

**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:** Life History Biosamples used in Stock Assessments of Groundfish Populations on the Central California Coast

**Project Location:** nearshore waters of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Monterey counties

**Project Description:** The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the California State Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo 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 California State Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo's CPFV Groundfish Observer Program. 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 nearshore groundfish through the use of hook & line – baited dropper loop, hook & line – baited shrimpfly, hook & line – lingcod bar, hook & line – swimbait, hook & line – unbaited shrimpfly, hook & line – squid jig, and hook & line – SCUBA through December 31, 2025.

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

**Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Ben Ruttenberg, California State Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo

**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 waters of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Monterey 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) 576-2878

**Signature:**



*Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region*

**Date:** 1/8/2024

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_