

**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.

LEGAL HUNTING HOURS 33

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 40. Blank spaces indicate Sundays when hunting is not legal.

2024-25 LEGAL HUNTING HOURS												
DAY	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
01		6:04 - 6:45	6:44 - 5:53		6:43 - 4:35	6:24 - 5:14	5:42 - 5:53	5:45 - 7:33	4:54 - 8:11		4:23 - 8:55	4:51 - 8:31
02	5:29 - 7:39	6:05 - 6:43	6:45 - 5:51	6:24 - 4:25	6:43 - 4:36			5:43 - 7:34	4:53 - 8:12	4:22 - 8:45	4:24 - 8:55	4:52 - 8:30
03	5:30 - 7:37	6:06 - 6:41		6:25 - 4:25	6:43 - 4:37	6:22 - 5:17	5:39 - 5:56	5:42 - 7:36	4:52 - 8:13	4:21 - 8:46	4:24 - 8:54	
04	5:32 - 7:35	6:07 - 6:39	5:48 - 4:49	6:26 - 4:25	6:43 - 4:38	6:20 - 5:18	5:37 - 5:57	5:40 - 7:37		4:21 - 8:47	4:25 - 8:54	4:55 - 8:27
05	5:33 - 7:34	6:09 - 6:37	5:49 - 4:47	6:27 - 4:24		6:19 - 5:20	5:35 - 5:58	5:38 - 7:38	4:49 - 8:16	4:20 - 8:47	4:26 - 8:54	4:56 - 8:26
06	5:34 - 7:32		5:51 - 4:46	6:28 - 4:24	6:42 - 4:40	6:18 - 5:21	5:33 - 6:00		4:47 - 8:17	4:20 - 8:48		4:57 - 8:24
07	5:35 - 7:30	6:11 - 6:34	5:52 - 4:45	6:29 - 4:24	6:42 - 4:41	6:17 - 5:23	5:32 - 6:01	5:34 - 7:41	4:46 - 8:18	4:20 - 8:49	4:27 - 8:53	4:58 - 8:23
08		6:12 - 6:32	5:53 - 4:44		6:42 - 4:42	6:15 - 5:24	5:30 - 6:02	5:33 - 7:42	4:45 - 8:19		4:28 - 8:52	4:59 - 8:21
09	5:37 - 7:26	6:14 - 6:30	5:55 - 4:43	6:31 - 4:24	6:42 - 4:43			5:31 - 7:43	4:43 - 8:20	4:19 - 8:50	4:29 - 8:52	5:01 - 8:20
10	5:39 - 7:24	6:15 - 6:28		6:32 - 4:24	6:41 - 4:45	6:13 - 5:27	6:26 - 7:05	5:29 - 7:44	4:42 - 8:22	4:19 - 8:51	4:29 - 8:51	
11	5:40 - 7:22	6:16 - 6:26	5:58 - 4:40	6:33 - 4:24	6:41 - 4:46	6:11 - 5:28	6:24 - 7:06	5:27 - 7:46		4:19 - 8:51	4:30 - 8:51	5:03 - 8:17
12	5:41 - 7:21	6:17 - 6:25	5:59 - 4:39	6:34 - 4:24		6:10 - 5:30	6:23 - 7:08	5:25 - 7:47	4:40 - 8:24	4:19 - 8:52	4:31 - 8:50	5:04 - 8:15
13	5:42 - 7:19		6:00 - 4:38	6:35 - 4:24	6:40 - 4:48	6:08 - 5:31	6:21 - 7:09		4:39 - 8:25	4:18 - 8:53		5:05 - 8:14
14	5:43 - 7:17	6:20 - 6:21	6:02 - 4:37	6:35 - 4:25	6:40 - 4:49	6:07 - 5:32	6:19 - 7:10	5:22 - 7:49	4:37 - 8:26	4:19 - 8:53	4:33 - 8:49	5:06 - 8:12
15		6:21 - 6:19	6:03 - 4:36		6:39 - 4:51	6:05 - 5:34	6:17 - 7:12	5:20 - 7:51	4:36 - 8:27		4:34 - 8:48	5:08 - 8:11
16	5:46 - 7:13	6:23 - 6:18	6:04 - 4:35	6:37 - 4:25	6:38 - 4:52			5:18 - 7:52	4:35 - 8:28	4:18 - 8:53	4:35 - 8:47	5:09 - 8:09
17	5:47 - 7:11	6:24 - 6:16		6:38 - 4:25	6:38 - 4:53	6:02 - 5:37	6:13 - 7:14	5:17 - 7:53	4:34 - 8:30	4:19 - 8:53	4:36 - 8:47	
18	5:48 - 7:09	6:25 - 6:14	6:07 - 4:33	6:38 - 4:26	6:37 - 4:55	6:01 - 5:38	6:11 - 7:15	5:15 - 7:54		4:19 - 8:54	4:37 - 8:46	5:11 - 8:06
19	5:49 - 7:07	6:27 - 6:13	6:08 - 4:33	6:39 - 4:26		5:59 - 5:39	6:10 - 7:17	5:13 - 7:56	4:32 - 8:32	4:19 - 8:54	4:37 - 8:45	5:12 - 8:04
20	5:50 - 7:05		6:10 - 4:32	6:39 - 4:27	6:36 - 4:57	5:57 - 5:41	6:08 - 7:18		4:31 - 8:33	4:19 - 8:55		5:14 - 8:02
21	5:52 - 7:03	6:29 - 6:09	6:11 - 4:31	6:40 - 4:27	6:35 - 4:59	5:56 - 5:42	6:06 - 7:19	5:10 - 7:58	4:30 - 8:34	4:19 - 8:55	4:39 - 8:43	5:15 - 8:01
22		6:30 - 6:08	6:12 - 4:30		6:34 - 5:00	5:54 - 5:44	6:04 - 7:20	5:08 - 8:00	4:29 - 8:35		4:41 - 8:42	5:16 - 7:59
23	5:54 - 7:00	6:32 - 6:06	6:13 - 4:30	6:41 - 4:28	6:33 - 5:01			5:07 - 8:01	4:28 - 8:36	4:20 - 8:55	4:42 - 8:41	5:17 - 7:57
24	5:55 - 6:58	6:33 - 6:05		6:41 - 4:29	6:32 - 5:03	5:51 - 5:46	6:00 - 7:23	5:05 - 8:02	4:28 - 8:37	4:20 - 8:55	4:43 - 8:40	
25	5:56 - 6:56	6:34 - 6:03	6:16 - 4:28	6:42 - 4:30	6:31 - 5:04	5:49 - 5:48	5:58 - 7:24	5:04 - 8:03		4:20 - 8:55	4:44 - 8:39	5:19 - 7:54
26	5:58 - 6:54	6:36 - 6:02	6:17 - 4:28	6:42 - 4:30		5:47 - 5:49	5:56 - 7:26	5:02 - 8:04	4:26 - 8:39	4:21 - 8:55	4:45 - 8:38	5:21 - 7:52
27	5:59 - 6:52		6:18 - 4:27	6:42 - 4:31	6:30 - 5:07	5:46 - 5:50	5:55 - 7:27		4:25 - 8:40	4:21 - 8:55		5:22 - 7:50
28	6:00 - 6:50	6:38 - 5:59	6:20 - 4:27	6:42 - 4:32	6:28 - 5:08	5:44 - 5:52	5:53 - 7:28	4:59 - 8:07	4:25 - 8:41	4:22 - 8:55	4:47 - 8:36	5:23 - 7:49
29		6:40 - 5:57	6:21 - 4:26		6:27 - 5:10		5:51 - 7:29	4:57 - 8:08	4:24 - 8:42		4:48 - 8:35	5:24 - 7:47
30	6:03 - 6:47	6:41 - 5:56	6:22 - 4:26	6:43 - 4:33	6:26 - 5:11			4:56 - 8:09	4:23 - 8:43	4:23 - 8:55	4:49 - 8:33	5:25 - 7:45
31		6:43 - 5:54		6:43 - 4:34	6:25 - 5:13		5:47 - 7:32		4:23 - 8:43		4:50 - 8:32	

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

# US Naval Observatory Astronomical Applications Dept Sunrise Sunset

## Webpage

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

aa.usno.navy.mil/calculated/rstt/year?ID=AA&year=2025&task=0&lat=0.0000&lon=0.0000&label=augusta+maine&dstz=0.00&tz\_sign=-1&submit=Get+Data

An official website of the United States government <https://aa.usno.navy.mil/>

**Astronomical Applications Department**

Main Data Services Information Center Publications Software About Us Site Map

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

0 . 0 .  
Location: 000 00, 00 00

AUGUSTA MAINE  
Rise and Set for the Sun for 2025

Astronomical Applications Dept.  
U. S. Naval Observatory  
Washington, DC 20392-5420

Universal Time

Day	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.												
Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set	Rise	Set											
01	0600	1807	0610	1817	0609	1816	0601	1807	0554	1800	0554	1801	0600	1808	0603	1810	0557	1803	0546	1753	0540	1747	0545	1753
02	0600	1808	0610	1817	0609	1815	0600	1807	0554	1800	0554	1802	0601	1808	0603	1810	0556	1803	0546	1753	0540	1747	0546	1753
03	0601	1808	0610	1817	0609	1815	0600	1806	0553	1800	0555	1802	0601	1808	0603	1810	0556	1803	0546	1752	0540	1747	0546	1754
04	0601	1809	0610	1817	0608	1815	0600	1806	0553	1800	0555	1802	0601	1808	0603	1810	0556	1802	0545	1752	0540	1747	0547	1754
05	0602	1809	0610	1817	0608	1815	0559	1806	0553	1800	0555	1802	0601	1808	0603	1810	0555	1802	0545	1752	0540	1747	0547	1754
06	0602	1810	0611	1818	0608	1814	0559	1806	0553	1800	0555	1802	0601	1808	0602	1809	0555	1801	0545	1751	0540	1747	0547	1755
07	0603	1810	0611	1818	0608	1814	0559	1805	0553	1800	0555	1803	0601	1809	0602	1809	0555	1801	0544	1751	0540	1747	0548	1755
08	0603	1811	0611	1818	0607	1814	0558	1805	0553	1800	0555	1803	0602	1809	0602	1809	0554	1801	0544	1751	0540	1747	0548	1756
09	0604	1811	0611	1818	0607	1814	0558	1805	0553	1800	0556	1803	0602	1809	0602	1809	0554	1800	0544	1750	0540	1747	0549	1756
10	0604	1811	0611	1818	0607	1813	0558	1805	0553	1800	0556	1803	0602	1809	0602	1809	0554	1800	0544	1750	0540	1747	0549	1757
11	0604	1812	0611	1818	0607	1813	0558	1804	0553	1800	0556	1803	0602	1809	0602	1809	0553	1800	0543	1750	0541	1748	0550	1757
12	0605	1812	0611	1818	0606	1813	0557	1804	0553	1800	0556	1804	0602	1809	0602	1808	0553	1759	0543	1750	0541	1748	0550	1758
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15	0606	1813	0611	1817	0606	1812	0557	1803	0553	1800	0557	1804	0602	1810	0601	1808	0552	1758	0542	1749	0541	1748	0551	1759
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17	0606	1814	0611	1817	0605	1811	0556	1803	0553	1800	0557	1805	0603	1810	0601	1807	0551	1758	0542	1749	0541	1749	0552	1800
18	0607	1814	0610	1817	0605	1811	0556	1803	0553	1800	0558	1805	0603	1810	0600	1807	0551	1757	0542	1748	0542	1749	0553	1800
19	0607	1814	0610	1817	0604	1811	0556	1802	0553	1800	0558	1805	0603	1810	0600	1807	0550	1757	0542	1748	0542	1749	0553	1801
20	0607	1815	0610	1817	0604	1811	0555	1802	0553	1800	0558	1805	0603	1810	0600	1807	0550	1757	0541	1748	0542	1749	0554	1801