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 Longfin Project

Project Location: Pacific Ocean and estuaries from Sonoma County south to Monterey County

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to ICF International (ICF) pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) to capture longfin smelt in Sonoma, Marin, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Monterey Counties for the Coastal Longfin Project. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes ICF to take Longfin Smelt *(Spirinchus thaleichthys)* and 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 study is to fill in key information gaps on the status and population structure of Longfin Smelt in coastal environments of California. Covered methods of take are limited to a 0.3 meter and 0.75 meter zooplankton net deployed from a boat and non-motorized vessels.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Colin Brennan, Executive Signatory, ICF

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

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

Signature: _____   **Date:** _1/18/22_____
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

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