

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: ICF International's Longfin Smelt Study

Project Location:

- **Sonoma County:** Russian River, Russian River SMCA, Russian River SMRMA, Estero Americano SMRMA. **Marin County:** Estero de San Antonio SMRMA, Tomales Bay, Drakes Estero, Drakes Estero SMCA, Estero de Limantour SMR, Bolinas Lagoon. **San Mateo County:** San Gregorio Creek, San Gregorio Creek Lagoon, Pescadero Creek, Pescadero Creek Lagoon. **Santa Cruz County:** Waddell Creek, Waddell Creek Lagoon, San Lorenzo River. **Monterey County:** Elkhorn Slough SMCA, Elkhorn Slough SMR, Moro Cojo Slough SMR, Elkhorn, Salinas River.

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to ICF International pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for research purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to take Longfin Smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*), and Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) during the course of sampling, subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this sampling is for research purposes to study Longfin Smelt in an effort to aid conservation and management needs. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture Longfin Smelt, and Coho Salmon during surveys. The applicant will conduct research sampling from November to April of larval longfin smelt populations through the use of zooplankton nets through January 26, 2025.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Colin Brennan, ICF International

Exempt Status:

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

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project involves research sampling for conservation management purposes within the counties of Sonoma, Marin, San Mateo, Santa Cruz and Monterey which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to Longfin Smelt or Coho Salmon which are all listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dylan Inskeep

Telephone: (707) 576-2878

Signature:



Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

Date: 1.13.2023

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____