



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 3, 2002

### **H.R. 1989** **Fisheries Conservation Act of 2002**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
on September 19, 2002*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 1989 would reauthorize appropriations for programs carried out by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) under five fisheries statutes. These laws authorize various grant programs, studies, reports and operations of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) of NOAA. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts for fiscal years 2003 through 2006, CBO estimates that implementing the act would cost \$12 million in 2003 and \$68 million over the 2003-2007 period. (An estimated \$3 million would be spent after 2007.) The act would not affect direct spending or revenues.

The legislation contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. This act would reauthorize funding for programs that include grants to states and to multistate organizations.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1989 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

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	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007

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**CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION**

Selected NMFS Programs					
Authorization Level <sup>a</sup>	18	17	18	18	0
Estimated Outlays	12	15	17	18	6

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a. Approximately \$14 million was appropriated for fiscal year 2002 for the NMFS programs authorized by H.R. 1989. A full-year appropriation for 2003 has not yet been enacted for these programs.

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**BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the amounts authorized by the legislation will be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2006 and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for the authorized NMFS programs. The fiscal year 2003 authorization level includes \$1.5 million for the Commission on Ocean Policy to complete its report, due at the end of fiscal year 2003. H.R. 1989 would raise the authorization level for that project from \$6 million to \$8.5 million, but appropriations to date already exceed the existing authorization level by \$1 million, making the act's net additional authorization \$1.5 million.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 1989 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. This legislation would reauthorize funding for programs that include grants to states and to multistate organizations.

**PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

On October 1, 2001, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1989 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on September 12, 2001. CBO's cost estimates reflect the different provisions in these versions of the legislation.

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