

**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:** Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Sea Center Collections

**Project Location:** nearshore and offshore waters of Santa Barbara and Los Angeles Counties

**Project Description:** The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for educational purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to take Southern California DPS steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*) during the course of sampling, subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this sampling is for the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History’s Sea Center’s permanent collections. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture steelhead trout during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round research and permanent collection sampling of nearshore and offshore fishes, invertebrates, and algae through the use of hook & line – baited dropper loop, hook & line – surface, beach seine, bottom trawl, midwater trawl, soft bottom trawl, and fence nets through December 31, 2025.

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

**Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Richard Smalldon, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History


**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 permanent collection sampling within nearshore and offshore waters of Santa Barbara and Los Angeles counties which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to steelhead trout which are listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Dylan Inskeep

**Telephone:** (707) 317-3924

**Signature:**  \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 12/5/23  
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

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