

**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:** Investigation of life history parameters and physiology of Coastal Pelagic Species and California yellowtail in the northeastern Pacific Ocean

**Project Location:** Nearshore waters of San Diego County

**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 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 investigation of life history parameters and physiology for coastal pelagic species named in the Fisheries Management Plan and California yellowtail. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture steelhead trout during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round research of coastal pelagic species through the use of beach seines and hook & line – surface through December 31, 2025.

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

**Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Kelsey James, 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 waters of 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:** 4/9/2024  
*Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region*

Signed by Lead Agency

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