

Help Keep Adirondack Lakes and Streams Lead and Line Free!

Although the Adirondack Park provides excellent areas for loons to feed and raise their families, these unique birds still face many challenges. *You Can Help!*

Going Fishing?

- **Use Non-Lead Fishing Sinkers and Jigs**
Lead fishing tackle is poisonous to loons and other wildlife, such as eagles, when accidentally ingested.
- **Pack Out and Recycle Fishing Line**
Invisible in the water, lost or cut fishing line can entangle loons and other wildlife, often with fatal results.
- *Contact the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation to learn how to recycle your fishing line.*

Thank You!



For More Information



ADIRONDACK CENTER for LOON CONSERVATION

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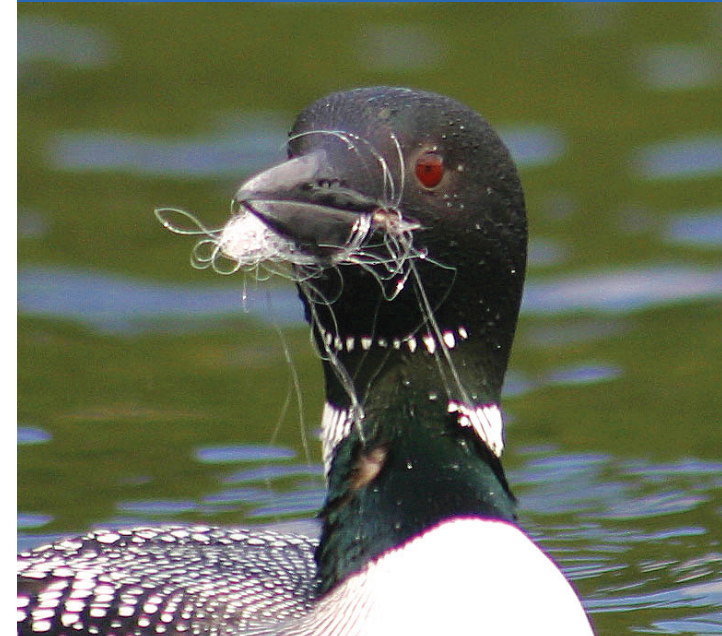
The Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation conducts scientific research and engaging educational programming to promote and inspire passion for the conservation of Common Loons (*Gavia immer*) in and beyond New York's Adirondack Park.

The Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation is grateful to its collaborators and donors for their support of our loon conservation efforts in the Adirondack Park.

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Loons, Lead, and Line Don't Mix!



ADIRONDACK CENTER for
LOON CONSERVATION

Lead and Loons

THE PROBLEM: Anglers attach lead weights to fishing lines to sink the hook, bait, or lure into the water. Some anglers also use lead-weighted hooks, called jigs.

Loons, eagles, and other wildlife occasionally eat a fish that still has lead tackle attached after an angler's line breaks.

Lead is poisonous to animals and humans when swallowed. As it breaks down in the acidic fluids in the stomach, lead gets absorbed, and affects the bird's behavior and organ function, including the gastrointestinal and neurologic systems.

After swallowing a lead sinker or jig, a loon suffers—slowly deteriorating and dying over the course of one to three weeks.

THE SOLUTION: Use Non-Lead Fishing Tackle

There are now many non-toxic types of fishing tackle available that are great for fishing and also prevent loons and other wildlife from suffering from lead poisoning.

Ask your local fishing shop for non-toxic tackle, and recycle your lead at a hazardous waste location.



Fishing Line Entanglement

THE PROBLEM: A fish occasionally breaks a line, and then it is an easy catch for a loon, since it is moving slowly or acting abnormally. Thus, on occasion, a loon gets more than it expected when it eats a fish with line still attached. A hook may also get caught in the loon's skin, mouth, further down its esophagus, or in its stomach, or it may swallow lead fishing tackle.

When it feels a line dangling from its mouth, a loon will fling its head around or scratch at its head trying to free itself from the line. This can make things worse, as the line then wraps around the bird's beak, head, leg, or wings.

The incidence of Adirondack loons and other wildlife getting tangled in fishing line has been increasing in recent years, likely because there are both more anglers and more loons on the water.

THE SOLUTION: Recycle Fishing Line

- If you find abandoned fishing line, please pick it up and recycle it.
- If you're fishing, and your line breaks or gets snagged, collect as much of the broken line as possible and recycle it.

Adirondack Anglers!

*Be Part of the Solution—
Please Help Loons and
Other Wildlife!*

- **Recycle or dispose of used fishing line properly.**
To obtain a fishing line recycling container for your organization, contact the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation.
- **Use non-toxic fishing tackle.**
- **If you see a loon tangled in fishing line or in distress,** please contact the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation, or a wildlife rehabilitator.
- **If a loon swims close to you, stop fishing until it moves off, or move away yourself,** as loons sometimes mistakenly grab fishing lures or bait. You will save your lure, and the loon may save its life.

*Many Thanks,
and Great Fishing!*

