

## Notice of Exemption

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**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:** Biology & Biomechanics of Marine Fishes

**Project Location:** Nearshore and offshore waters of the Southern California Bight (specifically the counties of Los Angeles and Orange)

**Project Description:** The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the California State University Fullerton 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*) 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 California State University Fullerton's scientific study on the biology and evolution of marine fishes and market squid. 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 sampling of nearshore and offshore fishes and market squid through the use of hook & line – baited shrimpfly, hook & line – unbaited shrimpfly, hook & line – swimbait, hook & line – squid jig, bottom trawl, midwater trawl, beach seine, and purse seines through December 31, 2027.

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

**Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Erin Misty Paig-Tran, California State University Fullerton


**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 Southern California Bight (specifically the counties of Los Angeles and Orange) which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to steelhead trout or Pacific leatherback sea turtles which are both listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Dylan Inskeep

**Telephone:** (707) 317-3924

**Signature:**  \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 4/14/2025  
*Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region*

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_