



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 14, 2015

H.R. 1335 **Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on April 30, 2014

SUMMARY

H.R. 1335 would amend and reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) and authorize the appropriation of \$1.6 billion through 2019 to carry out that act. The bill also would require the Secretary of Commerce to request that the National Academy of Sciences conduct a study of certain mixed-use fisheries.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1335 would cost \$1.5 billion over the 2016-2020 period and \$72 million after 2020, assuming appropriation of the authorized and necessary amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 1335 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would benefit states by reauthorizing a number of programs that support fish conservation and management activities. Any costs states incur would result from complying with conditions of receiving federal assistance.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary effect of H.R. 1335 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2016-2020
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Magnuson-Stevens Act						
Authorization Level	397	397	397	397	0	1,588
Estimated Outlays	258	337	385	397	139	1,516
Study of Mixed-use Fisheries						
Estimated Authorization Level	1	0	0	0	0	1
Estimated Outlays	1	*	0	0	0	1
Total Changes						
Authorization Level	398	397	397	397	0	1,589
Estimated Outlays	259	337	385	397	139	1,517

Note: * = less than \$500,000.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted by the end of 2015 and that the authorized and necessary amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year.

H.R. 1335 would authorize the appropriation of \$397 million a year through 2019 to carry out activities under the MSA. That act requires the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to preserve sustainable fish populations in waters off the coasts of the United States using various methods, including limiting the amount of fish that can be harvested annually and enforcing laws that prohibit foreign fishing. In 2015, NOAA received appropriations totaling \$551 million to carry out activities under the MSA.

The bill also would make amendments to the MSA, including provisions that would create new guidelines for establishing or modifying annual catch limits, require regional fishery management councils to make publicly-available audio or video recordings of their meetings, and direct NOAA to issue new regulations related to the collection of data from fisheries. Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that carrying out the MSA would cost \$1.5 billion over the 2016-2020 period and \$72 million after 2020.

Finally, the bill would require the Secretary of Commerce to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study of mixed-use fisheries in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. Based on information provided by the National Academy of Sciences, CBO estimates that completing the study would cost \$1 million over the

2016-2017 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Those amounts would be used to cover the cost of staff time and travel necessary to complete the study.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 1335 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would benefit states by reauthorizing a number of programs that support fish conservation and management activities. Any costs states incur would result from complying with conditions of receiving federal assistance.

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