



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 30, 2007

S. 950

Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2007

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on June 27, 2007*

SUMMARY

S. 950 would direct the National Ocean Research Leadership Council to develop and operate an integrated coastal and ocean observation system, including programs for ocean monitoring, data analysis, public education, and research. For this purpose, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$800 million over the 2008-2012 period. The council, which was established in 1996, includes the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Navy, the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the U.S. Coast Guard, and other federal agencies.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 950 would cost \$700 million over the 2008-2012 period and \$100 million after 2012. Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 950 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 950 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 050 (national defense), 250 (general science, space, and technology), 300 (natural resources and environment), and 400 (transportation).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Authorization Level	150	150	150	175	175
Estimated Outlays	80	130	150	160	180

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 950 will be enacted near the start of 2008 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated for each year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for NOAA programs.

The legislation would direct the National Ocean Research Leadership Council to establish a new national system for collecting information and monitoring oceanic and coastal ecosystems and resources, including related research, education, and analysis. NOAA would lead the implementation of the system in consultation with the council and other federal agencies. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$150 million a year for fiscal years 2008 through 2010 and \$175 million a year for fiscal years 2011 and 2012 for those new activities.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$700 million over the 2008-2012 period and an additional \$100 million after 2012.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 950 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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