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: Elementary School Floating Marine Labs

Project Location: Nearshore Leadbetter Beach in Santa Barbara County

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the Stardust Sportfishing 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 the Stardust Sportfishing to take elementary students from Title-1 schools, Boys & Girls Club, and Parks & Recreation on floating marine labs to fulfill their marine biology unit. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture steelhead trout during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round sampling of marine species in soft bottom communities through the use of a soft bottom otter trawl through December 31, 2026.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Jason Diamond, Stardust Sportfishing

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 educational sampling within nearshore waters of Leadbetter Beach in Santa Barbara County which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to Southern California DPS 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: _____