



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 4, 2003

S. 1218

Oceans and Human Health Act

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on June 26, 2003*

SUMMARY

S. 1218 would authorize the appropriation of \$89 million through fiscal year 2008 for research on oceans and human health issues. This funding would be used by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to finance an oceans and human health initiative and a public health information and outreach program.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing S. 1218 would cost the federal government \$5 million in 2004 and \$80 million over the 2004-2008 period. (The remaining \$9 million would be spent in 2009.) Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

The bill 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. 1218 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				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Authorization Level	13	15	18	23	20
Estimated Outlays	5	10	18	22	25

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the amounts authorized by the legislation will be appropriated for each fiscal year and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for similar activities.

The bill would authorize the appropriation of between \$10 million and \$20 million a year over the 2004-2008 period for NOAA's oceans and human health initiative. Most of those funds would be used to provide grants to public and private research centers and individuals. (For fiscal year 2003, NOAA received an appropriation of \$8 million to provide research grants under the oceans and human health initiative.) The bill also would authorize the appropriation of \$3 million a year over the 2004-2007 period for NOAA to collect and disseminate research findings and other information on the relationship between oceans and human health.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 1218 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Deborah Reis

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Marjorie Miller

Impact on the Private Sector: Paige Piper/Bach

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Robert A. Sunshine

Assistant Director for Budget Analysis