



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

May 25, 2018

S. 1520
Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2018

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on February 28, 2018*

SUMMARY

S. 1520 would allow the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to make grants to states to improve their registration practices for recreational fishing. The bill also would require NOAA and the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct several studies and reviews related to fishery conservation and management.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1520 would cost \$7 million over the 2019-2023 period.

Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting S. 1520 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

S. 1520 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary effect of S. 1520 is shown in the following table. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars						2019-2023
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION							
Estimated Authorization Level	0	7	*	*	0	0	7
Estimated Outlays	0	6	1	*	*	0	7

* = between zero and \$500,000.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 1520 will be enacted near the end of 2018 and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated each year beginning in 2019.

S. 1520 would establish a partnership between NOAA and coastal states to improve implementation of those states' processes for issuing recreational fishing permits. The partnership would aim to improve the recreational fishing data collected by states so that such data is adequate for NOAA to use when completing surveys of marine recreational fisheries. In 2018, NOAA provided \$11 million to states to assist them with collecting recreational fishing data. Under the bill, NOAA would be authorized to provide additional grants to states and territories to improve their permitting programs. Using information from NOAA about the number of states and territories that would be likely to receive grants to update their processes for issuing recreational fishing permits and the average grant size, CBO estimates that implementing the grant program would cost \$6 million over the 2019-2023 period.

S. 1520 would require NOAA to contract with NAS to complete three reports related to mixed-use fishery management and data collection to assess fish stocks. The bill also would require NOAA to complete eight reports over the 2019-2023 period related to assess fishery conservation, management, and data collection. Using information from NOAA about similar reports, CBO estimates that those reports would cost about \$1 million.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS

CBO estimates that enacting S. 1520 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

MANDATES

S. 1520 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

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