

**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:** Nearshore studies on the movement patterns & reproductive biology of economically valuable fish species along the coast of California

**Project Location:** Nearshore waters statewide

**Project Description:** The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the Pflieger Institute of Environmental Research (PIER) 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*), Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and 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 PIER's research study on economically valuable fish within California. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture coho salmon, Chinook salmon, and steelhead trout during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round research sampling of nearshore economically valuable fish species using hook & line – baited dropper loop, hook & line – swimbait, hook & line – surface, and fish traps through December 31, 2027.

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

**Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Chugey Sepulveda, PIER


**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 waters statewide which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to coho salmon, Chinook salmon, or steelhead trout which are all listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Dylan Inskeep

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

**Signature:**  \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 5/23/2025  
*Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region*

Signed by Lead Agency

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