

**S. 497, American Fisheries Advisory Committee Act**

As reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on December 17, 2021

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2026	2022-2031
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	0	0
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes	<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2032?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

S. 497 would establish the American Fisheries Advisory Committee within the Department of Commerce (DOC). The committee would consist of representatives from each of six geographic regions and at-large members with experience in the seafood and fisheries industries, as selected by DOC. Under the bill, the committee would be responsible for identifying the needs of fishing communities, developing requests for proposals for research and development grants to meet those needs, reviewing grant applications, and selecting applicants to receive funding.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration currently administers the fishery research and development grant program described above. That program's funding is derived from DOC's permanent authority to spend 30 percent of customs receipts collected from imported fishery products. In 2021, the agency spent \$6.4 million on the grant program. S. 497 would shift the authority to administer the grant program to the newly established committee. The bill also would expand eligibility for grant applicants to include projects related to fisheries science and recreational fishing.

S. 497 would not change the amount of authorized spending of custom receipts (although the composition of that spending might change). Thus, CBO estimates that enacting S. 497 would not affect the federal budget.

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