Notice of Exemption Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of: N/A

From: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
1933 Cliff Dr. Suite 9
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Project Title: Commercial Fishery Line Marking Prohibition

Project Applicant: N/A

Project Location - Specific: State ocean waters

Project Location - City: N/A Project Location - County: N/A

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The proposed project would add Section 181, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), to prohibit all state-managed commercial fisheries from using line marking patterns already assigned to another fishery on the U.S. West Coast.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, 15307 & 15308
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et seq.*), the Department adopted the regulation by relying on the categorical exemptions contained in CEQA Guidelines Sections 15307 (Action by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources) and 15308 (Action by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment). The exemptions apply to agency actions to protect natural resources and the environment.

The proposed project would prohibit every state-managed commercial fishery from using any line with a pattern that has been assigned to another state fishery operating off the U.S. West Coast. This would prevent misidentification of the source of any entanglement that involved protected natural resources such as humpback whale, blue whale, or Pacific leatherback turtle. Accurate identification of an entanglement source would in turn allow the Department to work with stakeholders and partners to better develop strategies to reduce and mitigate future entanglements. As such the proposal is an activity that is the proper subject of CEQA's Class 7 and Class 8 categorical exemptions.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Anthony Shiao

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (805) 560-6056

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☒Yes ☐No

Signature:  Date: 11/17/2025 Title: Regulations Unit Program Manager

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant. Date Received for filing at OPR: