

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
IN OPPOSITION TO L.D. 964**

**“An Act to Change the Definitions of "Sunrise" and "Sunset" in the Inland
Fisheries and Wildlife Laws to Better Allow for Variations in Timing Across the
State”**

Presented by Representative SIMMONS of Waldoboro.

DATE OF HEARING: March 24, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Tim Peabody, Deputy Commissioner at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking on behalf of the Department, in opposition to L.D. 964 An Act to Change the Definitions of "Sunrise" and "Sunset" in the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws to Better Allow for Variations in Timing Across the State.

This bill amends the inland fisheries and wildlife law to change the entity within the United States Naval Observatory that the State relies upon to determine the times for sunrise and sunset from the Nautical Almanac Office to the Astronomical Applications Department and removes references to Bangor, Maine and replaces it with “given location in the state”.

Currently the law allows hunting from a ½ hour before sunrise until a ½ hour after sunset statewide for most species in Maine based on the sunrise/sunset time of Bangor, Maine.

For some background on the issue, the use of Bangor as a base time for sunrise/sunset for establishing legal hunting start and end times has been in place since 2003. Prior to that the base sunrise/sunset time for hunting was Augusta, Maine. The change was made in 2003 when the law was changed to allow hunting to end statewide at ½ hour after sunset, thus repealing the “twilight hunting law”. The change to Bangor sunrise/sunset provided more of a balance between start and end times from Kittery to Calais, for example:

- Sunrise in Calais 3/24/25 ... 6:24 a.m. (*adjusted for daylight savings time*)
- Sunrise in Kittery 3/24/25... 6:39 a.m. (*adjusted for daylight savings time*)
- Sunrise in Bangor 3/24/25... 6:30 a.m. (*adjusted for daylight savings time*)

The Department provides a 1-page chart for hunters to access in both print and online and will be easily accessible to users who download the app (available in a few weeks) online with exact times calculated to the ½ hour before sunrise and ½ after sunset (*adjusted for daylight savings*) which applies no matter where you are hunting in the state. Please see the chart for 2024-2025 provided below.

Our department feels this is a user friendly, consistent and more easily enforceable way to provide the times in which a hunter in Maine can legally hunt.

If a hunter were to use the United States Naval Observatory Astronomical Applications Department (*the same site that the law currently references*) they would need to log in to this site, scroll through the page, first typing in the correct year, then select the type of table needed (sunrise-sunset chart), then provide the location and time zone. Once you have the chart you would have to make an adjustment for daylight savings, which the website does not prompt you to do, then subtract 30 minutes to know the exact time of ½ hour before sunrise and add 30 minutes to calculate the exact time for the ½ hour after sunset. This seems onerous and would likely lead to more frequent questions and violations. For the Department to maintain a chart for every individual town in the state like the one we currently provide, staff resources would have to be added.

In closing our concern is while this method of determining the legal hunting times may add or shorten a few minutes at either end of a person's hunt, it makes it more complex for the hunter and our agency to find and follow the legal hunting times.

I would be glad to answer any questions at this time or during the work session.



Table of Sunrise/Sunset, Moonrise/Moonset, or Twilight Times for an Entire Year

BANGOR, ME

Location: W068 47, N44 49

Rise and Set for the Sun for 2025

Zone: 5h West of Greenwich

Day	Jan.		Feb.		Mar.		Apr.		May		June		July		Aug.		R:
	Rise h m	Set h m	Rise h m	Set h m	Rise h m	Set h m	Rise h m	Set h m	Rise h m	Set h m	Rise h m	Set h m	Rise h m	Set h m	Rise h m	Set h m	
01	0713	1605	0654	1644	0612	1723	0515	1803	0424	1841	0352	1914	0353	1925	0421	1901	0:
02	0713	1606	0653	1645	0610	1724	0514	1804	0423	1842	0352	1915	0354	1925	0423	1900	0:
03	0713	1607	0652	1647	0609	1726	0512	1806	0422	1843	0351	1916	0354	1924	0424	1858	0:
04	0713	1608	0650	1648	0607	1727	0510	1807	0420	1844	0351	1917	0355	1924	0425	1857	0:
05	0713	1609	0649	1650	0605	1728	0508	1808	0419	1846	0350	1917	0356	1924	0426	1856	0:
06	0712	1610	0648	1651	0603	1730	0506	1809	0417	1847	0350	1918	0356	1923	0427	1854	0:
07	0712	1611	0647	1652	0602	1731	0504	1811	0416	1848	0350	1919	0357	1923	0428	1853	0:
08	0712	1612	0645	1654	0600	1732	0503	1812	0415	1849	0349	1919	0358	1922	0429	1851	0:
09	0712	1613	0644	1655	0558	1734	0501	1813	0413	1850	0349	1920	0359	1922	0431	1850	0:
10	0711	1615	0642	1657	0556	1735	0459	1814	0412	1852	0349	1921	0359	1921	0432	1848	0:
11	0711	1616	0641	1658	0554	1736	0457	1816	0411	1853	0349	1921	0400	1921	0433	1847	0:
12	0710	1617	0640	1700	0553	1738	0455	1817	0410	1854	0349	1922	0401	1920	0434	1845	0:
13	0710	1618	0638	1701	0551	1739	0454	1818	0409	1855	0349	1922	0402	1919	0435	1844	0:
14	0710	1619	0637	1702	0549	1740	0452	1819	0407	1856	0349	1923	0403	1919	0436	1842	0:
15	0709	1621	0635	1704	0547	1742	0450	1821	0406	1857	0349	1923	0404	1918	0438	1841	0:
16	0708	1622	0634	1705	0545	1743	0448	1822	0405	1858	0349	1923	0405	1917	0439	1839	0:
17	0708	1623	0632	1707	0543	1744	0447	1823	0404	1900	0349	1924	0406	1917	0440	1837	0:
18	0707	1625	0631	1708	0541	1745	0445	1824	0403	1901	0349	1924	0407	1916	0441	1836	0:
19	0706	1626	0629	1709	0540	1747	0443	1826	0402	1902	0349	1924	0408	1915	0442	1834	0:
20	0706	1627	0627	1711	0538	1748	0442	1827	0401	1903	0349	1925	0408	1914	0444	1832	0:
21	0705	1629	0626	1712	0536	1749	0440	1828	0400	1904	0349	1925	0409	1913	0445	1831	0:
22	0704	1630	0624	1714	0534	1750	0438	1829	0359	1905	0349	1925	0411	1912	0446	1829	0:
23	0703	1631	0622	1715	0532	1752	0437	1831	0358	1906	0350	1925	0412	1911	0447	1827	0:
24	0702	1633	0621	1716	0530	1753	0435	1832	0358	1907	0350	1925	0413	1910	0448	1826	0:
25	0701	1634	0619	1718	0528	1754	0434	1833	0357	1908	0350	1925	0414	1909	0450	1824	0:
26	0700	1635	0617	1719	0527	1756	0432	1834	0356	1909	0351	1925	0415	1908	0451	1822	0:

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This time chart is NOT the sunrise and sunset time table and has already been adjusted to display the actual legal hunting hours.
 Note: This table is not to be used for migratory birds, see page 10. Blank spaces indicate Sundays when hunting is not legal.

DAY	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
01		6:04-6:49	6:44-6:53		6:45-6:35	6:37-6:18	6:31-6:54	6:25-7:23	6:14-8:11		6:03-8:55	6:01-8:51
02	5:58-7:30	6:05-6:53	6:45-6:51	6:34-6:25	6:28-6:16		6:23-6:54	6:18-7:41	6:07-8:45	6:00-9:00	5:57-8:51	5:57-8:50
03	5:50-7:57	6:09-6:51		6:25-6:15	6:18-6:07	6:10-5:58	6:07-6:55	5:57-7:55	5:42-8:19	5:31-7:48	5:27-8:31	
04	5:52-7:35	6:07-6:51	6:43-6:46	6:26-6:15	6:18-6:06	6:10-5:58	6:07-6:57	5:57-7:57	5:40-8:17		5:29-8:47	5:28-8:34
05	5:53-7:34	6:08-6:57	6:42-6:47	6:27-6:14		6:10-5:58	6:05-6:58	5:58-7:58	5:40-8:16	5:30-8:47	5:26-8:54	5:26-8:38
06	5:54-7:23		6:51-6:46	6:24-6:14	6:18-6:06	6:10-5:58	6:05-6:58		5:47-8:17	5:30-8:46		5:27-8:34
07	5:58-7:30	6:11-6:54	6:57-6:45	6:25-6:14	6:17-6:05	6:10-5:58	6:07-6:58	5:57-7:45	5:36-8:18	5:29-8:45	5:27-8:53	5:27-8:37
08		6:17-6:57	6:53-6:44		6:17-6:02	6:10-5:58	6:07-6:58	5:58-7:47	5:35-8:14		5:28-8:57	5:28-8:31
09	5:53-7:26	6:14-6:58	6:53-6:43	6:21-6:14	6:15-6:03		6:11-6:51	6:03-7:43	5:43-8:20	5:35-8:50	5:30-8:57	5:30-8:29
10	5:58-7:24	6:15-6:58		6:22-6:14	6:15-6:02	6:10-5:58	6:07-6:58	5:58-7:47	5:35-8:14		5:29-8:51	5:29-8:17
11	5:50-7:22	6:16-6:56	6:52-6:40	6:23-6:14	6:17-6:05	6:10-5:58	6:07-6:58	5:57-7:46		5:35-8:51	5:30-8:51	5:30-8:17
12	5:41-7:21	6:17-6:55	6:55-6:43	6:24-6:14		6:10-5:58	6:07-6:58	5:58-7:47	5:30-8:24	5:29-8:57	5:31-8:50	5:31-8:15
13	5:42-7:19		6:50-6:45	6:25-6:14	6:18-6:06	6:10-5:58	6:07-6:58		5:30-8:25	5:28-8:52		5:28-8:14
14	5:43-7:17	6:20-6:51	6:50-6:47	6:26-6:13	6:18-6:06	6:10-5:58	6:07-6:58	5:57-7:49	5:27-8:26	5:29-8:53	5:31-8:49	5:31-8:13
15		6:21-6:53	6:50-6:48		6:19-6:01	6:10-5:58	6:07-6:58	5:57-7:43	5:29-7:51		5:30-8:48	5:30-8:11
16	5:48-7:12	6:22-6:51	6:54-6:45	6:27-6:13	6:18-6:02		6:16-6:52	6:05-7:50	5:35-8:28	5:28-8:51	5:35-8:47	5:35-8:04
17	5:47-7:11	6:23-6:51		6:28-6:13	6:18-6:01	6:10-5:58	6:07-6:58	5:57-7:53	5:34-8:30	5:29-8:53	5:30-8:47	
18	5:49-7:06	6:25-6:54	6:57-6:43	6:29-6:12	6:17-6:05	6:10-5:58	6:07-6:58	5:57-7:54		5:29-8:54	5:37-8:45	5:37-8:06
19	5:50-7:01	6:27-6:53	6:58-6:43	6:30-6:11	6:19-6:02	6:10-5:58	6:07-6:58	5:57-7:45	5:30-8:31	5:29-8:55	5:37-8:45	5:37-8:04
20	5:50-7:05		6:10-6:27	6:31-6:17	6:19-6:01	6:10-5:58	6:07-6:58		5:31-8:33	5:29-8:55		5:37-8:03
21	5:52-7:03	6:28-6:53	6:14-6:21	6:32-6:17	6:20-6:03	6:10-5:58	6:07-6:58	5:58-7:49	5:30-8:34	5:29-8:55	5:38-8:43	5:38-8:08
22		6:30-6:58	6:15-6:20		6:21-6:00	6:10-5:58	6:07-6:58	5:58-7:40	5:29-8:35		5:41-8:40	5:41-7:59
23	5:54-7:00	6:31-6:56	6:13-6:20	6:31-6:18	6:21-6:01		6:07-6:58	5:57-7:41	5:28-8:36	5:28-8:55	5:42-8:31	5:42-7:57
24	5:55-6:54	6:33-6:55		6:31-6:15	6:21-6:02	6:10-5:58	6:07-6:58	5:58-7:42	5:28-8:37	5:28-8:53	5:43-8:40	
25	5:54-6:56	6:34-6:51	6:16-6:26	6:32-6:16	6:21-6:03	6:10-5:58	6:07-6:58	5:58-7:44		5:28-8:55	5:44-8:39	5:44-7:54
26	5:59-6:54	6:34-6:57	6:17-6:26	6:32-6:16		6:07-6:58	6:04-7:01	5:57-8:04	5:26-8:39	5:28-8:54	5:45-8:38	5:45-7:53
27	5:50-6:53		6:18-6:27	6:32-6:11	6:30-6:07	6:08-6:56	6:05-7:03		5:25-8:40	5:28-8:55	5:47-8:36	5:47-7:50
28	6:00-6:50	6:35-6:54	6:20-6:27	6:32-6:12	6:30-6:08	6:04-6:52	6:03-7:01	5:58-8:07	5:25-8:41	5:27-8:56	5:47-8:36	5:47-7:49
29		6:36-6:57	6:21-6:28		6:31-6:10	6:05-6:53	6:03-7:01	5:58-8:08	5:24-8:42		5:48-8:35	5:48-7:47
30	6:03-6:47	6:37-6:58	6:22-6:26	6:31-6:11	6:30-6:11		6:05-6:53	5:58-8:09	5:24-8:43	5:27-8:56	5:48-8:33	5:48-7:45
31		6:38-6:54		6:31-6:11	6:29-6:12	6:07-6:53		5:58-8:10	5:24-8:44		5:48-8:33	

Legal hunting hours are based on sunrise/sunset in Bangor, Maine (Eastern Standard Time) and are to be used statewide.
 Exceptions: Moose, Coyote, and Migratory Bird hunting (see special legal hunting hours for these species)