



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

October 31, 2007

**H.R. 1834  
National Ocean Exploration Program Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science and Technology  
on October 24, 2007*

**SUMMARY**

H.R. 1834 would direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to carry out programs on ocean exploration and undersea research. For this purpose, the bill would authorize the appropriation of nearly \$300 million over the 2008-2012 period and nearly \$460 million over the 2008-2014 period.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1834 would cost \$30 million in 2008 and \$260 million over the 2008-2012 period. We estimate that about \$200 million would be spent after 2012, including nearly \$160 million authorized to be appropriated after 2012. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 1834 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 H.R. 1834 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

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	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012

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**CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION**

Authorization Level <sup>a</sup>	49	54	59	65	71
Estimated Outlays	30	45	55	62	68

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Note: In addition to the amounts shown in the table, the bill would authorize funding of about \$160 million over the 2013-2014 period. In total, the bill would authorize appropriations of nearly \$460 million over the 2008-2014 period.

- a. NOAA has not yet received a full-year appropriation for fiscal year 2008. The agency's National Ocean Service received appropriations of around \$600 million in 2007, including funding for some activities that are similar to the exploration, research, and mapping programs that would be authorized by H.R. 1834.
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**BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted before the end of calendar year 2007 and that the entire amounts authorized will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for NOAA programs.

The authorization levels specified in the bill for fiscal years 2008 through 2012 include between \$31 million and \$45 million per year for ocean exploration and between \$18 million and \$26 million per year for undersea research (totaling \$49 million to \$71 million over that period).

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 1834 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

**PREVIOUS CBO COST ESTIMATES**

On March 23, 2007, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 39, the Ocean and Coastal Exploration and NOAA Act (OCEAN Act), as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on February 13, 2007. The provisions of S. 39 regarding ocean exploration and undersea research are similar to those in H.R. 1834. The CBO estimates for those provisions reflect differences in the authorization levels for the affected programs.

On July 30, 2007, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1834, the National Ocean Exploration Program Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on June 28, 2007. The two versions of H.R. 1834 are very similar. Both bills would authorize the same level of appropriations through fiscal year 2014, but the version approved by the House Committee on Natural Resources also would authorize appropriations beyond that year—through fiscal year 2017.

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