

Originating Committee: Wetlands and Waterfowl
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Intended Recipient: Missouri Department of Conservation

Investigate Potential for Lead Poisoning as a Result of Lost Lead Fishing Tackle in Missouri Department of Conservation Waterfowl Refuge Lakes, Marshes and Tributaries

WHEREAS, water birds, swans, ducks and other wildlife commonly frequent and concentrate on Missouri Department of Conservation refuge lakes, marshes and tributaries that also receive fishing pressure; and

WHEREAS, extensive research has shown lead to be toxic to wildlife; and

WHEREAS, quantities of lead fishing tackle are lost in these waters every year due to snags, and accidental spills; and

WHEREAS, fishing tackle such as sinkers less than one ounce, and jigs less than one inch in size can be mistaken by water birds, swans and ducks as either grit or as prey; and

WHEREAS, research has shown in other parts of the country the negative impacts of lead poisoning via fishing tackle to these as well as other avian species and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, multiple states such as New York, and Connecticut as well as countries abroad have banned the use of lead fishing tackle to address this issue; and

WHEREAS, further investigations are needed to determine if lead fishing tackle is impacting water birds, swans, ducks and other wildlife on Missouri refuge lakes such as, Che-Ru Lake and Bittern Marsh on the Fountain Grove Conservation Area, Schell and Adkinson Lakes on the Schell Osage Conservation Area, and Pool 1 on Duck Creek Conservation Area and possibly others; and

WHEREAS, until a conclusion is drawn, voluntary outreach and educational programs should be instituted to make the fishing public aware of the potential threat lead tackle presents and that nontoxic alternatives are available; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO, this 12th day of March, 2017, recommend that the Missouri Department of Conservation, develop and promote an outreach and education program to alert the fishing public of the potential problem of lead poisoning as a result of lost lead fishing tackle on water birds, swans, ducks and other wildlife within Missouri's waterfowl refuges and tributaries where fishing is allowed and that nontoxic alternatives are available;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conservation Federation of Missouri assembled at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, MO. This 12th day of March 2017, recommends that the Missouri Department of Conservation develop a white paper related to the investigations necessary to determine the potential of lead poisoning as a result of lost lead fishing tackle on water birds, swans, ducks and other wildlife within Missouri's waterfowl refuges and tributaries where fishing is allowed.