

LOONWATCH

SIGURD OLSON ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE
NORTHLAND COLLEGE

Lead-free alternatives: Manufacturers and retailers

Lead is a known toxin that is commonly used in fishing weights and jigs. When ingested by wildlife, it is 100% fatal. Non-lead fishing tackle is not a novelty product. Ask for it at retailers and shops, and visit these tackle web sites:

Alley's Tungsten Behemoth Lures |

<http://www.alleystungsten.com/>

Tournament-quality insert-free & inserted tungsten weights and jigs.

Bass Pro Shops | www.basspro.com/

Search their web site for "XPS" and "Excalibur" weights (tungsten), "Ultra Steel 2000," and "Sticky Weight" tungsten putty, "Lake Fork" tungsten jigs, Gremlin Green "bismuth worm sinkers," and "Safe-Sink" densified plastic worm weights.

BossTin | www.bosstin.com/

Fishing weights made of tin, including split shot, stylers, swivel sinkers, and a variety of egg and bullet sinkers.

Bullet Weights | www.bulletweights.com/

Alternative terminal tackle products. "Ultra Steel" sinkers and interchangeable jigs; tin split shot; tungsten bullet and screw-in weights.

Cabela's | www.cabelas.com/

This retailer carries many brands of "non-toxic fishing weights" in their online catalog.

Catch It! Tackle Company |

<http://www.catchitoutdoors.com/>

Creator of the Eco-Jig lures, lead-free tackle made with glass! The Eco-Jig is a maintenance free, lead free lure. Check out their unique, handmade fishing products.

Conquistador Tackle Company |

www.conquistadortackle.com/

The Conquest tungsten bullet slip weight is available in seven different sizes.

Clearly Outdoors | <http://www.clearlyoutdoors.com/>

Eau Claire-based company sells high-performance tungsten sinkers made in the USA.

Dave's Tangle Free | <http://davestanglefree.com/>

High performance non-toxic, lead-free fishing weights.

Double Necker Rigs | www.doublenecker.com/

Fishing rig made from recycled beverage bottles. Use as a bobber or a weight.

Dr. Drop tungsten composite sinkers |

www.clearlyoutdoors.com/

Tungsten composite sinkers use exclusive "friction grip" allowing for fast attachment and retrieval. New for 2006, a "click and slide" weight, as well as traditional bullet and bell sinkers in several weights.

Eagle Claw Fishing Tackle | www.eagleclaw.com/

Colorado retailer's online catalog includes non-toxic removable split-shot made of tin, and a variety of steel sinkers (bass-casting, egg, and rubber core).\

Eco Pro Tungsten | www.ecoprotungsten.com

Eco Pro Tungsten weights are 97% pure tungsten. Dense, fray-free, insert-free and lead-free, in a variety of styles: worm weights, flipping weights, drop shot weights, as well as jigs and spins.

Fish on Lures | <http://fishonlures.co.uk/>

Tackle provider carries non-toxic worm weights for Texas and Carolina style rigs.

First Mate Lures, Inc. | www.firstmatelures.com/

Online retailer of lead free tackle. Jigs, drop shots, bottom bouncers, and slip sinkers, available in a variety of styles and sizes.

Fiskas Wolfram Jigs | www.yourbobberson.com/

Tungsten jig heads in a variety of sizes, shapes, and colors. Available at many retailers throughout the U.S. and Canada; made in Sweden.

Flambeau Outdoors |

<http://www.flambeauoutdoors.com/en/>

Offers a variety of biodegradable tackle.

Gitzit, Inc. | www.gitzitinc.com/

Lead-free "Little Tough Guy" and "Micro Little Tough Guy" jig heads.

GlowOptics | <http://tigereyeglassjigs.com>

"Tiger Eye" glass jigs with a glow. Available in a variety of sizes for on the ice or open water.

Jackfish Lures | <http://www.jackfishlures.com/>

Jackfish Lures is a Canadian manufacturer of fishing lures. At the heart of each and every Jackfish Lure is American Stainless steel and Pure Tin.

Jack's Lures | <http://www.jackslures.com/>

Jacks Lures is the result of 25 years in the tackle business. All sizes of Crappie Jig heads, Trout lure heads and Walleye heads come in lead free options.

Keitech | <http://www.keitech.co.jp/english/>

Tungsten-composite bass jigs and round head jigs.

Lead Free Bass Jigs | www.leadfreebassjigs.com

Jigs made from bismuth-tin alloy or bismuth. A variety of jig head types and colors offered, including skirt and hook options.

Lead Free Jig Heads |

<http://www.leadfreejigheads.com/>

Online retailer of tin/bismuth alloy sinkers and jigs in a variety of styles.

Larry's Lures & Jigs | <http://www.luresandjigs.com/>

Tackle products include jig heads and spinners in lead-free options made from 99.99% bismuth.

Lindy Fishing Tackle |

<http://www.lindyfishingtackle.com/>

The Techni-Glo Rattl'n Flyer Spoon is made from a tin/pewter alloy with a brass rattle. Eco-Safe E-Z Tube Weights are made of a tin/pewter alloy, and available in four weight sizes, with and without rattles.

Loon Outdoors | <http://www.loonoutdoors.com/>

The "Deep Soft Weight" (1 oz.) is made from tungsten.

Lucky Strike Bait Works Ltd. |

<http://www.luckystrikebaitworks.com/>

Lead free spinners and spoons.

MAGS Lure Company | www.magslureco.com

Bass jig heads made of pewter with premium hooks, fiber weed guards, 3D eyes, and custom powder paint.

Orvis | <http://www.orvis.com/>

International outfitter sells some varieties of non-toxic split shot including oval and camo shot.

Osprey Fishing Lures | <http://www.osprey-tackle.com/>

Carrier of lead free fishing tackle: Tungsten jig heads, ice jigs and soft tin buck shots.

Northland Fishing Tackle |

<http://www.northlandtackle.com/>

The "Nature Jig" is 100% lead free, cast from a nontoxic bismuth/tin alloy.

Pallatrax USA | <http://www.pallatrax.co.uk/>

Weights in the Stonze System are made from naturally occurring stones. Available in a range of sizes and colors, in swivel and in-line versions.

Panther Martin | <http://www.panthermartin.com/>

A variety spinners that are made from stainless steel and come in a number of sizes.

Pepper Custom Baits | <http://pepperjigs.com>

The Pepper Punch is a tungsten weight with the skirt collar molded into it.

Picasso Lures, LLC | www.picassooutdoors.com

Tungsten worm and flipping weights with chip-resistant Duraseal coating.

PJ's Finesse Baits | <http://www.ejigs.com/>

Non-toxic tackle made from bismuth: Maribou jigs, Barbless Woolly Buggers, Eggboos, and Wormaboos.

River2Sea | www.river2seausa.com/

California-based manufacturer of non-toxic tungsten sinkers and bismuth/tin alloy buzzbaits and spinnerbaits.

RockyBrook Sinkers | www.rockybrooksinkers.com/

Fishing weights made from limestone. Weights from 1/10 oz. to 1/2 oz. Same weight as lead, but not as dense.

Rocky Ledge Tackle |

<https://www.rockyledgetackle.com/>

Premium supplier of lead free bladed-jigs and spinnerbaits.

Salamander Sinkers | www.salamandersinkers.com/

Steel sinkers with a new, patent-pending design for terminal tackle. Nontoxic, snag-resistant, and weight-adjustable.

Siebert Outdoors | www.siebertoutdoors.com

Jigs and jig heads in a variety of styles and sizes, made from bismuth-tin alloy.

South Bend | www.south-bend.com/

Eco Weights are made from highly pressurized iron oxide, and come in many weights and styles: worm weights, egg sinkers, and bank sinkers. Also makes steel removable split-shot sinkers.

Sourdough Bay Fishing Supplies |

<http://members.memlane.com/sourdbay/>

Canadian-based company has been producing lead free Bismuth/Tin alloy jigs, sinkers and weights in for the last 25 years.

Stone Creek | <http://stonecreekltd.com>

Tung Fu Ready Weight is tungsten putty, moldable and non-toxic.

Strike King Lure Company | www.strikeking.com

Tour Grade Tungsten weights in a variety of sizes and colors, noting the benefits of the higher density and hardness. Web site offers a dealer locator.

Tacklesmith | www.tacklesmith.com/

Wisconsin-based online retailer of lead-free sinkers and jigs made from a variety of non-toxic metals.

The Gapen Company | www.gapen.com/

Minnesota manufacturer sells some tin jigs, including the Crappie Vixen and The Jerk.

The Lunkah Huntah Tackle Company | www.lunkah-huntah.com

Fishing weights using bismuth and tin, with lead-free paint for the finish.

The SHOT-GUN | <http://www.theshot-gun.com>

A lead-free fishing sinker device that stores and injects tungsten shot that can be attached to fishing line and other fishing accessories, like hooks, lures, and rubber baits.

Timmy Tom's Jig Co. | www.timmytoms.com

A variety of jig heads cast with a tin alloy in place of lead. Available painted and unpainted

Tin Man Lures | <http://stores.ebay.com/tinmanlures>

Manufacturer of high quality fishing lures using pure tin since 1996.

Water Gremlin | <http://www.watgremlin.com/>

Minnesota-based producer manufactures a number of steel sinkers in egg, slip, and drop shot varieties. The "Gremlin Green" line features several styles of weights made from bismuth, and split-shot made from tin as well.

XTackle | <http://www.xtackle.com/>

Fishing tackle distributor carries a wide variety of environmentally smart fishing Weights.

Yakima Bait Co. | www.yakimabait.com

The Hildebrandt product line includes many spinnerbaits made from molded bismuth or tin.

Your Bobbers Down |

<http://www.yourbobbersdown.com/>

Michigan manufacturer produces quality tungsten fishing jigs.

For more information about LoonWatch, contact the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at 1411 Ellis Avenue, Ashland, WI 54806, 715-682-1220, or visit our website at <http://www.northland.edu/loonwatch>