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: Sampling eelgrass & marine invertebrates to assess wasting disease & response of organisms to climate change.

Project Location: Bodega Harbor (Mason's Marina, Westside Park, Campbell Cove, and Doran Beach), and Tomales Bay (Nick's Cove, Blake's Landing, Sacramento Landing, and Lawson's Landing)

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the University of California Davis pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for educational purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to take Central California Coast Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU) coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) 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's research study on eelgrass and marine invertebrates in relation to wasting disease and response to climate change. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture coho salmon during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round research sampling of marine invertebrates and eelgrass through the use of beach seines through December 31, 2027.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: John Stachowicz, University of California Davis

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 Bodega Harbor and Tomales Bay which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to coho salmon which are listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dylan Inskeep **Telephone:** (707) 317-3924

Signature: _____ **Date:** ___**6/23/2025**_____
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

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