

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: Shifting Ocean Predator Ecology in the California Current

Project Location: Nearshore waters of Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin counties

Project Description: The Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to the California State University, Monterey Bay 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*), Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), 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 California State University, Monterey Bay's research studies. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the applicant to potentially capture coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and white sturgeon during surveys. The applicant will conduct year-round research sampling of various shark species using hook & line – surface, 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: Salvador Jorgensen, California State University, Monterey 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 research sampling within nearshore waters of Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin counties. The Project will not cause serious or major disturbance to coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, or white sturgeon listed under the California Endangered Species Act.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dylan Inskeep

Telephone: (707) 317-3924

Signature:



Date: 9/14/2026

Claire Waggoner, Habitat Conservation Program Manager, Marine Region

☐ Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____