

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: Mark & recapture of silver surfperch in Northern California

Project Location: Nearshore waters of Humboldt and Mendocino Counties (Reading Rock SMCA, Gold Bluffs Beach, Samoa SMCA, Mad River Beach County Park, Ten Mile SMR, Virgin Creek Mouth)

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the California State Polytechnic University Humboldt pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for scientific purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to take coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), steelhead trout (*O. mykiss*), and Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*) 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 Polytechnic University Humboldt's research study on silver surfperch. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture coho salmon, steelhead trout, and Chinook salmon during surveys. The applicant will conduct mark & recapture research of silver surfperch through the use of hook & line – baited dropper loop through December 31, 2025.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Noah Gabay, California State Polytechnic University Humboldt


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 of silver surfperch within nearshore waters of Humboldt and Mendocino Counties (Reading Rock SMCA, Gold Bluffs Beach, Samoa SMCA, Mad River Beach County Park, Ten Mile SMR, Virgin Creek Mouth) which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to coho salmon, steelhead trout, or Chinook salmon which are all listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dylan Inskeep

Telephone: (707) 317-3924

Signature:  _____ **Date:** 4/17/2025
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____