

Resolution 2018-01 - Banning the Use of Lead in Ammunition and Fishing Gear. Submitted by the Bulkley Valley Naturalists

Motion:

Whereas the Canadian government has taken action to protect Canadians from lead exposure by stopping the use of lead in gasoline and paint;

Whereas Environment Canada banned the use of lead shot for hunting most migratory game bird species in 1999;

Whereas lead shot and ammunition and lead fishing gear continue to be allowed for fishing and hunting activities that do not involve migratory game bird species;

Whereas scientific studies show that the continued use of lead-based ammunition and fishing gear poses significant health risks to humans and wildlife;¹

Whereas research shows that lead causes harm at far lower levels of exposure than was previously recognized and the World Health Organization has concluded that there is “no known level of lead exposure that is considered safe”;²

Whereas a statement released by scientists and health experts in the United States in 2013 notes that lead hunting ammunition poses a serious danger to people and wildlife and should be phased out;³

Whereas the Centre for Biological Diversity, the American Bird Conservancy, and other conservation, hunting, and veterinarian groups in the United States have submitted a Petition to the US Environmental Protection Agency, which provides detailed scientific evidence on harm caused to wildlife and humans by the use of lead shot, bullets, and fishing sinkers and calls for them to be banned under the US Toxic Substances Control Act;⁴

Whereas research has determined that ingestion of small lead fishing sinkers and jigs is a major cause of death in breeding common loons in eastern Canada and the United States;⁵

Whereas non-lead ammunition and non-lead fishing jigs and lures are available, are effective and cost only slightly more;⁶

Whereas in 2004, Canada's Minister of the Environment announced the government's intention to prohibit the import, manufacture and sale of lead fishing weights in Canada;⁷

Whereas the state of California is phasing in a ban on lead ammunition by 2019 and many EU countries and U.S. states have restrictions on the use of lead ammunition and lead in fishing gear.

Whereas Denmark has moved to ban lead ammunition.

Be it resolved that BC Nature call on the Canadian government to:

- Take action to eliminate the use of lead in ammunition and fishing gear.
- Collaborate with indigenous communities, the provinces, non-governmental organizations and commercial interests, to introduce an action plan to phase out the use of lead in ammunition and fishing gear.
- Initiate an educational strategy and a fund to assist in the transition to non-lead ammunition and

fishing gear.

References:

1. Bellinger DC, Burger J, Cade TJ et al. *Health Risks from Lead-Based Ammunition in the Environment*. Environmental Health Perspectives, 2013. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1289/ehp.1306945>. Arnemo, JM, Andersen O, Stokke S et al. *Health and Environmental Risks from Lead-based Ammunition: Science Versus Socio-Politics*. Ecohealth, 2016; 13(4): 618–622. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10393-016-1177-x>. Kosnett MJ, 2009. *Health effects of low dose lead exposure in adults and children, and preventable risk posed by the consumption of game meat harvested with lead ammunition*. In Watson RT, Fuller M, Pokras M and Hunt WG (Eds.). *Ingestion of Lead from Spent Ammunition: Implications for Wildlife and Humans*. The Peregrine Fund, Boise, Idaho, USA. DOI 10.4080/ilsa.2009.0103. Tsuji LJS & Nieboer E. *Allowing First Nation Children to Reach Their Full Cognitive Potential: Questioning the use of Lead Shotgun for the Harvesting of All Game*. The Canadian Journal of Native studies XIX, 1(1999):37-50. http://www3.brandonu.ca/cjns/19.1/cjnsv19no1_pg37-50.pdf.
2. WHO, *Lead Poisoning and Health*, <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs379/en/>
3. Health Risks from Lead-Based Ammunition in the Environment—A Consensus Statement of Scientists. 2013. <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/6dq3h64x>.
4. US Center for Biological Diversity, the American Bird Conservancy, the Association of Avian Veterinarians et al. *Petition to the Environmental Protection Agency to Ban Lead Shot, Bullets, And Fishing Sinkers under the Toxic Substances Control Act*. August 3, 2010. http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/get_the_lead_out/pdfs/Final_TSCA_lead_ban_petition_8-3-10.pdf.
5. Environment Canada. *Wildlife and landscape science research topics: metals toxicology*. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/wildlife-research-landscape-science/research-topics/metals-toxicology.html>). Wilush M. *Hunters and anglers should stop using lead products, vet says*. CBC, May 10, 2016, <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/hunters-anglers-switch-from-lead-to-copper-1.3575131>. *Fishing tackle kills a shocking number of loons*. CBC, October 21, 2017. <http://www.cbc.ca/radio/quirks/october-21-2017-1.4363723/fishing-tackle-kills-a-shocking-number-of-loons-1.4363730>. Chiu, E. *CBC News*, Dec 29, 2016. *Hunters urged to switch to copper ammo after bald eagle dies of lead poisoning*. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/hunters-copper-ammo-cape-breton-eagle-lead-poisoning-1.3914901>.
6. Thomas VG. 2013. *Lead-free hunting rifle ammunition: product availability, price, effectiveness, and role in global wildlife conservation*. *Ambio*. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13280-012-0361-7>.
7. Environment Canada, 2005, *Fishing Lead Free: A regulatory Proposal*. <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/leadfree-canada2005.pdf>.