

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: Marine Science Institute Collection of marine life (fish, invertebrates, plankton) for educational purposes along the rocky shore of the Pacific Coast, in San Francisco Bay, and in Broad Slough in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Project Location: San Francisco Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Broad Slough)

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the San Francisco Bay Marine Science Institute pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for educational purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to take Longfin Smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*), Delta Smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), 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 for education of students in Bay Area schools from grades 4 – college, and to provide additions to the Marine Science Institute’s collection. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture Longfin Smelt, Delta Smelt, Coho Salmon, and Chinook Salmon during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round educational sampling of nearshore and estuarine fishes, invertebrates, and phytoplankton through the use of beach seines, otter trawls, plankton tows, and Peterson mud grabs through December 31, 2024.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Karen Peluso-Galaviz, Marine Science Institute

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 educational sampling within San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to Longfin Smelt, Delta Smelt, Coho Salmon, 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:** _____
Dr. Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

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