

HOW DO WE EXPOSE WILDLIFE TO LEAD?

FISHING

Lead fishing sinkers discarded in waterbodies can **POISON CROCODILES, WATERBIRDS AND FISH**. These animals swallow them because they think they are stones to aid digestion.



CROCS IN LAKE ST LUCIA, IN KZN, HAVE EXTREMELY **HIGH BLOOD LEAD** LEVELS THAT ARE

100x

HIGHER THAN WHAT'S TOXIC FOR HUMANS!



THESE ARE THE **HIGHEST RECORDED LEVELS OF LEAD IN THE BLOOD** FOR ANY VERTEBRATE ANYWHERE IN THE

WHOLE WORLD!

THOUSANDS OF TONS OF LEAD SINKERS ARE SOLD IN SOUTH AFRICA EACH YEAR, MOSTLY TO **REPLACE SINKERS** THAT HAVE BEEN LOST IN THE WATER WHILE FISHING.



Larger lead

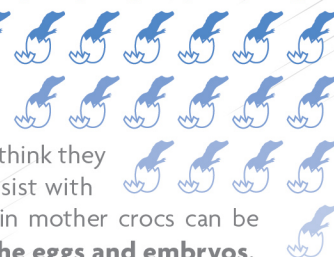
sinkers are often

swallowed by

crocodiles that think they are stones to assist with

digestion. Lead in mother crocs can be **passed on to the eggs and embryos**,

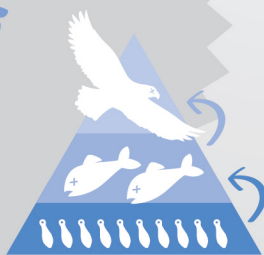
affecting reproduction in the next generation.



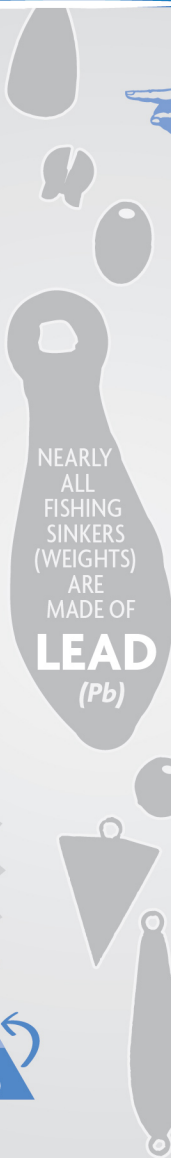
Smaller fishing sinkers (e.g. split-shot) are **swallowed by birds** such as ducks and geese that **mistake the sinker for food or stones**.



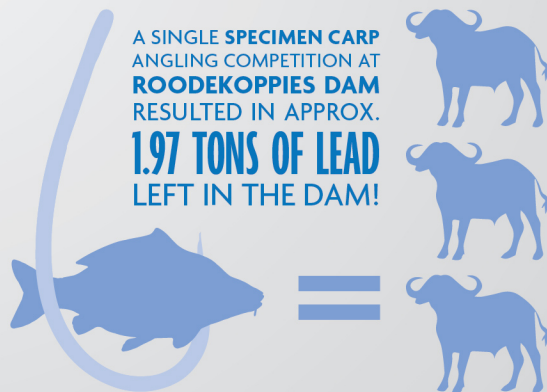
This makes them **ill or kills them**, and they pass up the food chain to **crocodiles, eagles and scavengers** that feed on these sick or dead birds and fish.



NEARLY ALL FISHING SINKERS (WEIGHTS) ARE MADE OF **LEAD (Pb)**



A SINGLE SPECIMEN CARP ANGLING COMPETITION AT **ROODEKOPPIES DAM** RESULTED IN APPROX. **1.97 TONS OF LEAD** LEFT IN THE DAM!



...AND WHAT ABOUT US?

Lead is most easily absorbed by the body when it is **inhaled**. This can happen lead is melted down to make sinkers or ammunition at home.



Users of indoor shooting ranges that are poorly ventilated and employ powder discharges are exposed to **MUCH** higher levels of lead.

Lead dust from fishing sinkers contaminates tackle boxes, tables and other surfaces in the home, leading to **skin absorption** or inhalation.



Large concentrations of accumulated lead in a waterbody can **contaminate drinking and irrigation water**, posing a severe threat to humans.

BE LEAD-WISE



DO NOT let children handle lead sinkers or ammunition.



Use gloves, masks and well-ventilated rooms when re-loading ammunition.



Use outdoor shooting ranges or well-ventilated indoor ranges.



Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water if you've handled anything made of lead, especially before eating.