

HUNTING AND FISHING

DID YOU KNOW?

AM I A RESPONSIBLE SPORTSPERSON?



In the past, hunters, skeet and trap shooters used lead shot pellets. This contributed to approximately one ton of poisonous lead being deposited into the environment every year. We continue to face the following issues today:

- Tons of lead shot still exists in our waterways. Animals that ingest it suffer diverse effects to their organs and gastrointestinal system.
- Waterfowl probing the bottom of lakes, ponds and wetlands for grit (needed for digestion) are inadvertently poisoned. As little as one pellet of lead can kill a trumpeter swan.
- Eagles and other predators eating the poisoned animals may also suffer and die.
- Happily, lead shot has been banned in certain areas of British Columbia.



What Do I Do?

Use copper bullets or steel pellets instead of lead.

HUNTING AND FISHING



Lead fishing weights (also known as sinkers or jigs) are still used in Canada presenting several problems for waterfowl searching the bottom of lakes, streams and rivers for food:

- Ducks, loons, Canada geese, swans and other water birds scoop up sinkers mistaking them for grit (needed for digestion).
- Concentrated lead breaks down in the bird's stomach and causes lead poisoning.
- Raptors and other predatory animals suffer or die from eating contaminated fish or waterfowl.



What Do I Do?

Use brass, tungsten, steel, or bismuth sinkers instead of lead.
Never put lead sinkers in your mouth.

DID YOU KNOW?

AM I A RESPONSIBLE SPORTSPERSON?



Unwanted and carelessly discarded fishing line, hooks and netting cause entrapment, pain, injury and death to many fish, raptors, turtles and other animals who live on or near the water.

- Waterfowl, fish and turtles can become entangled when swimming.
- Birds sometimes use fishing line to build nests which can entangle both parents and chicks, causing feather damage, lacerations and/or death.
- Ingested fishhooks are painful, dangerous and potentially fatal for the animals that eat them as well as predators such as large birds or animals.



What Do I Do?

Pick up and properly discard your fishing gear. Cut fishing line into small pieces before throwing it away or recycling.

If you see an animal that is entangled, has swallowed a hook, or is injured by fishing line, contact a wildlife rehabilitation centre for advice.