

130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document

No. 1759

H.P. 1310

House of Representatives, December 2, 2021

An Act To Extend the Legal Hours for Harvesting Lobster in the Month of September

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on November 30, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Marine Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

ROBERT B. HUNT

R(+ B. Hunt

Clerk

Presented by Representative McDONALD of Stonington.

1 2	Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and
3 4	Whereas, the current legal times for raising and hauling lobster traps are determined by the sun's rising and setting; and
5 6	Whereas, in the autumn, the later sunrise prevents lobster license holders from fishing most efficiently and during the calmer morning hours; and
7 8 9	Whereas, it is necessary that this Act take effect before September 2022 in order to allow lobster license holders to take advantage of the autumn harvest and in order to allow them to fish efficiently and safely; and
10 11 12 13	Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,
14	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
15 16	Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6440, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2017, c. 32, §1, is further amended to read:
17 18 19 20	1. Summer. During the period 1/2 hour after sunset until 1/2 hour before sunrise from June 1st to September 30th August 31st, both days inclusive, and during the period 1/2 hour after sunset until 4 a.m. from October September 1st to October 31st, both days inclusive; and
21 22	Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.
23	SUMMARY
24 25	This bill changes the legal start time for lobster fishing to 4:00 a.m. in the month of September.