



New Conservation Laws in 2015

SB 3049 Apex predators: Mountain lions, American black bears and gray wolves brought under protection of Illinois Wildlife Code. It is illegal to shoot one of these animals unless there is an imminent threat to lives or property. It is illegal to shoot a gray wolf under any circumstances under endangered species law. [Full Text of Law](#)

HB 4329 Hunting & Fishing Licenses Fees for Resident Seniors: Provides that the fee for all sport fishing licenses shall be \$1 and salmon stamps & inland trout stamps shall be waived for residents over 75 years old. Provides that the fee for a hunting license shall be \$1 and State Migratory Waterfowl Stamps & State Habitat Stamps shall be waived for residents over 75 years old. [Full Text of Law](#)

HB 4277 Blind and Disabled Anglers: Allows blind or disabled anglers to fish with commercial fishing equipment without holding a sport fishing license. [Full Text of Law](#)

HB 5082 Casting Nets: Increases the maximum size of a casting net to 24 feet in diameter or one inch in mesh bar measurement. [Full Text of Law](#)

SB 902 Herptile Act: Consolidates regulations regarding amphibians and reptiles into one code. [Full Text of Law](#)

SB 3333 Aquatic Life Definition: Provides that "aquatic life" includes all fish, reptiles, amphibians, mollusks, crustaceans, algae, aquatic plants, aquatic invertebrates, and any other aquatic animals or plants identified after consultation with biologists, zoologists, or other wildlife experts. [Full Text of Law](#)

HB 5869 Nuisance Organisms: Provides that the release of aquatic life in Illinois without first securing permission from IDNR is a Class B misdemeanor. [Full Text of Law](#)

SB 3434 Watercraft seizure: This measure allows for the seizure of watercraft used in commission of certain offenses related to OUI. [Full Text of Law](#)

SB 3433 Boating Education: Requires persons born after Jan. 1, 1998 to take and pass a boating safety class. [Full Text of Law](#)

SB 2731 Boating Safety: Mandates operator of a watercraft towing a skier or tuber to display a bright orange flag. [Full Text of Law](#)

HB 5079 Trapping Licenses: Prohibits persons born after Jan. 1, 2015 from receiving a trapping license if they have not held a valid trapping license for three years or have not received a certificate of competency from the IDNR. [Full Text of Law](#)

HB 5514 Trapping Rules: Allows trapped animals to be removed from the trap with a firearm, pistol or air gun with a caliber not larger than a .22 long rifle. [Full Text of Law](#)

HB 5911 FOIA Exemption for Nuisance Trapping: Provides that the location of the traps or snares used to trap nuisance animals shall be exempt from the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. [Full Text of Law](#)

HB 5080 Waterfowl Outfitter Permit: Establishes the waterfowl outfitter permit. Annual fee for residents may be up to \$1,000 and for non-residents may be up to \$2,500. [Full Text of Law](#)

HB 5567 Oil and Gas Permits: Requires Oil and Gas permit applications to be granted or denied within 20 business days of receipt. If a public hearing is requested, the permit must be granted or denied within 20 business days of the date of the public hearing. [Full Text of Law](#)

SB 2633 Off-Highway Vehicle Exemptions: Exempts golf carts, off-highway vehicles used for agriculture, local and national competitions and certain landowners from purchasing required off-highway vehicle stamp. [Full Text of Law](#)

SB 2966 Urban Flooding Awareness Act: Creates an Urban Flooding Study. [Full Text of Law](#)