

S. 2923, Fishery Resource Disasters Improvement Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on November 17, 2021

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2022	2022-2027	2022-2032
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	342	377
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2033?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

S. 2923 would authorize the appropriation of \$377 million over the 2021-2026 period for the Fisheries Disaster Assistance program administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The Congress provided \$300 million for that program in 2021, which is the most recent appropriation for the program. Under current law, NOAA may provide financial assistance to commercial fisheries that experience economic hardship because of natural or manmade disasters. S. 2923 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.

Using information from NOAA, CBO expects that implementing S. 2923 would not substantially change the way the program is administered under current law. The bill does not authorize specific amounts for any year in the period; for this estimate, we have shown the entire amount in fiscal year 2022. Based on historical spending patterns, CBO estimates that NOAA would spend \$342 million over the 2022-2027 period and \$35 million after 2027 to assist fisheries, assuming appropriation of the authorized amount.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 370 (commerce and housing credit).



Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 2923

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						2022-2027
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
Authorization ^a	377	0	0	0	0	0	377
Estimated Outlays	*	30	151	75	45	41	342

* = between zero and \$500,000.

a. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$377 million over the 2021-2026 period but does not authorize specific amounts for any year in the period. For this estimate, CBO has shown the entire authorized amount in 2022.

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