



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

June 30, 2011

**S. 179
Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries
Boundary Modification and Protection Act**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation on June 8, 2011*

SUMMARY

S. 179 would expand the boundaries of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary; both are located off the coast of northern California and are managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Assuming appropriation of the amounts specified in the bill for sanctuary management and estimated to be necessary to acquire a new vessel to help manage the sanctuaries, CBO estimates that implementing S. 179 would cost \$20 million over the 2012-2016 period. Enacting the bill would have no effect on revenues or direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

S. 179 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 179 would impose private-sector mandates, as defined in UMRA, by limiting certain commercial and recreational activities in the areas added to the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries. Based on information from NOAA, CBO estimates that the cost of the mandates would fall below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$142 million in 2011, adjusted annually for inflation).

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 179 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2012- 2016
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Additional Operating Costs						
Authorization Level	3	3	3	3	3	15
Estimated Outlays	3	3	3	3	3	15
Vessel Acquisition and Construction						
Estimated Authorization Level	4	1	0	0	0	5
Estimated Outlays	0	2	2	1	0	5
Total Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	7	4	3	3	3	20
Estimated Outlays	3	5	5	4	3	20

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 179 will be enacted by the end of fiscal year 2011 and that the amounts specifically authorized or estimated to be necessary will be appropriated for each year. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$3 million for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016 to manage the areas added to the two sanctuaries. In recent years, about \$2 million has been appropriated annually for this purpose.

The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$3.5 million for 2012 and whatever sums are necessary for 2013 through 2016 to acquire an additional vessel to manage the expanded sanctuaries. Based on information provided by NOAA, CBO estimates that an additional \$1 million would be needed in 2013 to complete the acquisition of the new vessel. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for NOAA programs and assume that NOAA would not acquire a new vessel until it received full funding for the project in 2013.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

S. 179 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

S. 179 would extend current regulations and any subsequent modifications to those regulations to the areas added to the sanctuaries by the bill. Some of those regulations would impose mandates, as defined in UMRA, by limiting certain commercial and recreational activities that could injure sanctuary resources. Based on information from NOAA about activities in the areas that would be added and existing regulations for the sanctuaries, CBO estimates that the cost of complying with the mandates would fall below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$142 million in 2011, adjusted annually for inflation).

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