

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
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: 2025 San Francisco Bay USACE Dredge Monitoring Study

Project Location: Pinole Shoal Channel

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the Novo Aquatic Sciences, Inc. 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*), Delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) during the course of sampling, subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this sampling is for the Novo Aquatic Sciences, Inc. to subsample the dredging material produced from the routine USACE dredging of San Francisco Bay to determine counts of species caught during the dredging activities. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially possess longfin smelt, Delta smelt, coho salmon, Chinook salmon, and white sturgeon during surveys. The applicant will conduct sampling of dredging materials from June – November 2025 through the use of hand collections and dip nets from the crab basket and hopper of the dredging vessel.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Steven Novotny, Novo Aquatic Sciences Inc.


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 sampling of dredged materials from San Francisco Bay which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to longfin smelt, Delta smelt, coho salmon, Chinook salmon, or white sturgeon 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: _____