

RESOLUTION**To support the implementation of a ban on the manufacture and sale of small toxic Lead Fishing Tackle in Wisconsin****The Problem:**

Every year all across Wisconsin, hundreds of water birds die from lead poisoning from ingesting small fishing sinkers and jigs. According to several sources, including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, lead poisoning has been documented in 25 species of water birds and 37 non-waterfowl species. The water birds include loon, swans, ducks, herons, bald eagles and ospreys.

The state of Wisconsin currently has state laws banning lead in bird shot, gasoline, paint, and many other items, including children's toys. We have banned lead in all of these items, yet we continue to deplete populations of water birds by throwing lead into our lakes and streams.

The Solution:

There are alternatives to lead tackle, and they are available now at all major bait manufacturers and retailers. (The alternatives include tin, bismuth, steel, and ceramics.) Lead fishing tackle is already banned in all National Parks. It is not too late to join other states and agencies to correct a serious problem. A ban on the sale and manufacture of the small size jigs and sinkers (under 1 oz.) would protect the waterfowl which accidentally ingest them. If we continue to pollute our common waters, we are all poisoned.

Whereas Wisconsin's waterways provide wildlife habitat for bald eagles, ospreys, loons trumpeter swans, numerous ducks and many other water birds, and

Whereas lead in form of small sinkers, jigs, and other types of terminal fishing tackle is known to be lethal to ducks, loons, eagles, ospreys, and swans in Douglas County and in the state of Wisconsin, and

Whereas lead fishing tackle is known to have injured and killed ducks, eagles, ospreys, loons, and swans in Douglas County and in Wisconsin, and

Whereas many alternatives to lead tackle are now available from manufacturers and are available to tackle supply stores throughout Douglas County and the state of Wisconsin, and

Whereas many other states including, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, and Maine have recognized this hazard and have enacted bans of fishing tackle of less than 1 oz. The National Park Service has banned the use of lead sinkers and jigs weighing less than 1 oz. in most National Parks. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has banned the use of lead sinkers and jigs weighing less than 1 oz. in several wildlife refuges, and

Whereas a ban on the sale and manufacture of lead tackle less than 1 oz. would lead to the preservation and health of aquatic species for the enjoyment of all, so therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress, at its annual meeting held in Douglas County, on April 13, 2009, recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Wisconsin DNR to take action to correct this situation by introducing a rule change to adopt regulations that phase out the manufacture and sale of small lead fishing tackle, (sinkers and jigs weighing 1 ounce and under) in the state of Wisconsin.

Respectfully submitted by


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