

### At a Glance

## S. 2429, Restoring Resilient Reefs Act of 2019

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)	*	128	160
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
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.

#### The bill would

- Authorize annual appropriations over the 2020-2024 period for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to implement coral reef conservation activities
- Create two new funds within the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for coral reef conservation activities
- Codify activities of the Coral Reef Task Force
- Authorize the Department of the Interior to provide technical and scientific assistance to NOAA on coral reef conservation activities

#### Estimated budgetary effects would primarily stem from

- Spending of the authorized amounts

**Detailed estimate begins on the next page.**



## Bill Summary

Title I would amend the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 to authorize annual appropriations over the 2020-2024 period for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to update and implement its Coral Reef Conservation program. Under the title, NOAA would implement long-term ecological monitoring of coral reef ecosystems, carry out recovery plans for endangered coral species, and restore degraded coral reef ecosystems. NOAA also would assess, approve, and provide block grants for coral reef action plans submitted by states and stewardship partnerships authorized by S. 2429. Under the bill, stewardship partnerships would be defined as groups including government and nongovernment members that receive recognition from NOAA to jointly plan and manage restoration and management activities for specific coral reefs or particular portions of coral reefs.

Title I also would authorize two new funds within the privately operated National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to support activities of the coral reef stewardship partnership and to support rapid responses to coral reef emergencies, respectively.

Title II would codify activities of the Coral Reef Task Force, which was originally created by Executive Order 13089.

Title III would authorize the Department of the Interior (DOI) to provide scientific and technical assistance to NOAA, states, and stewardship partnerships for the conservation and restoration of coral reefs.

## Estimated Federal Cost

The estimated budgetary effect of S. 2429 is shown in Table 1. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

**Table 1.**  
**Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 2429**

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2020-2025
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Authorization	29	30	32	34	35	0	160
Estimated Outlays	*	9	28	32	34	25	128

\* = between zero and \$500,000.

## Basis of Estimate

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 2429 will be enacted during fiscal year 2020 and that the authorized amounts will be provided for each fiscal year.



Title I would authorize appropriations totaling \$160 million over the 2020-2025 period to carry out the Coral Reef Conservation program. Based on historical spending patterns for the program, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$128 million over the 2020-2025 period and \$32 million after 2024.

Title I also would create two new funds within the NFWF to support coral reef resiliency. The bill would allow funds appropriated to carry out the Coral Reef Conservation program to be transferred to the new NFWF funds and would authorize the NFWF to solicit donations to supplement such federal funding. The activities of the NFWF are excluded from the federal budget. The foundation does not have powers that are normally reserved to governments such as the power to enact regulations, charge compulsory fees, or assess and compel the payment of taxes. Thus, any activities of the foundation and the accounts that would be created under S. 2429, including investing funds and accepting and spending donations, would be considered nongovernmental.

Title III would authorize DOI to provide scientific, technical, and financial assistance to NOAA for the conservation and restoration of coral reefs under S. 2429. CBO estimates that any such assistance would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2020-2025 period. Such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

**Pay-As-You-Go Considerations:** None.

**Increase in Long-Term Deficits:** None.

**Mandates:** None.

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