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: Collection of white seabass (*Atractoscion nobilis*) broodstock in Southern California for the Ocean Resources Enhancement and Hatchery Program (OREHP)

Project Location: Nearshore and offshore waters of the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego (special focus on Santa Catalina Island)

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the Coastal Conservation Association of California pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for scientific purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to take Southern California Distinct Population Segment (DPS) steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss)* during the course of sampling, subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this sampling is for the Coastal Conservation Association of California research study in coordination with Hubbs-Seaworld's OREHP. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture steelhead trout during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round research and permanent collection sampling of white seabass through the use of hook & line – baited dropper loop, hook & line – swimbait, and hook & line – surface through December 31, 2027.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Tonie Bangos, Coastal Conservation Association of California

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 and permanent collection sampling within nearshore and offshore waters of the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego with special focus on Santa Catalina Island 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 Inskeep **Telephone:** (707) 317-3924

Signature: _____ **Date:** ___**4/22/2025**_____
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

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