



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 2, 2008

H.R. 4174 **FOARAM Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science and Technology
on June 25, 2008*

SUMMARY

H.R. 4174 would authorize appropriations totaling \$96 million over the 2009-2012 period for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) to conduct research and monitor ocean acidification. Assuming the appropriation of the specified amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4174 would cost \$82 million over the 2009-2013 period and \$14 million thereafter. Enacting this legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 4174 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 H.R. 4174 is shown in the following table. The cost of this legislation falls within budget functions 250 (general science, space, and technology) and 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2009- 2013
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
NOAA Research and Monitoring						
Authorization Level	8	12	15	20	0	55
Estimated Outlays	5	9	13	17	6	50
NSF Research						
Authorization Level	6	8	12	15	0	41
Estimated Outlays	1	4	7	10	10	32
Total Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	14	20	27	35	0	96
Estimated Outlays	6	13	20	27	16	82

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

H.R. 4174 would authorize appropriations totaling \$96 million over the 2009-2012 period for NOAA and NSF to conduct research and public outreach on ocean acidification and its impact on marine resources. Such funding also would be used by NOAA to conduct long-term monitoring. CBO estimates that, under its current authority, NOAA will spend about \$5 million for those activities in 2008.

Based on historical spending patterns for research conducted by NOAA and NSF, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4174 would cost \$82 million over the 2009-2013 period and \$14 million thereafter. This estimate assumes that the bill will be enacted by the beginning of 2009 and that the amounts authorized by the bill will be appropriated for each year.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 4174 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATES

On March 3, 2008, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1581, the FOARAM Act, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on December 4, 2007. That legislation authorized the appropriation of \$4 million more than the amounts authorized by H.R. 4174, resulting in an additional cost of \$2 million over the 2009-2013 period, CBO estimates.

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