



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

July 13, 2006

**H.R. 5622
Coral Reef Conservation Legacy Act of 2006**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on June 21, 2006

SUMMARY

H.R. 5622 would authorize the appropriation of \$152 million over the 2008-2010 period for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Department of the Interior (DOI), and grants to two universities to implement coral reef conservation programs and research. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that carrying out these programs would cost \$32 million in 2008 and \$141 million over the 2008-2011 period. Enacting H.R. 5622 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

This bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA); the bill would benefit state, local, or tribal governments, and any costs would be incurred voluntarily.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 5622 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program					
Authorization Level	0	38	40	42	0
Estimated Outlays	0	22	32	39	17
DOI Coral Reef Conservation Program					
Authorization Level	0	10	10	10	0
Estimated Outlays	0	8	9	10	2
Coral Reef Research					
Authorization Level	0	2	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	2	0	0	0
Total Changes					
Authorization Level	0	50	50	52	0
Estimated Outlays	0	32	41	49	19

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for conservation programs.

H.R. 5622 would specifically authorize the appropriation of \$152 million over the 2008-2010 period for coral reef conservation activities and grants, including between \$30 million and \$34 million annually for NOAA's current programs and an additional \$8 million annually for new community planning grants, and \$10 million annually for DOI conservation programs. (By comparison, NOAA received an appropriation of \$25 million in 2006 for the coral reef conservation program.) CBO assumes that the one-time authorization of \$2 million for coral reef research at two universities would be appropriated in 2008. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$32 million in 2008 and \$141 million over the 2008-2011 period.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 5622 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Enacting this bill would benefit state, local, and tribal governments receiving grant funding

for conservation projects; any costs that they might incur would result from complying with conditions of federal assistance.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On August 5, 2005, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1390, the Coral Reef Conservation Amendments Act of 2005, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on July 21, 2005. S. 1390 would authorize appropriations for NOAA's coral reef conservation program over the 2006-2012 period. In contrast, H.R. 5622 would authorize appropriations for NOAA, DOI, and grants to two universities for coral reef conservation over the 2008-2010 period. The CBO estimates for these bills reflect the different authorization periods and the additional programs addressed by H.R. 5622.

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