

**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:** Highly Migratory Species Sampling/Tagging Research

**Project Location:** Nearshore and offshore waters of the counties of San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, Monterey, and Mendocino

**Project Description:** The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – Southwest Fisheries Science Center (SWFSC) pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for scientific 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 NOAA SWFSC’s Highly Migratory Species Sampling/Tagging Research. 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 tagging of highly migratory species through the use of hook & line – baited dropper loop, hook & line – swimbait, hook & line – surface, and hook & line – longline pelagic through December 31, 2025.

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

**Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Owyn Snodgrass, NOAA SWFSC


**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 the counties of San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, Monterey, and Mendocino 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:** 4/8/2024  
*Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region*

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_