



RESOLUTION 2025-02-05

IN SUPPORT OF THE *VOLUNTARY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs) FOR REDUCING UNINTENDED INGESTION OF LEAD AMMUNITION AND TACKLE RESIDUES IN WILDLIFE* DEVELOPED BY THE MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

WHEREAS, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognizes the infrequent unintentional ingestion of lead ammunition and tackle may cause inadvertent negative health effects, up to and including mortality, in individual animals; and

WHEREAS, the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA), representing thirteen states and three provinces, engaged in a collaborative process with state, federal, industry, and specific non-profit partners to address the challenges, needs, and opportunities associated with reducing the infrequent unintentional ingestion of lead from spent ammunition and tackle; and

WHEREAS, a collaborative approach prioritizing education, information, and voluntary, informed choice is recognized by state fish and wildlife agencies as an effective way to prevent unnecessary regulatory action on lead ammunition and tackle; and

WHEREAS, MAFWA has taken the initiative to develop and provide options and tools for hunters and anglers seeking to voluntarily minimize the infrequent unintended ingestion of lead by individual animals in their pursuits; and

WHEREAS, these BMPs provide information to hunters and anglers about lead-free ammunition or tackle or, when using lead, incorporating voluntary actions to reduce ingestion of lead residues by wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (NEAFWA) has instituted a series of in-service training workshops throughout the northeast to inform agency personnel about non-lead and lead ammunition, and NEAFWA has verified through these workshops that a voluntary approach to the use of non-lead hunting ammunition is widely accepted and valued by state agency personnel and their conservation partners; and

WHEREAS, the BMPs outline specific actions and alternatives that AFWA recognizes as effective and efficient in mitigating the risks of lead ingestion from ammunition and tackle; and

WHEREAS, the practices described in the BMPs are related to hunting and angling activities only and are not meant to provide guidance on the use of lead use in other recreational activities; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, MAFWA resolved to promote the Voluntary Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Reducing Unintended Ingestion of Lead Ammunition and Tackle Residues in Wildlife;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognizes a need to provide best practices on the use of lead ammunition and tackle, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies adopts the Voluntary Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Reducing Unintended Ingestion of Lead Ammunition and Tackle Residues in Wildlife developed by MAFWA.

Submitted by the Fish and Wildlife Health Committee, Hunting and Shooting Sports Participation Committee, Angler and Boater R3 Committee, and One Health Committee.

Adopted by the Association on September 24, 2025 in Tucson, Arizona.