



# HELP PROTECT LOONS

*By protecting these magical birds, we will ensure our lakes remain healthy for future generations. Follow these tips to share the water with loons.*



*Be wake wary to keep swimming loons safe, avoid washing out loon nests, and prevent shoreline erosion.*



*Give loons space near their nesting areas and in open water.*



*Recycling fishing line prevents entanglements.*

## WATCH YOUR WAKE

Observe no wake zones near wetlands and shorelines. Adhere to wake boat industry standards: 25ft/8m water depth and 200ft/61m from shore.

Wake boat users should be extra vigilant to help prevent boat collisions or separating chicks from adults. Watch ahead for loons and never chase them to avoid causing stress.

## STEER CLEAR

During the nesting season stay 200ft/61m from nesting habitat (small islands, bays, marshy areas, and grassy shorelines).

Use a camera or binoculars to view loons to avoid disturbing a nest and leaving eggs vulnerable to heat or predators.

Before mid-July, avoid exploring or camping on small islands.

## LEAVE NO LINE

Leave no line behind, recycle used fishing line in a line recycling container, or cut used line into 6in/15cm pieces for the garbage.

Avoid casting fishing line near swimming or nesting loons to prevent injury.



✔ *Lead-free fishing tackle, like the glass jigs above, prevents lead poisoning.*



✔ *Let native plants grow to preserve loon nesting habitat and prevent shoreline erosion that disrupts the ecosystem.*



✔ *Decrease our global impact for cleaner lakes and safer coastal waters for loons on their wintering grounds.*

## FISH LOON-SAFE

Use lead-free fishing tackle to prevent lead poisoning that can kill loons.

Loons ingest lead tackle by:

- picking it up from the lake bed
- eating a fish with attached or ingested tackle
- chasing an angler's tackle. (Help prevent this by not feeding loons!)

## KEEP IT WILD

Natural shorelines provide loon nesting habitat, reduce erosion, and support the lake food web that zooplankton, insects, fish and loons need to thrive.

Create fertilizer free zones and/or avoid the use of fertilizers on shoreland to help reduce run-off into the lakes.

Encourage your community to adopt lake-friendly shoreline zoning.

## REDUCE YOUR IMPACT

Support renewable energy to help combat climate warming that raises lake temperatures, contributes to algal blooms, decreases water clarity and increases toxins and heavy metals.

Lessen your fossil fuel consumption to reduce the chance of off-shore oil spills, which impact wintering loons.

Dispose of household hazardous waste properly and don't pollute directly into storm sewers or waterways.