

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: Quantifying nutrient sharing in symbiotic marine invertebrates across California

Project Location: Santa Monica Bay, Los Angeles Harbor, San Diego Bay, San Francisco Bay, Monterey Bay, Arcata Bay, Humboldt Bay, Morro Bay Estuary, Bodega Harbor, Crescent City Harbor, Moss Landing Harbor, Dana Point Harbor, Newport Harbor, Noyo Harbor, Oceanside Harbor, Pillar Point Harbor, Santa Barbara Harbor, Santa Cruz Harbor North, Santa Cruz Harbor South, Trinidad Harbor, Ventura Harbor

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the University of California Berkeley 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*) during the course of sampling, subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this sampling is for the University of California Berkeley study to quantify the nutrient sharing in symbiotic marine invertebrates across California. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture Longfin Smelt during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round research sampling of phyto- and zooplankton to quantify nutrient sharing between marine invertebrates and their internal, unicellular symbiotic algae by way of stable isotope analysis of animal and algal tissues by way of a plankton net through December 31, 2024.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Inge E. Conti-Jerpe, University of California Berkeley

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 phyto- and zooplankton to quantify nutrient sharing between marine invertebrates and their internal, unicellular symbiotic algae by way of stable isotope analysis within California harbors which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to Longfin Smelt which are listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dylan Inskeep

Telephone: (707) 317-3924

Signature:



Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

Date: 2/23/2024

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____