



The May 2022 NEWSLETTER

Northern Arizona Flycasters
An active member club of the World Wide organization
“Fly Fishers International”
“Conservation, Restoration, and Education through Fly Fishing”
<http://nazflycasters.com>

We support active involvement in cold water fisheries conservation. We work to insure that Arizona’s habitat is not degraded and in the development and maintenance of fly fishing opportunities.

We support the practice of “catch and release”, the use of barbless hooks, and quick and harmless release practices. Fish should never be kept out of the water for over 60 seconds.

Northern Arizona Flycasters meets the first Wednesday of the month at the Arizona Game and Fish Regional office at 3500 S. Lake Mary Road, Flagstaff. Meetings start at 7 PM with a board meeting at 6:00 PM. The meetings are free and the public is invited.

PRESIDENT’S DRIFT :

Planning a summer fishing trip? Fish more, travel less. Are you doing a DIY trip or a guided trip? Remember, every day on the water will be different. Have flexible plans in case your target destination is put off by rain, drought, fire, or road closures. Finally, remember to have fun and enjoy the company of friends.

Trout Spey Casting Program by Scott Buell
Wednesday, May 4, 2022 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
AZGF 3500 S. Lake Mary Rd. Flagstaff

Don't miss this entertaining and informative program. Scott has traveled the world with his fly rod. He is an outstanding presenter, coach, and humorist. His goal is to simplify the method of spey casting.

To help our membership, please remember to renew for the year 2022. Membership fees help with mandatory insurance, travel expenses for guest speakers, raffle items, and minor club expenses.

Remember to check your Arizona fishing license renewal date for 2022!

Information on Northern Arizona Fly Casters events, instruction, and fish stories can be found at several locations:

Facebook search under Northern Arizona Fly Casters.

AZ Daily Sun, web edition, under Events.

Website:<https://nazflycasters.com>

EDUCATION –

The use of lead in ammunition is on the way out. It appears that awareness of lead in fishing gear is also being noticed.

Anglers who fish with lead sinkers and jigs are not always aware of the regulations in their state and in certain federal wildlife refuges that prohibit the use of lead tackle under a certain size. This article explains where and why it is illegal to purchase, use, manufacture, and sell selected sizes of weights, sinkers, and other fishing tackle made of lead.

Why Lead Tackle is Prohibited

Lead is toxic and the lead tackle that is lost by anglers causes lead poisoning in wildlife, especially birds. Birds swallow small pebbles to help grind up the food they consume. Lead sinkers and jigs are mistaken for small pebbles and swallowed by the birds and held in their gizzards for a long time, which in many cases leads to their death. Hence the size restrictions. Lead also can contaminate soil and water, and then be taken up by plants and aquatic invertebrates.

Don't throw unwanted lead tackle in the trash, and of course, don't leave it where you fish. Bring it to your local household hazardous waste collection site or a nearby metal recycling facility to ensure that no animals will be harmed.

Alternatives to Lead Tackle

There are several alternative materials for making fishing tackle - steel, brass, tin, tungsten, bismuth, and even stones. Unfortunately, these materials are missing the combination of properties that make lead such a popular choice for making weights and jigs. Lead has a low melting point, low cost, high ductility and malleability. But on a bright side - none of these alternative materials are toxic and harmful to the environment.

Some substitutions are comparably priced and some materials outperform lead. Perhaps the best substitution for lead is tungsten. Although this metal is more expensive, tungsten is heavier than lead which allows for smaller tackle profiles with better sensitivity.

Rare Monster carries lead-free fishing tackle. [Take a look.](#)

States That Have Banned Lead Sinkers

New Hampshire

New Hampshire prohibits the use of lead sinkers up to 1 ounce and lead jigs up to 1 inch in length in all waters.

Retail outlets are prohibited from selling lead sinkers and lead jigs.

Effective since: 2000

Maine

Maine prohibits the use of lead sinkers or jigs weighing 1 ounce or less.

Retail outlets are prohibited from selling lead sinkers or jigs weighing 1 ounce or less.

Effective since: 2002

New York

New York prohibits the sale of lead sinkers 1/2 ounce or less.

Effective since: 2004

Vermont

Vermont prohibits the use of lead fishing sinkers 1/2 ounce or less. Retail outlets are prohibited from selling lead sinkers and lead jigs weighing 1/2 ounce or less.

Effective since: 2006

Massachusetts

Massachusetts prohibits the use of lead fishing sinkers and jigs less than 1 ounce in all inland waters.

Effective since: 2012

Washington

Washington prohibits the use of lead fishing sinkers and lead jigs that measure 1 1/2 inch or less along the longest axis but only at 12 lakes in the state where loons breed and rear their young.

The regulations apply to the following waters: Ferry Lake, Swan Lake, Pierre Lake, Big Meadow Lake, Yocum Lake, South Skookum Lake, Lost Lake, Blue Lake, Bonaparte Lake, Calligan Lake, Hancock Lake, Lake Hozomeen, and Long Lake.

Effective since: 2011

Lead sinker use is also banned in Yellowstone National Park and in over two dozen national wildlife refuges.

NAF EVENTS SCHEDULE

Under discussion by board

Fishing outings to local lakes

Fly casting sessions on a regular basis.

Work project with game and fish

The Board welcomes suggestions from members.

NAF CLUB OFFICERS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President	Charles Simpson
Vice-President	Tom Hudnall
Secretary	Mac McIlwaine
Treasurer	Denise Dean

Northern Arizona Flycasters

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