

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
1700 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Project Title: Reproductive Dynamics of *Doryteuthis opalescens*, California market squid

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

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the Scripps Institution of Oceanography pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for scientific purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to take Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), and 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 the Scripps Institution of Oceanography’s research study into the reproductive ecology of California market squid. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and steelhead trout during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round research of California market squid through the use of hook & line – squid jig through December 31, 2029.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Theodora Mautz, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

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 San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, Monterey, and Santa Cruz which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to Chinook salmon, coho salmon, or steelhead trout which are all listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dylan Inskeep

Telephone: (707) 317-3924

Signature: Claire Waggoner **Date:** 4/1/2026
Claire Waggoner, Habitat Conservation Program Manager, Marine Region

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