



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

August 9, 2004

**S. 2280**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
on July 22, 2004*

**SUMMARY**

S. 2280 would direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to establish and coordinate a national program for ocean exploration. The purposes of the program would be to explore the physical, biological, geological, archaeological, and other characteristics of the world's oceans. In carrying out this program, NOAA would be authorized to coordinate scientific voyages with other federal agencies or institutions and to conduct public education and outreach programs. The bill also would direct NOAA to convene, with other federal agencies such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Office of Naval Research, a task force to provide the new program with available exploration technology, communications infrastructure, and data management systems. For these activities, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$45 million annually for fiscal years 2005 through 2010 and of \$55 million annually for fiscal years 2011 through 2016.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 2280 would cost about \$15 million in fiscal year 2005 and \$180 million over the 2005-2009 period. We estimate that \$365 million would be spent after 2009, including \$320 million authorized to be appropriated between 2010 and 2016. Enacting S. 2280 would have no impact on revenues or direct spending.

S. 2280 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.

## ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 2280 is shown in the following table. For this estimate, CBO assumes that the entire amounts authorized by the bill will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Outlays have been estimated on the basis of historical patterns for other NOAA programs. 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				
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION <sup>a</sup></b>					
Authorization Level	45	45	45	45	45
Estimated Outlays	15	30	45	45	45

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a. NOAA's National Oceans Office received appropriations of \$623 million for oceanic research and science activities in 2004, many of which are similar to the program that would be authorized by this bill.

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## INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 2280 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. State and local governments, including academic institutions, that participate in research, development, and education activities created by the bill would incur costs voluntarily.

### ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Deborah Reis  
Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Gregory Waring  
Impact on the Private Sector: Amina Masood

### ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Robert A. Sunshine  
Assistant Director for Budget Analysis