

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: Ocean Institute’s Collections

Project Location: Nearshore and offshore waters of the following counties: Orange County (Dana Point Harbor, Dana Point SMCA, Laguna Beach SMCA, Doheny State Beach, Laguna Beach SMR, Crystal Cove SMCA, San Clemente State Beach), San Diego County (San Onofre State Beach), and Los Angeles County (Santa Catalina Island)

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the Ocean Institute pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for educational purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to take 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 Ocean Institute’s permanent collections. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture steelhead trout during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round permanent collection sampling of nearshore and offshore marine species through the use of hook & line – surface and bottom trawls through December 31, 2027.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Sophia Carter Peters, Ocean Institute


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 permanent collection sampling within nearshore and offshore waters of the following counties: Orange County (Dana Point Harbor, Dana Point SMCA, Laguna Beach SMCA, Doheny State Beach, Laguna Beach SMR, Crystal Cove SMCA, San Clemente State Beach), San Diego County (San Onofre State Beach), and Los Angeles County (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:** 5/28/2025
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

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