**Section 810.5 Definitions**

Aquatic life – all fish, reptiles, amphibians, mollusks, crustaceans, algae, aquatic plants and aquatic invertebrates, and any other aquatic animals or plants that the Department identifies in administrative rules.

Catch and Release Fishing – means that caught fish must be returned to the water immediately unharmed. No harvest permitted of fish species noted as catch and release, or any fish species from waterbodies noted as catch and release fishing only.

Fish Length or Length – means the measurement from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail with the fish laid flat on a ruler, with the mouth of the fish closed and the tail lobes pressed together, except for Paddlefish where the length is measured from the center of the eye to the center of the "V" of the tail fin (eye-fork length), and except for Sturgeon species where length is measured from the tip of the snout to the center of the "V" of the tail fin.

Fishing – taking or attempting to take aquatic life in any waters of the State, by any method, and all other acts such as placing, setting, drawing or using any device commonly used for the taking of aquatic life, whether resulting in taking or not. This also applies to the removal of dead and decaying aquatic life.

Harvest – any aquatic life taken into possession from any waters of the State by any method.

In the aggregate – combination of two or more species or hybrids that in total do not exceed the daily harvest limit.

Protected Slot Length Limit – No harvest of fish within the specified length range. Fish must be immediately released.

Relic Mussel Shell – the shell of a mussel that apparently died of natural causes in the water and contains no meat or soft parts. The shell readily exhibits noticeable sediment, vegetation, algal or mineral stains, discolorations, soiling, weathering or other visual evidence on its interior surface that clearly and unambiguously shows the mussel shell has not been cooked-out or freshly cleaned.

Snagging – the practice of dragging or jerking a hook (or hooks), baited or unbaited, through the water with the intention of hooking a fish on contact anywhere on the body other than the inside of the mouth.

Take – to lure, kill, destroy, capture, gig or spear, trap or ensnare, or attempt to do so.

Water of the State – any water within the jurisdiction of the State of Illinois that is adapted for purposes of navigation or public access.

> − symbol means "greater than".

≥ − symbol means "greater than or equal to".

< − symbol means "less than".

≤ − symbol means "less than or equal to".

(Source: Amended at 49 Ill. Reg. 436, effective December 30, 2024)