

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND AND THIRTEEN

—
S.P. 268 - L.D. 730

An Act To Protect Maine's Loons by Banning Lead Sinkers and Jigs

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12663-A, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §288 and affected by §422, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §12663-B is enacted to read:

§12663-B. Unlawful sale of lead sinkers and bare lead jigs

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Bare lead jig" means an unpainted lead jig that contains lead and that:

- (1) Weighs one ounce or less; or
- (2) Measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.

B. "Lead sinker" means a device that contains lead that is designed to be attached to a fishing line and intended to sink the line and that:

- (1) Weighs one ounce or less; or
- (2) Measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.

"Lead sinker" does not include artificial lures, weighted line, weighted flies or jig heads.

2. Sale of lead sinker or bare lead jig. This subsection governs the sale of lead sinkers and bare lead jigs.

A. A person may not:

- (1) Sell a lead sinker; or
- (2) Beginning September 1, 2016, sell a bare lead jig.

B. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

C. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime.

3. Offer lead sinker or bare lead jig for sale. This subsection governs offering lead sinkers and bare lead jigs for sale.

A. A person may not:

(1) Offer for sale a lead sinker; or

(2) Beginning September 1, 2016, offer for sale a bare lead jig.

B. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

C. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §12664 is enacted to read:

§12664. Unlawful use of lead sinkers and bare lead jigs

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Bare lead jig" means an unpainted lead jig that contains lead and that:

(1) Weighs one ounce or less; or

(2) Measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.

B. "Lead sinker" means a device that contains lead that is designed to be attached to a fishing line and intended to sink the line and that:

(1) Weighs one ounce or less; or

(2) Measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.

"Lead sinker" does not include artificial lures, weighted line, weighted flies or jig heads.

2. Unlawful use. This subsection governs the use of lead sinkers and bare lead jigs.

A. A person may not:

(1) Use a lead sinker; or

(2) Beginning September 1, 2017, use a bare lead jig.

B. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

C. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime.