

# 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/](http://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.

### **Big Ten Tackle** | [www.bigtentackle.com/](http://www.bigtentackle.com/)

An online source for ceramic and steel sinkers.

### **BossTin** | [www.bosstin.com/](http://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/](http://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/](http://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/](http://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/](http://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/](http://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/](http://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](http://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.

### **Envio-Weights** | <http://www.envio-weights.com/>

Environmentally Safe Fishing Tackle since 1990. Manufacturer of environmentally safe fishing tackle over 1/4 size to several pounds

### **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/](http://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/](http://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/](http://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.

**Classic Lures** | [www.classiclures.com](http://www.classiclures.com)

Handmade lures and sinkers made from glass.

**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](http://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](http://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 of 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](http://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/](http://www.river2seausa.com/)

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

**Rocky Brook Sinkers** | [www.rockybrooksinkers.com/](http://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/](http://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](http://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/](http://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.

**SpinnerBaker Lures** | <http://www.spinnerbaker.com/>

Producing handmade Lead-Free Fishing Lures since the early '70's.

**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](http://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/](http://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/](http://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](http://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](http://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.watergremlin.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](http://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>*