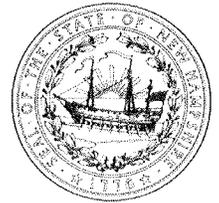


The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services

Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner



*Celebrating 25 Years of Protecting
New Hampshire's Environment*

January 19, 2012

The Honorable Bob Odell
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 102
Concord, NH 03301

RE: SB 224 relative to lead fishing sinkers and jigs

Dear Senator Odell:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 224, an act relative to lead fishing sinkers and jigs. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports the intent of this legislation as an effort to further protect New Hampshire's loon population.

New Hampshire currently prohibits the use and sale of lead sinkers which have a mass of one ounce or less, and lead jigs, which measure less than 1 inch along the longest axis. The proposed legislation seeks to include all tackle that is in the size range known to be ingested by loons.

Loons are often perceived as an icon of a healthy lake. Because they feed at the top of the aquatic food web, loons are a biological indicator species for contaminants in our lakes. Lead and other contaminants pose a risk to the aquatic food web, putting other species, including humans, at risk and interrupting the chemical and physical conditions that support a balanced, integrated and adaptive community of aquatic organisms. If enacted, SB 224 would help to eliminate a pollution source that threatens the health of our lakes.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this bill. Please feel free to call Amy Smagula, DES Limnologist, at 271-2248 or me at 271-2958, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Very truly yours,

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Senators Odell, Lambert, Forrester, Carson
Representatives Newton and Russell

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