

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: Population Genomic Patterns of Barred Surfperch

Project Location: Nearshore waters of the counties of San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the University of California, Santa Cruz Bernardi Lab pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for scientific purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to take 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 study of barred surfperch (*Amphistichus argenteus*) population genomics across the species geographic range. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon, and steelhead trout during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round research of barred surfperch through the use of hook & line – baited dropper loop through December 31, 2025.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Allyson C. Sawkins, University of California, Santa Cruz Bernardi Lab


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 of barred surfperch which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon, or steelhead trout which are all listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dylan Inskeep

Telephone: (707) 317-3924

Signature:  _____ **Date:** 11/1/23
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

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