

**Notice of Exemption**

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**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  
1010 Riverside Parkway  
West Sacramento, CA 95605

**Project Title:** Shelf Rockfish Hook & Line Survey

**Project Location:** Nearshore and offshore waters of the counties of the Southern California Bight (Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego)

**Project Description:** The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for scientific purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to take Southern California Distinct Population Segment (DPS) 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 NOAA's research studies. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture Southern California DPS steelhead trout during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round research of rockfish species through the use of hook & line – baited shrimp fly through December 31, 2028.

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

**Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** John Harms, NOAA

**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 and offshore waters of the Southern California Bight (Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties) 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:** Claire Waggoner **Date:** 9/16/2025  
*Claire Waggoner, Habitat Conservation Program Manager, Marine Region*

Signed by Lead Agency

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