

**Notice of Exemption**

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**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:** Rockfish Recruitment and Ecosystem Assessment Survey

**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 assessment is to collect data to develop abundance estimates for young of the year rockfish and other groundfish related to stock assessments for PMFC fishery management. Covered methods of take are limited to a modified Cobb mid-water trawl net.

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

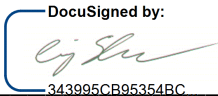
**Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Roger Hewitt, Principal Investigator, NOAA SWFSC

**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      Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (707) 791-4195

**Signature:**  \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** April 12, 2021

*Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region*

Signed by Lead Agency      Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_