

TO AUTHORIZE THE NATIONAL OCEAN EXPLORATION PROGRAM AND THE  
NATIONAL UNDERSEA RESEARCH PROGRAM WITHIN THE NATIONAL  
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

—————  
AUGUST 4, 2007.—Ordered to be printed  
—————

Mr. RAHALL, from the Committee on Natural Resources,  
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 1834]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Natural Resources, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1834) to authorize the national ocean exploration program and the national undersea research program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**TITLE I—NATIONAL OCEAN EXPLORATION  
PROGRAM**

**SECTION 101. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “National Ocean Exploration Program Act”.

**SEC. 102. AUTHORIZATION.**

The Secretary of Commerce, through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shall, in consultation with the National Science Foundation and other appropriate Federal agencies, conduct a coordinated national ocean exploration program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that promotes collaboration with existing programs of the Administration, including those authorized in title II.

**SEC. 103. AUTHORITIES.**

In carrying out the program authorized under section 102, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (in this title referred to as the “Administrator”) shall—

(1) conduct interdisciplinary voyages or other scientific activities of discovery in conjunction with other Federal agencies or academic or educational institutions, to explore and survey little known areas of the marine environment, in-

ventory, observe, and assess living and nonliving marine resources, and report such findings;

(2) give priority attention to deep ocean regions, with a focus on deep water marine systems that hold potential for important scientific discoveries, such as hydrothermal vent communities and seamounts;

(3) conduct scientific voyages to locate, define, and document historic shipwrecks, submerged sites, and other ocean exploration activities that combine archaeology and oceanographic sciences;

(4) develop and implement, in consultation with the National Science Foundation, a transparent process for merit-based peer-review and approval of proposals for activities to be conducted under this program;

(5) enhance the technical capability of the United States marine science community by promoting the development of improved oceanographic research, communication, navigation, and data collection systems, as well as underwater platforms and sensors and autonomous vehicles;

(6) accept donations of property, data, and equipment to be applied for the purpose of exploring the oceans or increasing knowledge of the oceans; and

(7) establish an ocean exploration forum to encourage partnerships and promote communication among experts and other stakeholders in order to enhance the scientific and technical expertise and relevance of the national program.

**SEC. 104. OCEAN EXPLORATION ADVISORY BOARD.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall appoint an Ocean Exploration Advisory Board, or utilize an existing panel, composed of experts in relevant fields to—

(1) advise the Administrator on priority areas for survey and discovery;

(2) assist the program in the development of a five-year strategic plan for the fields of exploration, discovery, and science;

(3) annually review the quality and effectiveness of the proposal review process established under section 103(4); and

(4) provide other assistance and advice as requested by the Administrator.

(b) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board.

(2) COMPLIANCE.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board shall be appointed and operate in a manner consistent with all provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act with respect to—

(A) the balance of membership and expertise;

(B) provisions of public notice regarding activities of the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board;

(C) open meetings; and

(D) public access to documents created by the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board.

(c) UTILIZATION OF EXISTING PANEL.—If the Administrator utilizes an existing panel to fulfill the requirements of this section, the membership of that panel must include relevant experts in the fields specified in subsection (a)(2).

**SEC. 105. APPLICATION WITH OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LANDS ACT.**

Nothing in this title or title II supersedes, or limits the authority of the Secretary of the Interior under, the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.).

**SEC. 106. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out this title—

(1) \$30,500,000 for fiscal year 2008;

(2) \$33,550,000 for fiscal year 2009;

(3) \$36,905,000 for fiscal year 2010;

(4) \$40,596,000 for fiscal year 2011;

(5) \$44,655,000 for fiscal year 2012;

(6) \$49,121,000 for fiscal year 2013;

(7) \$54,033,000 for fiscal year 2014;

(8) \$59,436,000 for fiscal year 2015;

(9) \$65,379,000 for fiscal year 2016; and

(10) \$71,917,000 for fiscal year 2017.

## **TITLE II—UNDERSEA RESEARCH PROGRAM**

**SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “National Undersea Research Program Act of 2007”.

**SEC. 202. AUTHORIZATION.**

The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall conduct an undersea research program and shall designate a Director of that program.

**SEC. 203. PURPOSE.**

The purpose of the program authorized under section 202 is to increase scientific knowledge essential for the informed management, use, and preservation of oceanic, coastal, and large lake resources through undersea research, exploration, education, and technology development. The program shall be part of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's undersea research, education, and technology development efforts, and shall make available the infrastructure and expertise to service the undersea science and technology needs of the academic community and marine industry.

**SEC. 204. PROGRAM.**

The program authorized under section 202 shall be conducted through a national headquarters, a network of extramural regional undersea research centers that represent all relevant National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration regions, and a national technology institute. Overall direction of the program will be provided by the program director in coordination with a Council of Center Directors comprised of the directors of the extramural regional centers and the National Institute for Undersea Science and Technology.

**SEC. 205. REGIONAL CENTERS AND INSTITUTE.**

(a) PROGRAMS.—The following research, exploration, education, and technology programs shall be conducted through the network of extramural regional centers and the National Institute for Undersea Science and Technology:

- (1) Core research and exploration based on national and regional undersea research priorities.
- (2) Advanced undersea technology development to support the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's research mission and programs.
- (3) Development, testing, and transition of advanced undersea technology associated with ocean observatories, submersibles, advanced diving technologies, remotely operated vehicles, autonomous underwater vehicles, and new sampling and sensing technologies such as LEO-15, Pisces, and the Aquarius habitat.
- (4) Undersea science-based education and outreach programs to enrich ocean science education and public awareness of the oceans and Great Lakes.
- (5) Discovery, study, and development of natural products from ocean and aquatic systems.

(b) OPERATIONS.—Operation of the extramural regional centers and the National Institute for Undersea Science and Technology shall leverage partnerships and cooperative research with academia and private industry.

**SEC. 206. COMPETITIVENESS.**

Except for a small discretionary fund for rapid response activities, for which no more than 10 percent of the program budget shall be set aside, and for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-related service projects, the external projects supported by the regional centers shall be managed using an open and competitive process to evaluate scientific merit, relevance to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, regional and national research priorities, and technical feasibility.

**SEC. 207. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out this title—

- (1) \$17,500,000 for fiscal year 2008;
- (2) \$19,500,000 for fiscal year 2009;
- (3) \$21,500,000 for fiscal year 2010;
- (4) \$23,500,000 for fiscal year 2011;
- (5) \$25,500,000 for fiscal year 2012;
- (6) \$27,500,000 for fiscal year 2013;
- (7) \$29,500,000 for fiscal year 2014;
- (8) \$31,500,000 for fiscal year 2015;
- (9) \$33,500,000 for fiscal year 2016; and
- (10) \$35,500,000 for fiscal year 2017.

## **TITLE III—INTERAGENCY FINANCING, PLANNING, AND COORDINATION**

### **SEC. 301. INTERAGENCY FINANCING.**

The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Science Foundation, the Department of the Navy, and other Federal agencies involved in the programs authorized under title I and II, may participate in interagency financing and share, transfer, receive, and spend funds appropriated to any Federal participant in the program for the purposes of carrying out any administrative or programmatic project or activity under the program. Funds may be transferred among such departments and agencies through an appropriate instrument that specifies the goods, services, or space being acquired from another Federal participant and the costs thereof.

### **SEC. 302. OCEAN EXPLORATION AND UNDERSEA RESEARCH TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE TASK FORCE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in coordination with the National Science Foundation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the United States Geological Survey, the Department of the Navy, the Mineral Management Service, and relevant governmental, nongovernmental, academic, industry, and other experts, shall convene an ocean exploration and undersea research technology and infrastructure task force, or utilize an existing panel, to develop and implement a strategy—

(1) to facilitate transfer of new exploration and undersea research technology to the programs authorized under titles I and II of this Act;

(2) to improve availability of communications infrastructure, including satellite capabilities, to the program;

(3) to develop an integrated, workable, and comprehensive data management information processing system that will make information on unique and significant features obtained by the program available for research and management purposes;

(4) to conduct public outreach activities that improve the public understanding of ocean science, resources, and processes, in conjunction with relevant programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Science Foundation, and other agencies; and

(5) to encourage cost-sharing partnerships with governmental and nongovernmental entities that will assist in transferring exploration technology and technical expertise to the program.

(b) **UTILIZATION OF EXISTING PANEL.**—If the Administrator utilizes an existing panel to fulfill the requirements of this section, the membership of that panel must include representative of all the agencies and other interests specified in subsection (a).

### **PURPOSE OF THE BILL**

The purpose of H.R. 1834 is to authorize two ocean research programs within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): the National Ocean Exploration Program and the National Undersea Research Program.

### **BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION**

In 2004, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, whose members were appointed by President George W. Bush, released a report containing recommendations for the establishment of a comprehensive and coordinated ocean policy for the nation. The report concluded, among many other findings, that increased scientific knowledge of the oceans and coasts and the associated technological development to gather such information are imperative for sustainable resource use, economic development, and conservation of marine biodiversity. In order to attain these goals, a comprehensive national strategy is needed. In addition, the Commission concluded that the American public has too little awareness of the importance of the ocean in their daily lives and to all life on the planet, and

that an interested and an engaged public is essential to addressing complex ocean- and coastal-related issues. Legislation is required to implement many of the Commission's recommendations.

NOAA has for many years utilized its broad general authority as the federal agency responsible for the management of living marine and coastal resources to conduct activities supporting ocean exploration and undersea research. In 1971, NOAA administratively established the Manned Undersea Science and Technology (MUST) program to pioneer exploration of undersea habitats. In 1980, the MUST program was reconstituted as the National Undersea Research Program (NURP) within NOAA's Office of Ocean and Atmospheric Research (OAR).

NURP was created to provide marine scientists with the requisite tools and expertise to investigate the undersea environment, including submersibles, remotely operated vehicles, autonomous underwater vehicles, mixed gas diving gear, underwater laboratories and observatories, and other cutting edge technologies. NURP is comprised of a network of six regional centers and one national technology institute, located primarily at major universities in Connecticut, New Jersey, North Carolina, Florida, Alaska, Hawaii, and Mississippi. This extramural network facilitates collaborations with federal and non-federal programs outside of NOAA, leverages external funds and infrastructure, and provides access to world-class marine researchers, technology expertise and students. Federal grants fund the regional centers and national technology institute and each facility undergoes periodic external review to ensure performance and accountability. NURP supports on average over 100 peer-reviewed research projects each year that are relevant to NOAA's overall mission and enhance national ocean research requirements and priorities. Examples of research produced through NURP grants include: the discovery and analysis of novel marine bio-compounds useful for medical and pharmaceutical applications; research to better understand new chemosynthetic communities discovered at deep sea vents and seeps; and groundbreaking research regarding factors affecting coral reef health, especially coral bleaching events and climate change. Since 1995, Congress has appropriated over \$178 million specifically for NURP.

In 2000, President William J. Clinton's Panel on Ocean Exploration—a multi-disciplinary group of ocean experts—released a historic report entitled "*Discovering Earth's Final Frontier: A U.S. Strategy for Ocean Exploration.*" This panel found that our current understanding of the ocean environment is inadequate compared with the undeniable importance of the oceans to the health and wealth of our country, and that the U.S. has fallen behind other nations in our capabilities for undertaking ocean exploration. The panel recommended the establishment of an Ocean Exploration Program for an initial 10-year period to conduct interdisciplinary voyages of discovery, develop new platforms, communication, navigation and other exploration instruments, disseminate information on discoveries to maximize benefits, and enhance education to increase science competence of the ocean environment in the United States.

In 2001, NOAA responded to the panel's recommendation and established the Office of Ocean Exploration (OE) to support new ex-

peditions for the purpose of discovery and documentation of ocean voyages. Also located in OAR, the OE program operates under a multi-purpose mission to map the physical, biological, chemical and archaeological aspects of the ocean; to better understand ocean dynamics and to describe the complex interactions of the living ocean; to develop new sensors and systems to regain U.S. leadership in ocean technology, and; to conduct public outreach to communicate the benefits of ocean exploration to the nation. The OE program has conducted field seasons every year since 2001, often in collaboration with other NOAA programs and federal agencies such as NURP, the National Marine Sanctuary Program and the National Science Foundation. The OE program has conducted over 100 expeditions in unknown, remote or poorly understood ocean areas, including expeditions to assess hydrothermal vents at the Galapagos Rift in the equatorial Pacific Ocean; investigations of the frigid depths of the Canada Basin in the Arctic Ocean; exploration of little known sea mounts in the North Atlantic; and, reconnaissance of the Bransfield Strait and Drake's Passage in the Southern Ocean near Antarctica. The Congress has appropriated \$118.5 million to support this program since its establishment in 2001.

H.R. 1834 would implement a key recommendation of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy to provide specific and separate authorizations for these two programs within NOAA. The authorizations would further strengthen NOAA's standing as the preeminent civilian federal ocean agency by granting the agency explicit authority to conduct scientific research that directly contributes to increasing scientific knowledge of the world's oceans. The legislation would address the glaring national need to develop and advance new innovations in oceanographic research, communication and navigation technologies that support ocean exploration and science and expand extramural ocean research. Additionally, this legislation would emphasize the importance of outreach and public education to ensure that future scientific discoveries and benefits are disseminated to decision-makers in both the public and private sectors, and conveyed to the general public to increase public awareness and appreciation of the world's ocean to our economic and environmental well-being.

#### COMMITTEE ACTION

H.R. 1834 was introduced on March 29, 2007 by Mr. Saxton (R-NJ). The bill was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and within the Committee to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans on April 10, 2007. The bill was also referred to the Committee on Science and Technology, as well as the Committee on Armed Services. On June 5, 2007, the Subcommittee held a hearing on the bill and received supportive testimony regarding the need for and substance of the legislation. On June 19, 2007, the Subcommittee met to mark up the bill. Mr. Saxton (R-NJ) offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute to add an additional Title III to authorize federal interagency financing in support of NURP and OE projects and expeditions; to extend the purview of the Technology and Infrastructure Task Force to both the OE and NURP programs, and to allow the Administrator of NOAA to utilize an existing entity to carry out the functions of the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board and the Technology and Infrastructure

Task Force. The amendment was adopted by voice vote. The bill was then forwarded to the Full Committee, as amended. On June 28, 2007, the Full Natural Resources Committee met to consider the bill. Mr. Saxton (R–NJ) again offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute to clarify that there must be broad membership representation on the authorized advisory bodies for ocean exploration and undersea research technology and infrastructure. It was adopted by unanimous consent. The bill, as amended, was then ordered favorably reported to the House of Representatives by unanimous consent.

#### SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

#### Title I—National Ocean Exploration Program

##### *Section 101. Short title*

Section 101 cites this Act as the “National Ocean Exploration Program Act.”

##### *Section 102. Authorization*

Section 102 would establish a coordinated national ocean exploration program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), to work in consultation with the National Science Foundation and other appropriate Federal agencies.

##### *Section 103. Authorities*

Section 103 would authorize NOAA, with other entities, to conduct activities to explore and document lesser known marine resources. NOAA will utilize a transparent review process for proposed activities, enhance the technical capabilities of the U.S. marine science community, and improve communication and cooperation among experts by establishing an ocean exploration forum.

##### *Section 104. Ocean Exploration Advisory Board*

Section 104 directs the Administrator of NOAA to appoint an Ocean Exploration Advisory Board, or utilize an existing panel such as the Ocean Exploration Advisory Working Group formed under NOAA’s Science Advisory Board, to advise NOAA on the development and implementation of the OE program. This advisory board would be exempt from operating under the Federal Advisory Committee Act except for requirements regarding board membership, public notice, open meetings and public availability to documents developed by the advisory board.

##### *Section 105. Application with Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act*

Section 105 confirms that nothing in this Title or Title II supercedes, or limits the authority of the Secretary of the Interior under, the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.

##### *Section 106. Authorization of appropriations*

Section 106 would authorize appropriations to NOAA for this program on an incrementally increasing basis beginning with \$30,500,000 in fiscal year 2008 and ending with \$71,917,000 in fiscal year 2017.

## Title II—Undersea Research Program

### *Section 201. Short title*

Section 201 cites this Act as the “National Undersea Research Program Act of 2007.”

### *Section 202. Authorization*

Section 202 would direct the Administrator of NOAA to conduct and designate a director of an undersea research program.

### *Section 203. Purpose*

Section 203 states that the purpose of the program would be to increase the scientific knowledge essential for the informed management, use, and preservation of oceanic, coastal, and large lake resources. It would also make available the infrastructure and expertise to meet the undersea science needs of the academic community.

### *Section 204. Program*

Section 204 states that the program will be conducted through a national headquarters, a network of regional research centers, and a national technology institute. Direction will be provided by the program director with the support of the directors of all regional centers and the national technology institute (the “Council of Center Directors”).

### *Section 205. Regional centers and technology institute*

Section 205 states that the regional research centers and National Technology Institute will conduct programs that address undersea research priorities, enhance undersea technological capabilities, promote public education and awareness, discover and develop natural products from ocean and aquatic systems, and contribute to our understanding of the U.S.’s ocean and coastal resources.

### *Section 206. Competitiveness*

Section 206 dictates that the program budget will be used for external projects, supported by the regional centers, to be managed using an open and competitive process and evaluated using specified criteria. No more than 10 percent of the program budget will be set aside for rapid response activities and for NOAA-related service projects.

### *Section 207. Authorization of appropriations*

Section 207 would authorize appropriations to NOAA on an incrementally increasing basis beginning in fiscal year 2008 and ending in fiscal year 2017, divided between the National Technology Institute and the regional centers. Appropriations would begin in fiscal year 2008 with \$16,638,000 for the regional centers and \$6,655,000 for the National Technology Institute, and end in fiscal year 2017 with \$29,474,000 for the regional centers and \$11,790,000 for the National Technology Institute.

### Title III. Interagency Financing, Planning, and Coordination

#### *Section 301. Interagency financing*

Section 301 would authorize NOAA, the National Science Foundation, the Department of the Navy, and other Federal agencies to share, transfer, receive, or spend funds appropriated to any of the program participants provided they were appropriated specifically for this program.

#### *Section 302. Ocean exploration and undersea research technology and infrastructure task force*

Section 302 would establish a task force consisting of the National Science Foundation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the U.S. Geological Survey, the Department of the Navy, the Minerals Management Service, and other relevant governmental, non-governmental, academic, industry, and other experts. The task force would enhance the program's use of new technology and improve its communications, data management, and technical expertise capacity through partnerships between the government and other entities. The Administrator may utilize an existing panel for this purpose, but it must meet the criteria for membership described in this section.

#### COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Regarding clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Natural Resources' oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the body of this report.

#### FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

The functions of the proposed advisory committee authorized in the bill is not currently being nor could they be performed by one or more agencies, an advisory committee already in existence or by enlarging the mandate of an existing advisory committee. The legislation as reported does grant to the NOAA Administrator discretionary authority to utilize an Ocean Exploration Advisory Working Group formed under NOAA's Science Advisory Board to fulfill this responsibility. This pre-existing panel would have to comply with certain requirements under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) regarding membership and public notice, meeting and information availability requirements.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

#### COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. Cost of Legislation. Clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out this bill. However, clause 3(d)(3)(B) of that rule provides that this requirement does not apply when the Committee has included in its report a timely submitted cost estimate of the bill pre-

pared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

2. Congressional Budget Act. As required by clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this bill does not contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

3. General Performance Goals and Objectives. As required by clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this bill, as ordered reported, is to authorize the national ocean exploration program and the national undersea research program within in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

4. Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate. Under clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee has received the following cost estimate for this bill from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office:

*H.R. 1834—A bill to authorize the national ocean exploration program and the national undersea research program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration*

Summary: H.R. 1834 would direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to carry out programs on Ocean exploration and undersea research programs. For this purpose, the bill would authorize the appropriation of nearly \$300 million over the 2008–2012 period and nearly \$760 million over the 2008–2017 period.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1834 would cost \$30 million in 2008 and \$260 million over the 2008–2012 period. We estimate that about \$500 million would be spent after 2012, including \$460 million authorized to be appropriated after 2012. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 1834 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. 1834 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—				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Authorization Level <sup>1</sup> .....	49	54	59	65	71
Estimated Outlays .....	30	45	55	62	68

<sup>1</sup> NOAA's National Ocean Service received appropriations of around \$600 million in 2007, including funding for some activities that are similar to the exploration, research, and mapping programs that would be authorized by H.R. 1834. In addition to the amounts shown in the table, the bill would authorize funding of about \$460 million over the 2013–2017 period. In total, the bill would authorize appropriations of nearly \$760 million over the 2008–2017 (10-year) period.

Basis of estimate: For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted near the beginning of 2008 and that the entire amounts authorized will be appropriated for each fiscal year.

Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for NOAA programs.

The authorization levels in the table are as specified in the bill for fiscal years 2008 through 2012, including between \$31 million and \$45 million per year for ocean exploration and between \$18 million and \$26 million per year for undersea research.

Intergovernmental and private-sector impact: H.R. 1834 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Previous CBO cost estimate: On March 23, 2007, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 39, the Ocean and Coastal Exploration and NOAA Act (OCEAN Act), as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on February 13, 2007. The provisions of S. 39 regarding ocean exploration and undersea research are similar to those in H.R. 1834. The CBO estimates for those provisions reflect differences in the authorization levels for the affected programs.

Estimate prepared by: Federal Costs: Deborah Reis and David Reynolds. Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Leo Lex. Impact on the Private-Sector: Jacob Kuipers.

Estimate approved by: Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

#### COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

#### EARMARK STATEMENT

H.R. 1834 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e) or 9(f) of rule XXI.

#### PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any State, local or tribal law.

#### CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes in existing law.

