



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 9, 2006

H.R. 5381

National Fish Hatchery System Volunteer Act of 2006

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on July 19, 2006

H.R. 5381 would authorize the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to allow nonfederal partners to carry out projects and programs that promote and support national fish hatcheries. Assuming appropriation of the amounts authorized by the bill, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5381 would cost \$350,000 a year over the 2007-2011 period. Enacting the bill also could increase revenues from private donations and associated direct spending, but we expect that such effects would be less than \$500,000 a year.

The bill 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.

H.R. 5381 would authorize the USFWS to accept and use property, volunteer services, and funds donated by nonfederal entities such as nonprofit organizations. The bill would authorize the agency to accept donations from those partners, including amounts earned from the sale of educational materials and products at the hatcheries. Under the bill, all such earnings would be available, without further appropriation action, for hatchery purposes. Based on information provided by the USFWS, CBO estimates that donations (which would be recorded as revenues in the federal budget) would be less than \$500,000 a year.

Finally, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$350,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011, including \$200,000 annually for hatchery programs and \$150,000 annually for a pilot program to maintain volunteer coordinators at one or more hatcheries. Assuming appropriation of the amounts authorized by H.R. 5381, CBO estimates that the USFWS would spend \$350,000 a year to coordinate volunteer activities at hatcheries and to develop and implement public education programs.

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