

**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:** San Francisco Bay RMP Priority Margin Unit PCB Study

**Project Location:** San Francisco Bay, Steinberger Slough, and Redwood Creek

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Moss Landing Marine Laboratory – Marine Pollution Studies Lab (MLML) pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) to sample fish at Steinberger Slough, Redwood Creek, and other various locations within San Francisco Bay for the San Francisco Bay RMP Priority Margin Unit PCB Study. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the MLML to incidentally take Longfin Smelt and Chinook Salmon during the course of its sampling subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of assess the spatial distribution of PCBs in surface sediment and prey fish in priority margin units (PMUs) in the Bay to evaluate the response of these nearshore areas to reductions in PCB loading from adjoining watersheds. Covered methods of take are limited to a beach seine, cast net, fish trap, and otter trawl.

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

**Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Marco Sigala, Principle Investigator, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories – Marine Pollution Studies Lab.

**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 and the collection of information pertaining to management and human health which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to Longfin Smelt, *Spirinchus thaleichthys*, a threatened species and Chinook Salmon, *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, an endangered (Sac River Winter-run) and threatened (Central Valley Spring-run) species.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Dylan Inskeep      Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (707) 576-2878



**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 3/13/2023  
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

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