the bill, and ultimately loons, alive. Please call, email or write to the members of this Senate Committee in support of Senate Bill 224.

Senator Bob Odell: 271-4063 bob.odell@leg.state.nh.us,

Senator John Gallus: 271-3076 john.gallus@leg.state.nh.us,

Senator Jeb Bradley: 271-8472 jeb.bradley@leg.state.nh.us,

Senator Gary Lambert: 271-2609 gary.lambert@leg.state.nh.us,

Senator Amanda Merrill: 271-3207 amanda.merrill@leg.state.nh.us

Please do this before March 8th, perhaps the last day for the bill to be taken up by this committee!