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: Characterization and connectivity of gravid pelagic sharks' movement and habitat selection using novel techniques

Project Location: San Francisco Bay counties (Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and San Francisco); nearshore and offshore waters (counties of San Mateo, Marin, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Sonoma, Mendocino, Humboldt, San Francsico, Santa Cruz, and Ventura)

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the Oregon State University pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for educational purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to take coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and 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 Oregon State University's study of the ecology and reproduction of elasmobranch species. 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 and permanent collection sampling of nearshore and offshore elasmobranch species through the use of hook & line – surface, hook & line – longline bottom set, hook & line – longline pelagic, hook & line – baited dropper loop, and hook & line - swimbait through December 31, 2025.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: James Sulikowski, Oregon State University

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 nearshore and offshore waters of various coastal counties 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:** ___**1/3/2024**_____
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

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