

OTHER THREATS FACING MICHIGAN'S COMMON LOON

Loons in Michigan face a special threat. Commercial netting on the Great Lakes has resulted in the drowning of unknown numbers - perhaps in the hundreds - of loons annually. Research supported by the MLPA has shown that by enlarging the mesh size of the trap in these nets, fewer loons are lost. We continue to address this issue.

Loss of habitat, pollution, mercury poisoning, infections and trauma all cause mortality. Nesting loons and pairs with chicks are especially vulnerable to disturbance by boats and personal watercraft approaching too closely. Anglers can help by avoiding nesting loons and giving plenty of space to loon families. About 100 yards or so is sufficient. Go slow near loons to avoid collisions.



THE MICHIGAN LOON PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

The MLPA is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, formed to protect loons. The concern arose because of dwindling loon numbers due to many causes, among them lake development, pollution and loss of safe habitat.

The mission of the Michigan Loon Preservation Association is to preserve the Common Loon as a breeding bird in Michigan through public education, research and the protection and management of loons and their habitat.

For more information, contact us at:
Michigan Loon Preservation Association
4576 Division Avenue N
Comstock Park, Michigan 49321

Or visit us at:
MichiganLoons.org
(OR scan the QR code)



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INFO FOR FISHERMEN AND FISHERWOMEN



LEAD POISONING IN LOONS

Birds commonly eat small pebbles to grind food for digestion. Small lead sinkers and jigs may be mistaken for these pebbles, or lures with fish and lead attached may be consumed by the bird directly. A bird that eats lead will become ill and die. Ingested lead enters the gizzard, where a combination of stomach acids and abrasion breaks down the metal. It then is absorbed into the bloodstream.

A bird with lead poisoning will exhibit physical and behavioral changes including loss of balance, gasping, tremors, and an impaired ability to fly. The weakened bird is more vulnerable to predators, or it may have trouble feeding, mating, nesting, and caring for its young. It becomes emaciated and often dies within two or three weeks after eating the lead. Just one lead sinker or jig can poison any water bird.

EXTENT OF THE LEAD PROBLEM

Lead, once dispersed into lakes, may persist for up to 300 years, though degradation can be more rapid depending on soil condition and other factors. At least 27 different species are known to be affected by lead poisoning, including numerous duck species, the Trumpeter, Tundra and Mute swans, Bald eagles, Sandhill cranes, and the Common Loon - a threatened species in Michigan. Studies in the northeast



have shown that over 50% of loons autopsied died of lead poisoning. In Michigan, lead accounts for about 25% of autopsied loon deaths.

What you can do to help prevent loon deaths from lead poisoning:

THE VOLUNTARY SOLUTION

Switch to lead free substitutes. Jigs, particularly, have been found to account for most of the lead poisoning deaths in Michigan Loons. Encourage your sporting goods store to stock these substitutes. Reel in your line when loons are near. Loons take live fish and have been known to ingest lead from fish on anglers lines. Pick up discarded monofilament lines. Loons can become entrapped and hurt or killed by monofilament line. Help the MLPA educate the public about the dangers of lead. Please pass this brochure along, or refer others to our website.



FISH LEAD FREE!!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Michigan Loon Preservation Association

Yes! I want to help preserve the Common Loon in Michigan by joining the MLPA.

Name _____
Permanent Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Email _____

Membership Fee

- ☐ Introductory: \$10
- ☐ Family/Student/Senior (62+): \$15
- ☐ Supporting Individual: \$20
- ☐ Contributing: \$25
- ☐ Sustaining: \$50
- ☐ Award: \$100
- ☐ Benefactor/Life: \$500
- ☐ Organization*: \$50

*This category would include lake associations, environmental groups, individual Audubon chapters, etc.

Enclosed is my membership fee for the current year. (Includes subscription to MLPA newsletter, decal, and voting privileges).

Plus, I would like to make an additional contribution to MLPA \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please make checks payable to
MLPA and mail to:

Luanne Jaruzel, Membership
10181 Sheridan Road | Millington, MI 48746
Jaruzel5@gmail.com

Applications received after October 15th will not expire until December 31 of the following year.