

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044
1400 Tenth Street, Rm 2
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marine Region
1933 Cliff Drive, Suite 9
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Project Title: Coastal Pelagic Species Trawl Research

Project Location: Statewide

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) to sample fish statewide for the Coastal Pelagic Species Trawl Research. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes SWFSC to incidentally take Longfin Smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*), Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), and Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) during the course of its research subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this program is to collect biological and acoustic data on a range of small pelagic species listed in the Pacific Fisheries Management Council Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) management plan. Covered methods of take are limited to a Nordic 264 midwater trawl net.

California Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Roger Hewitt, Principal Investigator, SWFSC

Exempt Status:

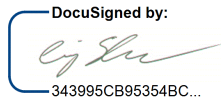
- Ministerial;
- Declared Emergency;
- Emergency Project;
- Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Section 15306, Information Collection, Class 6.

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project involves research which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to Longfin Smelt, a threatened species, Spring Run Chinook Salmon, a threatened species, Winter Run Chinook Salmon, an endangered species, Central California Coast ESU Coho Salmon, an endangered species, and Southern Oregon/Northern California ESU Coho Salmon, a threatened species.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Arn Aarreberg
791-4195

Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (707)

Signature: _____

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Date: 4/15/2021

Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Date Received for filing at OPR: _____