

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: San Francisco Bay USACE Dredge Monitoring Study

Project Location: Pinole Shoal Channel

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the Novo Aquatic Sciences Inc. pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for educational purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to possess Longfin Smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*), Delta Smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), and Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) during the course of sampling, subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this sampling is to subsample the dredged material produced from the routine USACE dredging of San Francisco Bay to determine counts of species caught during the dredging activities. Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially possess Longfin Smelt, Delta Smelt, and Chinook Salmon during surveys. The applicant will conduct sampling of dredged materials from June – November 2023 through the use of hand collections and dip nets from the crab basket and hopper of the dredging vessel.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Steven Novotny, Novo Aquatic Sciences Inc.

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 sampling of dredged materials of the San Francisco Bay which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to Longfin Smelt, Delta Smelt, and Chinook Salmon which are all listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dylan Inskeep

Telephone: (707) 576-2878

Signature: 

Date: 06/06/2023

Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____