Haliburton Forest & WILD LIFE RESERVE LTD

Support for Lead-Free Fishing Tackle
23 November 2026

Haliburton Forest & Wildlife Reserve Ltd. (HFWR) proudly supports the Fish Lead Free / Let's Get the Lead Out initiative and its efforts to eliminate preventable lead contamination from fishing tackle in Ontario's lakes and waterways.

As stewards of more than 100,000 acres of forests, lakes, wetlands and wildlife habitat at the headwaters of three major watersheds in Ontario's Haliburton Highlands, HFWR recognizes the importance of protecting aquatic ecosystems from avoidable lead pollution. Lead fishing tackle remains one of the most significant and preventable threats to waterbirds and other wildlife across Ontario and North America.

Scientific studies have identified lead poisoning from ingested tackle as the leading cause of death in adult common loons and a serious threat to at least 78 other species, including bald eagles, ospreys, great blue herons, swans, mallards and mergansers. An estimated hundreds of tonnes of lead tackle are lost annually in Canadian lakes and rivers, and because lead does not degrade, lost sinkers and jigs leave a toxic legacy that endangers wildlife for generations.

HFWR therefore urges the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to enact legislation prohibiting the sale and use of lead sinkers, weights, and jigs weighing less than 50 grams (1.75 oz.), and lead-headed fishing tackle less than 6.5 cm (2.5 inches) in length. Such a measure would align Ontario with growing conservation efforts to protect loons, waterfowl, raptors, fish and other species from unnecessary exposure to toxic lead.

Haliburton Forest is committed to supporting the transition to non-lead tackle through public education, outreach and the promotion of safe alternatives. We encourage anglers, outdoor recreationists, retailers, tourism operators, lake associations and conservation organizations to join this effort to keep Ontario's waters healthy. Protecting loons and other wildlife from lead poisoning is one of the simplest and most effective conservation actions available today: by choosing lead-free tackle, anglers can help ensure that future generations continue to enjoy healthy lakes and thriving fisheries across Ontario's cottage country.

For further information, please contact:

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