

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: Hidden Connections: Unveiling Pathways of Energy in Southern California's Kelp & Rocky Reef Ecosystems

Project Location: San Diego County – Point Loma

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Chelsea Brown, San Diego State University pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for educational purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to take 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 Chelsea Brown's graduate work looking at trophic structuring and trophic transfer between kelp forests and rocky reefs. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture steelhead trout during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round research of kelp forest and rocky reef species through the use of hook & line – baited dropper loop and hook & line – baited shrimp fly through December 31, 2025.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Chelsea Brown, San Diego 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 waters of Point Loma in San Diego County 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: 4/8/2024

Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____