



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 9, 2014

H.R. 5026 **Fish Hatchery Protection Act**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 30, 2014

SUMMARY

H.R. 5026 would prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from permanently modifying or significantly altering the way certain programs within the National Fish Hatchery System would be carried out relative to how they were being carried out as of November 1, 2013. Under H.R. 5026, for a 10-year period following enactment of the bill, any changes to those programs would require express authorization from the Congress. In CBO's view, that directive would effectively authorize sufficient appropriations to continue operating the National Fish Hatchery System in the same way it was operated near the start of fiscal year 2014.

Based on information provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$203 million over the 2015-2019 period. Enacting H.R. 5026 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

H.R. 5026 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. 5026 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					2015- 2018
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Estimated Authorization Level	42	43	44	45	46	220
Estimated Outlays	33	39	42	44	45	203

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 5026 will be enacted before the end of 2014 and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar USFWS activities.

H.R. 5026 would prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from permanently modifying or significantly altering any fish hatchery or breeding program within the National Fish Hatchery System unless the Congress explicitly authorizes such changes. That limitation would be in effect beginning on November 1, 2013, and ending 10 years after enactment of the bill. As of November 1, 2013, the USFWS had received about \$41 million to operate fish hatcheries and carry out programs in 2014 that would be affected under the bill. CBO expects that the agency would require similar levels of appropriated funds (adjusted for inflation) to continue to operate the fish hatcheries and programs in the same way they were being operated as of November 1, 2013.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 5026 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Those governments would benefit from the continued operation of federal fishery conservation activities.

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