S. 2346, Fishery Failures: Urgently Needed Disaster Declarations Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on November 13, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2025	2020-2030
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	3	not estimated

		Mandate Effects	
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No		
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2031?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

* = between zero and $500,000.

Under current law, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) may provide financial assistance to commercial fisheries that experience economic hardship because of natural or manmade disasters. S. 2346 would explicitly define terms that are used to determine if a fishery is eligible for assistance. The bill also would require NOAA to adhere to a faster application review process and to fulfill additional reporting requirements. Finally, S. 2346 would require the Government Accountability Office to report to the Congress on efforts by the Regional Fishery Management Councils, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the National Marine Fisheries Service to prepare and adapt to climate change.

Using information from NOAA, CBO expects that implementing S. 2346 would not substantially change the way the program is administered under current law. However, to review applications more quickly, CBO estimates that NOAA would need three additional employees each year at an average cost of $160,000 per employee. In total, CBO expects that implementing the bill's requirements would cost $3 million over the 2020-2025 period; any spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is David Hughes. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.