



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**Testimony of Rep. Walter Kumiega
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources
Presenting LD 490, An Act to Extend the Legal Hours for Harvesting Lobsters**

Senator Baker and fellow members of the Committee on Marine Resources - I am Representative Walter Kumiega, serving Vinalhaven, North Haven, Isle au Haut, Stonington, Deer Isle, Southwest Harbor, Tremont, Swans Island, the Cranberry Isles and Frenchboro. I am here today to present **LD 490, An Act to Extend the Legal Hours for Harvesting Lobsters.**

Current law states that there is a nighttime closure for the lobster fishery during the period 1/2 hour after sunset until 1/2 hour before sunrise from June 1 to October 31, both days inclusive. This bill proposes to open harvesting 2 hours before sunrise in September and October only. This would give harvesters an additional 90 minutes of harvesting time during those 2 months of shorter days. 24-hour-a-day fishing starts November 1st.

Zone councils have the option to adopt a more restrictive opening time, so, if they wanted to keep the legal hours as they are now, that is a regionally controlled option.

Thank you for your time, I would be happy to attempt to answer any questions.