

180108

**The Problem:**

Lead has been shown to have adverse health effects in waterfowl, raptors and predator birds that consume it or consume animals that have been exposed to it. Some water birds mistake the sinkers and jigs for food or grit, and ingest them. In eastern North America, lead poisoning from sinker or jig ingestion ranks as one of the leading causes of death for loons. However, the total number of loons or other wildlife that actually die of lead poisoning from sinker ingestion cannot be accurately estimated.

Each year Wisconsin anglers purchase, use and lose hundreds of pounds of lead in fishing lures and terminal tackle in our lakes, streams and rivers.

Lead in fishing lures and tackle has been banned in other states, most notably California, many New England states, and some federal parks and jurisdictions. Other states, such as Minnesota have increased educational efforts and initiated lead tackle buy back and exchange programs.

There are acceptable ecologically and economically viable alternatives to using lead in sinkers and fishing lures.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Eau Claire County on April 14, 2008, recommends that the Department of Natural Resources take action to correct this situation on the waters of Wisconsin by working with manufactures, retailers, conservation organizations and sportsman's clubs to provide a phased in program and possibly a replacement/buy-back system to reduce and eventually eliminate the use of lead in lures and terminal tackle in Wisconsin.

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For Office Use Only: County Eau Claire  Passed  Failed

County Resolution Number: 180108

County Vote: (by show of hands or  ballot where appropriate) YES 46 NO 9