

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
1010 Riverside Parkway
West Sacramento, CA 95605

Project Title: Biodiversity & Biooptics of Zooplankton

Project Location: Nearshore and offshore waters of Monterey County

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute 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*) and Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) during the course of sampling, subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this sampling is for the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture coho salmon and Chinook salmon during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round permanent collection sampling of nearshore and offshore marine species through the use of midwater trawls through December 31, 2028.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Steven Haddock, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research 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 research sampling within nearshore and offshore waters of Monterey County which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to coho salmon or Chinook salmon which are both listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dylan Inskeep

Telephone: (707) 317-3924

Signature: Claire Waggoner **Date:** 9/23/2025
Claire Waggoner, Habitat Conservation Program Manager, Marine Region

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____