



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 2, 2003

H.R. 2048

International Fisheries Reauthorization Act of 2003

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on September 24, 2003

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2048 would cost \$20 million over the 2004-2008 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. Enacting the bill could affect direct spending, but we estimate that any such effects would be insignificant. H.R. 2048 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 2048 would reauthorize the Yukon River Salmon Act of 2000, which authorizes funding for activities to restore and conserve stocks of Canadian-origin wild salmon in the Yukon River watershed. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$4 million a year over the 2004-2008 period for the Secretary of the Interior to continue those activities in cooperation with the Secretary of Commerce. Based on historical spending patterns under the Yukon River Salmon Act, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2048 would cost \$4 million in 2004 and \$20 million over the next five years, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts.

The estimated budget impact of the bill 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	4	4	4	4	4
Estimated Outlays	4	4	4	4	4

H.R. 2048 also would reauthorize the Fisherman's Protective Act of 1967 through 2008. That act established the Fisherman's Guaranty Fund, which pays owners of U.S. fishing vessels for certain financial losses if their vessels are seized by a foreign nation. Vessel owners pay fees sufficient to cover the cost of these payments. H.R. 2048 would authorize this program through 2008, thus allowing additional payments of fees into the fund. (The fund has a current balance of \$2.7 million). However, no owners have applied to participate in the program in recent years, and the fund has paid only one claim since 1992. Thus, CBO estimates that any additional offsetting receipts from fee collections or spending for claims would not be significant over the next 10 years.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Megan Carroll and Melissa E. Zimmerman. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis