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: Market Squid Paralarvae Survey

Project Location: Nearshore and offshore waters Statewide

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the California Wetfish Producers Association 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)*, coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) and Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus 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 Wetfish Producers Association market squid study. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture steelhead trout, coho salmon, and Chinook salmon during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round market squid research sampling through the use of bongo nets and hook & line – squid jig through December 31, 2027.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Joel Van Noord, California Wetfish Producers Association

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 Statewide which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to steelhead trout, coho salmon, 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:** __**5/19/2025**_____
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

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