

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: Evaluating performance of California’s MPA network for sandy beach & surf zone ecosystems

Project Location: Nearshore waters of the counties of Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Monterey, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the University of California Santa Barbara 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*), steelhead trout (*O. mykiss*), and Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*) during the course of sampling, subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this sampling is for the University of California Santa Barbara’s research study on the performance of California’s MPA network for sandy beach and surf zone ecosystems. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture coho salmon, steelhead trout, and Chinook salmon during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round research sampling of nearshore sandy beach habitat species using beach seines through December 31, 2027.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Jenifer Dugan, University of California Santa Barbara


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 of the counties of Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma, Marin, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Monterey, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to coho salmon, steelhead trout, 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:** 6/12/2025
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

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