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: Movement Ecology of California Elasmobranch Fishes

Project Location: Nearshore and offshore waters of the counties of Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the University of California, San Diego 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)* 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 University of California, San Diego's elasmobranch study. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture steelhead trout and Pacific leatherback sea turtle during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round research and permanent collection sampling of California elasmobranch species through the use of hook & line – surface and hook & line – longline bottom set through December 31, 2027.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Andrew Nosal, University of California, San Diego

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 the counties of Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to steelhead trout or Pacific leatherback sea turtle which are both listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dylan Inskeep **Telephone:** (707) 317-3924

Signature: _____ **Date:** ___**4/1/2025**_____
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

☐ Signed by Lead Agency Date Received for filing at OPR: _____