

**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:** EPA National Coastal Condition Assessment (NCCA) 2025

**Project Location:** San Francisco Bay (Entire), Grizzly Bay, Suisun Bay, Sacramento River, Marina Del Rey, Humboldt Bay, San Joaquin River, Mission Bay, Bolinas Lagoon, Long Beach Harbor, San Pedro Bay, San Diego Bay, Morro Bay, Ano Nuevo SMR, and Tomales Bay

**Project Description:** The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the Moss Landing Marine Labs pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for scientific purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to take longfin smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*), coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*), and delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*) during the course of sampling, subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this sampling is for the Moss Landing Marine Labs to help conduct the EPA's National Coastal Condition Assessment for 2025. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture longfin smelt, coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, white sturgeon, and delta smelt during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round research of coastal marine species through the use of hook & line – surface, cast net, beach seine, and otter trawls through December 31, 2026.

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

**Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Marco Sigala, Moss Landing Marine Labs


**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 sampling within coastal waters throughout the state which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to longfin smelt, coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, white sturgeon, or delta smelt which are all listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Dylan Inskeep

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

**Signature:**  \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 5/2/2025  
*Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region*

- Signed by Lead Agency
- Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_