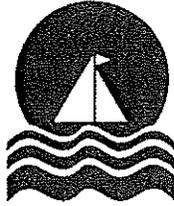
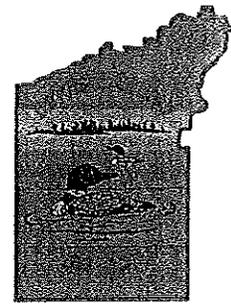


County 4 # 3 YEAR 2010



Bayfield County Lakes Forum
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Resolution

Title: **Lead reduction in fishing tackle revisited** April 12, 2010

The Problem: Question 61 in the 2010 Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Hearing booklet offered sportsmen an opportunity to vote up or down on the issue of phasing out small lead sinkers and jigs. Unfortunately, it did not poll the sportsmen to find out if they felt this issue was worthy of further research. Nor did it specify what the term 'phase out' might mean as used in the resolution. The resulting vote does not adequately reflect the wishes and concerns of the sportsmen and sportswomen of Wisconsin.

The Solution: Be it resolved by the Wisconsin Conservation Congress that the following question appear in the next possible Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Hearing booklet:

1. Do you feel the high incidence of lead poisoning of loons and other waterfowl and secondary poisoning of raptors, such as eagles and ospreys indicates the need for further research by the State of Wisconsin? YES _____ NO _____
2. Do you feel that the State should phase out the use of lead fishing tackle less than one inch in length and less than one ounce in weight for use in Wisconsin waters. This phase out period would be as follows: Within 12 months of posting in the fishing regulations, no lead sinkers may be used on Wisconsin waters and within 24 months of said posting, no lead jigs may be used on Wisconsin waters. YES _____ NO _____
3. Do you favor complete prohibition of use of lead fishing tackle less than one inch in length and less than one ounce in weight for use in Wisconsin waters effective at the beginning next year? YES _____ NO _____

Submitted by:

Jim Brakken, BCLF President
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Cable, WI 54821

NOTE: The following rationale is from the 2010 booklet and would be included as information along with the above questions: (not necessary to read this at the 4/12/2010 hearing as it was part of the question earlier read.)

Lead in the environment is poisonous to wildlife. This resolution is designed to reduce the incidence of lead poisoning (Lead Toxicosis) in water birds, shorebirds and secondary poisoning of raptors, such as eagles and ospreys by reducing the amount of lead added to Wisconsin waters due to lost fishing tackle.

Whereas studies have shown wildlife is most likely to ingest fishing tackle measuring: less than 2.5 cm (1 inch) in length and 25g (1 ounce) in weight, removing lead in fishing tackle of this size would be the most effective way of protecting wildlife.

Whereas the Federal lead shot ban for waterfowl hunting, and state restrictions on lead use in fishing tackle in MA, VT, NH NY and ME have reduced toxicosis in waterfowl. A follow up study on the effectiveness of lead free fishing tackle in New England has shown a reduction in bird mortality. A similar ban in Wisconsin will protect our wildlife resources and migrating populations moving through our state.

Whereas inexpensive non-lead alternatives to lead sinkers and jigs are currently being manufactured and are available to retailers at a reasonable cost, transition to non-lead alternatives will not put an undue hardship on Wisconsin anglers.