



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

March 28, 2008

H.R. 1187
Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries
Boundary Modification and Protection Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on March 12, 2008

SUMMARY

H.R. 1187 would expand the boundaries of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, both of which are located off the coast of northern California. The bill would authorize additional funding for the two marine sanctuaries, which are managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Assuming appropriation of the amounts specified by the bill for sanctuary management or estimated to be necessary for authorized construction and acquisition activities, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1187 would cost \$20 million over the 2009-2013 period. Enacting the bill would have no effect on revenues or direct spending.

H.R. 1187 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 1187 would impose private-sector mandates, as defined in UMRA, by prohibiting or restricting 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 (\$136 million in 2008, adjusted annually for inflation).

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1187 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				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Additional Sanctuary Operating Costs ^a					
Authorization Level	3	3	3	3	3
Estimated Outlays	3	3	3	3	3
Vessel Acquisition and Construction					
Authorization/Estimated Authorization Level	4	1	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	2	2	1	0
Total Spending Under H.R. 1187					
Authorization/Estimated Authorization Level	7	4	3	3	3
Estimated Outlays	3	5	5	4	3

a. Average annual appropriations to manage the two marine sanctuaries at their current size total about \$2 million.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 1187 will be enacted by the end of fiscal year 2008 and that the amounts specifically authorized or estimated to be necessary will be appropriated for each year. The specified authorization level includes \$3 million for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to manage the areas added to the two sanctuaries and \$4 million for 2009 to construct or acquire an additional vessel needed to administer them.

The bill also would authorize the appropriation of whatever amounts are necessary for construction and acquisition for 2010 through 2013. Based on information provided by NOAA, we estimate that an additional \$1 million would be appropriated for 2010 under this authority to complete the acquisition of the new vessel, which is estimated to cost about \$5 million. We estimate that no additional amounts would be required for construction after 2010. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for NOAA programs and also reflect the assumption that NOAA would not be able to start building or acquiring a new vessel until it receives full funding for the project in 2010.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

H.R. 1187 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

H.R. 1187 would extend current regulations and any subsequent modifications to the areas added to the sanctuaries by the bill. Some of those regulations would impose mandates, as defined in UMRA, by prohibiting or restricting certain commercial and recreational activities that could injure sanctuary resources within the added areas. Based on information from NOAA, CBO estimates that the cost of complying with the mandates would be small and would fall below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$136 million in 2008, adjusted annually for inflation).

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