



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

March 3, 2008

**S. 1581
FOARAM Act**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on December 4, 2007*

SUMMARY

S. 1581 would authorize appropriations totaling \$100 million over the 2009-2013 period to establish a program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to conduct research and public outreach on ocean acidification. Funding also would be used to establish an interagency committee to coordinate such research across the federal government. Assuming appropriation of the specified amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1581 would cost \$84 million over the 2008-2013 period. Enacting this legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 1581 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no cost on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1581 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				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Authorization Level	10	15	20	25	30
Estimated Outlays	6	12	17	22	27

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

S. 1581 would authorize the appropriation of \$100 million over the 2009-2013 period for NOAA and other federal agencies, including the National Science Foundation (NSF), the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), to conduct research and public outreach on ocean acidification and its impact on U.S. marine resources. At least 50 percent of such funding would be used for competitive grants to nonfederal entities. CBO estimates that, under its current authority, NOAA spent about \$5 million for activities related to ocean acidification in 2007.

The bill also would establish an interagency committee to coordinate research on ocean acidification across the federal government. The committee would be chaired by NOAA and would include representatives from NSF, USGS, NASA, and FWS.

Based on historical spending patterns for similar research conducted by those agencies, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1581 would cost \$84 million over the 2009-2013 period. This estimate assumes that the bill will be enacted by the end of fiscal year 2008 and that the amounts authorized by the bill will be appropriated for each fiscal year.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1581 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no cost on state, local, or tribal governments.

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