

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: San Francisco Bay USACE Dredge Monitoring Study

Project Location: Richmond Harbor (Contra Costa County); Southhampton Shoal Channel (mostly Contra Costa County and some broader of San Francisco County)

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the Novo Aquatic Sciences Inc. pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for educational purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to possess longfin smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*), Delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), and Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) during the course of sampling, subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this sampling is to subsample the dredging material produced from the routine USACE dredging of San Francisco Bay to determine counts of species caught during the dredging activities. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially possess longfin smelt, coho salmon, Delta smelt, and Chinook salmon during surveys. The applicant will conduct sampling of dredging materials from June – November 2024 through the use of hand collections and dip nets from the crab basket and hopper of the dredging vessel.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Steven Novotny, Novo Aquatic Sciences Inc.


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 sampling of dredging materials of the San Francisco Bay which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to longfin smelt, coho salmon, Delta smelt, and Chinook salmon which are all listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dylan Inskeep

Telephone: (707) 576-2878

Signature:  _____ **Date:** 5/14/2024
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____