



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

April 24, 2018

H.R. 200
**Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility
in Fisheries Management Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources
on December 13, 2017*

SUMMARY

H.R. 200 would amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which addresses U.S. fisheries management and would authorize the annual appropriation of \$397 million through 2022 for those purposes. The bill also would require the Secretary of Commerce to request that the National Academy of Sciences study certain mixed-use fisheries.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 200 would cost about \$1.4 billion over the 2019-2023 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized and necessary amounts. Enacting the bill could increase revenues and direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. However, CBO estimates that any such changes would have a negligible net effect on the deficit.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 200 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

H.R. 200 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

The bill would impose a private-sector mandate as defined in UMRA by prohibiting shark feeding off the coast of Florida. CBO estimates that the cost of the mandate would fall below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$160 million in 2018, adjusted annually for inflation).

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary effect of H.R. 200 is shown in the following table. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars						2019- 2023
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION							
Magnuson-Stevens Act							
Authorization Level	397	397	397	397	397	0	1,588
Estimated Outlays	0	258	337	385	397	139	1,516
Studies of Mixed-Use Fisheries							
Estimated Authorization Level	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Estimated Outlays	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total Changes							
Authorization Level	397	398	397	397	397	0	1,589
Estimated Outlays	0	259	337	385	397	139	1,517

H.R. 200 would authorize the appropriation of \$397 million in 2018. CBO does not estimate any spending would result from that authorization because appropriations for 2018 have already been provided.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 200 will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2018 and that the authorized and estimated amounts will be appropriated for each year.

H.R. 200 would authorize the appropriation of \$397 million a year through 2022 to carry out activities under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Magnuson-Stevens Act is the primary law governing the management of marine fisheries in federal waters. That act requires the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to preserve sustainable fish populations in waters off the coasts of the United States using various methods, including limiting annual fish harvests and enforcing laws that prohibit foreign fishing. In 2017, NOAA received appropriations totaling \$538 million to carry out activities under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. (NOAA has not yet made a final allocation of funding to implement the act for 2018.)

H.R. 200 would amend the Magnuson-Stevens Act to give Regional Fishery Management Councils additional tools and flexibility to manage their fisheries. Amendments include proposed new guidelines for incorporating state data and stock assessments into fishery management decisions, updating the schedule and process of stock assessments, and updating allocation and quota requirements for certain fishing communities. Based on historical spending patterns, CBO estimates that implementing the Magnuson-Stevens Act would cost about \$1.5 billion over the 2019-2023 period and \$71 million after 2023.

The bill also would require the Secretary of Commerce to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct research on mixed-use fisheries in the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico regions and on limited-access-privilege programs for mixed-use fisheries. Based on the costs of similar projects, CBO estimates that staff time and travel needed to complete the studies would cost \$1 million in 2019.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

H.R. 200 would create new civil and criminal penalties for feeding sharks off the coast of Florida. Such penalties are recorded as revenues, deposited into the Crime Victims Fund, and later spent without further appropriations action. CBO expects that any additional revenues would not be significant in any year and would be offset by subsequent direct spending; therefore, the net effect on the deficit would be negligible.

INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 200 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

MANDATES

H.R. 200 contains no intergovernmental as defined in UMRA.

The bill would impose a private-sector mandate as defined in UMRA by prohibiting shark feeding off the coast of Florida. The cost of the mandate would be forgone business revenue by shark-diving operators who currently feed sharks as part of their services. Because not all shark-diving operations rely on shark feeding and many operations generate revenue from other activities, CBO estimates that the costs of the mandate would fall below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$160 million in 2018, adjusted annually for inflation).

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