



## **The Dangers Lead Poses to Water Resources**

### Lead in Drinking Water

Lead poses severe health risks, particularly for children, with no safe level identified for lead in drinking water. Riverkeeper supports the initiatives outlined in the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the Lead and Copper Rule, which mandate testing and strive to reduce lead levels in drinking water. Most recently, Riverkeeper supported the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to address disproportionate impacts of lead in drinking water through lead service line replacement and improved tap sampling. Additionally, we endorse mandatory testing of potable water sources in schools in New York State.

### Lead in the Environment

As an organization founded in 1966 by fishers concerned with the polluted state of the Hudson, Riverkeeper recognizes that thousands of tons of lead are deposited in the environment annually through hunting, fishing, and shooting. Recreational lead deposits have known toxic effects on wildlife, causing decreased survival, poor body condition, behavioral changes, and impaired reproduction, etc. These impacts necessitate stricter regulations, public awareness campaigns, and initiatives to replace lead with effective alternatives.

### Alternatives to Lead for Outdoor Recreation

Given the threat lead poses to fish, wildlife, and aquatic organisms, Riverkeeper supports the nationwide ban on lead shot for hunting waterfowl and a reduction in lead content in fishing tackle, particularly in ecologically sensitive wetlands. We support proposed state legislation to prohibit lead shot for taking of wildlife in the watersheds that provide New York City with drinking water. Alternative metals are readily available for lead shot (bismuth, etc.) and lead sinkers (tungsten). We urge outdoor recreators to adopt these non-toxic alternatives and help prevent harm to human health and wildlife.