



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

March 11, 2010

**S. 1609  
Longline Catcher Processor Subsector Single Fishery Cooperative Act**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation on December 17, 2009*

S. 1609 would establish a process for certain fishermen to create a cooperative, authorized by the Secretary of Commerce, to allocate quotas of Pacific cod among its members. Based on information from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1609 would have no significant impact on the federal budget. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

Under current law, longline fishermen (those who fish with lines and hooks rather than nets or traps) operating in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) Pacific cod fishery are subject to an annual quota. Under that system, individual license holders can catch an unlimited number of fish until the total of all fish caught within the fishery equals the quota. Under the bill, if fishermen holding at least 80 percent of all licenses granted to the longline subsector operating in the BSAI Pacific cod fishery choose to enter into a cooperative, the Secretary of Commerce would use the guidelines established in the bill to allocate an annual quota to the cooperative, which would then divide that quota among its members each year. Based on information from NOAA, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would have no significant impact on the federal budget.

S. 1609 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.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jeff LaFave. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.