CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

June 1, 2015

S. 1335
North Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on May 20, 2015

S. 1335 would implement the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the North Pacific Ocean (Convention). CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost less than $500,000 a year over the 2016-2020 period, assuming availability of appropriated amounts. Because enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

The Convention that would be implemented under the bill would call for a science-based, precautionary approach to managing fisheries resources in the North Pacific Ocean. The Convention would establish two managing committees to carry out the functions of the Convention, including conducting environmental assessments of fisheries to ensure that no vulnerable marine ecosystems would be harmed if fishing were permitted in those areas. Based on information provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Department of State, CBO estimates that carrying out the new Convention would cost less than $500,000 a year over the 2016-2020 period. Those funds would be used to cover costs for annual dues, staff time, travel, and programmatic activities.

CBO has not reviewed S. 1335 for intergovernmental or private-sector mandates. Section 4 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act excludes from the application of that act any legislative provisions that are necessary for the ratification or implementation of international treaty obligations. CBO has determined that the bill falls within that exclusion.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Jeff LaFave (for federal costs), Jon Sperl (for intergovernmental mandates), and Amy Petz (for private-sector mandates). The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.