

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

**BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

IN SUPPORT OF L.D. 490

**An Act To Give the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife the Authority To
Change the Opening Dates of Trapping Seasons Based on Weather Conditions**

SPONSORED BY: Senator BLACK of Franklin

Cosponsored by Representative: LANDRY of Farmington and

Senators: DAVIS of Piscataquis, DIAMOND of Cumberland, DILL of Penobscot, LUCHINI of Hancock, Representatives: DUNPHY of Old Town, LYFORD of Eddington, MARTIN of Sinclair, STANLEY of Medway.

DATE OF HEARING: February 20, 2019

Good afternoon Senator Dill, Representative Nadeau and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Jim Connolly, Resource Management Director for the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, representing the Department in support of **L.D. 490**.

This bill authorizes the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to change a trapping season opening date if weather conditions make that change necessary.

The Department supports the intent of the bill to provide more flexibility in setting the trapping season length if weather conditions would make it difficult to meet the harvest management goals. However, the Department is not as supportive of the language as written because it only allows flexibility in the opening date of the trapper season and doesn't allow an extension of the season from the time it would normally close. We look forward to working with the bill sponsor and this Committee to clarify the intent.

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