

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: Comparative Ecology of the calico surfperch (*Amphistichus koelzi*)

Project Location: Nearshore waters statewide

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Michael Westphal 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*), steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), 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 Michael Westphal's comparative ecology of calico surfperch study. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture coho salmon, steelhead trout, and Chinook salmon during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round research sampling statewide of calico surfperch using hook & line – baited dropper loop and beach seines through December 31, 2029.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Michael Westphal, U.S. Bureau of Land Management

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 Statewide which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to coho salmon, steelhead trout, or Chinook salmon which are all listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dylan Inskeep

Telephone: (707) 317-3924

Signature: 

Date: 4/30/26

Claire Waggoner, Habitat Conservation Program Manager, Marine Region

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____