



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

June 17, 2008

**H.R. 1187**

**Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries  
Boundary Modification and Protection Act**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
on May 15, 2008*

**SUMMARY**

H.R. 1187 would expand the boundaries of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary; both are located off the coast of northern California and are managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1187 would cost \$20 million over the 2009-2013 period. Enacting the legislation would not affect revenues or direct spending.

H.R. 1187 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 1187 would impose private-sector mandates, as defined in UMRA, by prohibiting or restricting certain commercial and recreational activities in the areas added to the sanctuaries. Based on information provided by NOAA, CBO estimates that the cost of the mandates would fall below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$136 million in 2008, adjusted annually for inflation).

**ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1187 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2009- 2013
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Additional Sanctuary Operating Costs <sup>a</sup>						
Estimated Authorization Level	3	3	3	3	3	15
Estimated Outlays	3	3	3	3	3	15
Vessel Acquisition or Construction						
Estimated Authorization Level	5	0	0	0	0	5
Estimated Outlays	2	2	1	0	0	5
Total Spending Under H.R. 1187						
Estimated Authorization Level	8	3	3	3	3	20
Estimated Outlays	5	5	4	3	3	20

a. Average annual appropriations to manage the two marine sanctuaries at their current size have totaled about \$2 million.

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 1187 will be enacted by the end of fiscal year 2008 and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated for each year.

H.R. 1187 would more than double the combined size of the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries. Based on information provided by NOAA, CBO estimates that the agency would need \$3 million for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to manage the added areas. CBO also expects that NOAA would need \$5 million in 2009 to construct or acquire an additional vessel to conduct research, monitor activities, and enforce regulations in the new areas. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for NOAA programs.

## **ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS**

H.R. 1187 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

## **ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

H.R. 1187 would extend current regulations and any subsequent modifications to the areas added to the sanctuaries by the act. Some of those regulations would impose mandates, as defined in UMRA, by prohibiting or restricting certain commercial and recreational activities that could injure sanctuary resources. Based on information from NOAA, CBO estimates that the cost of complying with the mandates would be small and would fall below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$136 million in 2008, adjusted annually for inflation).

## **PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

On March 28, 2008, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1187 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on March 12, 2008. The two versions of the legislation are very similar, but the appropriation levels differ. CBO expects that, under the specified appropriation levels in the House version, construction of a new vessel would begin in 2010. In contrast, the Senate version does not specify appropriation levels, so CBO assumes that the full amount necessary for the construction or acquisition of a new vessel would be appropriated for 2009 and spending would begin that year.

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