

TIPS FOR LOON-SAFE BOATING



Death from collision with a watercraft is one of the most common causes of loon deaths.

The common loon is Minnesota's state bird. Please follow these loon-safe boating tips to protect our loons while you enjoy your day on the lake.

- Please stay at least 200 feet away from nesting loons so they do not abandon their nest.
- Keep your watercraft speed slow to keep wakes to a minimum near nesting sites.
- Immediately back away if you see a nesting loon in the head down position.
- Please stay 200 feet away from loons on the water, if possible.



This posture means loon is threatened and you should move away

- **SPEED KILLS! Watch ahead, slow down, and go around adult loons and chicks.** Be extra careful outside no wake zones where loons rear their chicks.
- **Always assume loons won't dive out of your way.** Chicks can't dive out of the way. Adult loons won't dive when protecting chicks.
- Use caution when jet skiing near loons. They can't anticipate the sudden changes of direction of jet skis.
- Do not feed loons! Loons will start chasing baited hooks which will endanger their lives.



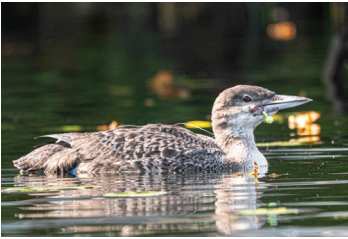
The best way to observe loons is at a distance with binoculars. Thank you for protecting our loons! If you see a sick, injured or dead loon, call Minnesota Loon Rescue, 855 552-1500.

LOON-SAFE FISHING TIPS

A hooked loon is almost always a dead loon! Please fish loon-safe to protect our loons from injury and death.



Hooked Adult



Hooked Juvenile

- Never cast towards a loon on a natural nest or artificial nesting platform.
- Keep at least 200 feet from any loon pair and their chicks.
- Do not cast towards loons. Do not fish near loons.
- Pull in your lines temporarily until the loons leave or move to a different fishing spot.
- Do not discard broken fishing line in the water or on shore.
- Fish with lead-free tackle. Loons die within 2-3 weeks of swallowing a lead sinker or jig.

Accidents happen! Call or text Minnesota Loon Rescue for help with a hooked or entangled loon. We have trained volunteers ready to help.

Report the name of the lake, location on the lake, and date and time the loon was hooked or spotted. If the loon is banded with colorful leg bands, please report the colors. Text photos and videos of the loon.

Additional resources:

mnloonrescue.org • 855 552-1500

Loon Rescue Inc: 715 966-5415

Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release: 612 822-7058

**Thank you for protecting our loons!
Please share this information
with other anglers and boaters.**