

H.R. 4587, Red Snapper Act of 2023

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on October 26, 2023

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2024	2024-2029	2024-2034
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	*	*
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	*	*
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	0	0
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes
		Mandate Effects	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.			

H.R. 4587 would prohibit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) from issuing an interim or final rule that would close fishing areas in the South Atlantic Ocean for any fish species managed under the Snapper-Grouper Fishery Management Plan. That prohibition would remain in place until the South Atlantic Great Red Snapper Count study is completed and the data is integrated into the agency’s stock assessment of the fishery.

Background

In 2021, a stock assessment for the South Atlantic red snapper was completed by a cooperative group of coastal states, certain regional fishery management councils, and NOAA, which determined that the species is currently overfished. Under current law, when a species is determined to be overfished the relevant fishery management council is required to develop a management plan to mitigate overfishing and rebuild the species’ population, which can include closing fishing areas. If NOAA closes fishing areas anyone who violates that requirement is subject to civil penalties, which are recorded in the budget as revenues.

According to NOAA, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council currently is not proposing that NOAA close any fishing areas in the South Atlantic.

See also

[CBO’s Cost Estimates Explained](#), [CBO Describes Its Cost-Estimating Process](#), [Glossary](#)



Federal Costs

CBO cannot predict whether the fishing areas for red snapper in the South Atlantic will be closed in the coming years. Using information from NOAA, CBO expects that if the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council recommends closing those fishing areas the earliest NOAA could implement rules to do so would be in 2025 and that an updated stock assessment including data from the count study will be completed in 2027.

Because H.R. 4587 would prevent NOAA from closing the fishing area until a new stock assessment is completed, CBO estimates that enacting the bill could reduce civil penalties that may be collected if the fishing area is closed before the end of 2027. Because of the uncertainty that such a closure would occur and because of the few cases likely to be affected, CBO estimates that any reduction in civil penalties would not be significant over the 2024-2034 period.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Aurora Swanson. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phillip L. Swagel', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Phillip L. Swagel
Director, Congressional Budget Office