



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

June 3, 2005

H.R. 2130
Marine Mammal Protection Act Amendments of 2005

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on May 18, 2005

SUMMARY

H.R. 2130 would authorize appropriations for programs to protect and conserve marine mammals. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$1 million in 2006 and \$35 million over the 2006-2010 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. We also estimate that H.R. 2130 would increase both direct spending and revenues by less than \$500,000 a year.

H.R. 2130 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. 2130 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				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Authorization Level	12	12	12	12	12
Estimated Outlays	1	4	8	10	12

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

H.R. 2130 would authorize the appropriation of almost \$12 million a year over the 2006-2010 period for programs to protect and conserve marine mammals. The amount authorized for each year includes \$7 million for grants to organizations that rescue marine mammals, \$3 million for research on pinnipeds and marine mammals, \$1.5 million for efforts to design fishing equipment that minimizes adverse impacts on marine mammals, and \$125,000 for grants to respond to stranded animals. Based on historical spending patterns for similar programs, CBO estimates that fully funding those activities would cost \$1 million in 2006 and \$35 million over the 2006-2010 period.

In addition, H.R. 2130 could increase revenues and subsequent direct spending of those revenues. The bill would increase fines for certain violations of federal law related to the protection of marine mammals. Under current law, the Secretary of the Interior can spend such fines, without further appropriation, for programs to protect and conserve those mammals. Based on information from the Department of the Interior, CBO expects that a relatively small number of cases would be affected and that any increases in revenues and direct spending from this provision would be negligible.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 2130 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: Megan Carroll)

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

Impact on the Private Sector: Paige Piper/Bach

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis