

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044
1400 Tenth Street, St #100
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Project Title: Assessment of Ecological Function and Interactions of Oyster Culture and Eelgrass in California

Project Location: Tomales Bay, CA

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) to sample marine fish at four locations within Tomales Bay for the Oyster Culture and Eelgrass Interactions study. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes UCSC to incidentally take Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) during the course of its research subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this research is to assess eelgrass response to shellfish culture practices to better understand the value of habitats for managed fish and invertebrate species. Covered methods of take are limited to a 3mm mesh beach seine with 6m wings.

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

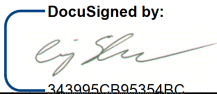
Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Shannon Myers, Principal Investigator, UCSC

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, Central California Coast ESU Coho Salmon, an endangered species.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Arn Aarreberg Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (707) 791-4195

Signature:  343995CB95354BC **Date:** 8/4/2021

Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

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