

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: City of Oceanside Intensive Monitoring for Invertebrates, Fishes, and Benthic Infauna

Project Location: Nearshore and offshore waters of Oceanside City Beach

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Marine Taxonomic Services pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for scientific purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially take Southern California DPS 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 Marine Taxonomic Services' monitoring study. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture steelhead trout during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round research of nearshore and offshore fishes, invertebrates, and benthic infauna using hook & line – baited dropper loop and bottom trawls through December 31, 2026.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Robert Mooney, Marine Taxonomic Services

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 of Oceanside City Beach 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 Inskip

Telephone: (707) 317-3924

Signature:  _____ **Date:** 12/20/24
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____