

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: MPSL-SJSURF State Water Board Anadromous Waterbodies Bioaccumulation Monitoring

Project Location: Nearshore and offshore waters in the counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, San Francisco, San Mateo, Sonoma, and San Luis Obispo

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the Moss Landing Marine Labs pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for educational purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to take longfin smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*), 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 Moss Landing Marine Labs, State Water Board, and Bioaccumulation Oversight Group's bioaccumulation monitoring study. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture longfin smelt, coho salmon, steelhead trout, and targeted take of Chinook salmon during surveys. The applicant will conduct bioaccumulation monitoring in fish and shellfish throughout the state through the use of hook & line – surface, beach seine, bottom trawl, midwater trawl, fish trap, and cast net through December 31, 2025.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Wesley Heim, Moss Landing Marine Labs

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 in the counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, San Francisco, San Mateo, Sonoma, and San Luis Obispo which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to longfin smelt, 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:



Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

Date: 7/8/2024

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____