

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: Lower Klamath River Estuary Fish Communities Study

Project Location: Lower Klamath River Estuary

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the California Polytechnic University, Humboldt pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for educational purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to take larval Longfin Smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*) and to pursue adult and juvenile Longfin Smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*), Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) during the course of sampling subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this sampling is for the California Polytechnic University, Humboldt's Lower Klamath River Estuary Fish Communities Study. The applicant will conduct monthly sampling between June – November 2023 and February – May 2024 through the use of baited remote underwater video (BRUV) and light traps for research sampling of the Lower Klamath River Estuary's fish communities.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Dr. Jose Marin Jarrin, California Polytechnic University, Humboldt


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 and collection sampling by use of baited remote underwater video and light traps within the Lower Klamath River Estuary which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to Longfin Smelt, Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon, and steelhead trout which are all listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dylan Inskeep

Telephone: (707) 576-2878

Signature:  _____ **Date:** 06/08/2023
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____