

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: Coastal Pelagic Species Trawl

Project Location: Nearshore and offshore waters statewide

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 longfin smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*), coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), and Pacific leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) 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 coastal pelagic species trawling survey. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture longfin smelt, coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and Pacific leatherback sea turtle during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round research of coastal pelagic species along with various other marine species through the use of a Nordic 264 midwater trawl, multi-function trawls and purse seines through March 31, 2025.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Dr. Annie Yau, 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 Statewide which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to longfin smelt, coho salmon, Chinook salmon, Pacific leatherback sea turtle, 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:** 4/30/2024
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____