

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: Investigating fish communities within artificial tidal wetland ponds of Humboldt Bay

Project Location: Humboldt Bay

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 longfin smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*), Southern Oregon/Northern California ESU coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), and Northern California DPS summer-run steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*) the course of sampling, subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this sampling is for Lily Olmo of California Polytechnic University Humboldt's study investigating fish communities within artificial tidal wetland ponds in Humboldt Bay. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture longfin smelt, coho salmon, and steelhead trout during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round research sampling of estuarine fishes within artificial ponds through the use of beach seines, fyke nets, and light traps through December 31, 2025.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Lily Olmo, 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 sampling within artificial tidal wetland ponds in Humboldt Bay which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to longfin smelt, coho salmon, and steelhead trout which are all listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dylan Inskeep

Telephone: (707) 317-3924

Signature: 

Date: 1/2/2024

Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____