



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

August 4, 2000

**H.R. 2090  
Exploration of the Seas Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on July 26, 2000*

H.R. 2090 would direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish an advisory panel composed of experts in ocean studies. The panel would convene an international workshop of scientists, policymakers, and other interested parties. Within 18 months of its creation, the panel would report to the Congress on the feasibility and social value of an oceanography program that would be coordinated with other interested nations. The report would include recommendations for a national oceans exploration strategy and suggestions on how to implement the strategy. For these purposes, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$1.5 million.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amount, CBO estimates that the Department of Commerce would spend \$1.5 million over the next two years to create the advisory panel, convene the international workshop, and complete the panel's report to the Congress.

The bill would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 2090 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would have no impact on the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.