



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

November 6, 2003

**H.R. 2425  
Quinault Permanent Fisheries Fund Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on October 29, 2003*

H.R. 2425 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to distribute judgment awards held in trust funds on behalf of the Quinault Indian Tribe. Over \$1 million in judgments and accumulated interest is being held in trust funds on behalf of the tribe; however, the Secretary does not have the authority to distribute the funds without Congressional approval. H.R. 2425 would allow the tribe to withdraw awards of \$600,000 and over \$600,000 in interest from the Treasury.

These trust funds are held and managed in a fiduciary capacity by the federal government on behalf of Indian tribes and are treated as nonfederal funds. As a result, outlays were recorded on the budget when the judgments were awarded to the tribes and paid into those trust funds. Consequently, there is no federal budget impact when the money is distributed to the individual members of the tribes. Therefore, CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 2425 would have no effect on the federal budget.

H.R. 2425 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Enactment of this legislation would benefit the Quinault Indian Nation.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Lanette J. Walker. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.