

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: Aquarium of the Bay Collections

Project Location: Nearshore and San Francisco Bay waters of the counties of: Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and San Francisco

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the Aquarium of the Bay pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) for educational purposes. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to take longfin smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*), coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) during the course of sampling, subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this sampling is for the Aquarium of the Bay’s collections. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture longfin smelt, coho salmon, Chinook salmon, and white sturgeon during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round permanent collection sampling of nearshore and estuarine marine species using hook & line – baited dropper loop, hook & line – surface, beach seine, and bottom trawl through December 31, 2028.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Melissa Schouest, Aquarium of the Bay

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 permanent collection sampling within nearshore and San Francisco Bay waters of the counties of Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Contra costa, Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and San Francisco which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to longfin smelt, coho salmon, Chinook salmon, or white sturgeon which are all listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dylan Inskeep

Telephone: (707) 317-3924

Signature: CLARE WAGGONER **Date:** 4/14/26
Claire Waggoner, Habitat Conservation Program Manager, Marine Region

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