

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
PO Box 3044
1400 Tenth Street, Rm 2
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marine Region
1933 Cliff Drive, Suite 9
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Project Title: Environmental Protection Agency National Coastal Condition Assessment

Project Location: San Francisco and Tomales Bays

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Moss Landing Marine Laboratory – Marine Pollution Studies Lab (MLML) pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) to sample fish statewide for the Environmental Protection Agency National Coastal Condition Assessment (NCCA). The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the MLML to incidentally take Longfin Smelt, Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon, and Steelhead Trout during the course of its sampling subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this assessment is to assess the quality of the nation’s coastal waters, lakes and reservoirs, rivers and streams, and wetlands using a statistical survey design. The assessment will survey a total of 51 sites statewide to collect fish, habitat, and water chemistry data within California’s coastal bays, estuaries, and mouths of large rivers. Covered methods of take are limited to an otter trawl net and beach seine.

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

Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Marco Sigala, Principle Investigator, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories – Marine Pollution Studies Lab.

Exempt Status:

- Ministerial;
- Declared Emergency;
- Emergency Project;
- Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Section 15306, Information Collection, Class 6.

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project involves research and the collection of information pertaining to management and human health which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to Longfin Smelt, *Spirinchus thaleichthys*, a threatened species, spring run Chinook Salmon, *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, a threatened species, winter run Chinook Salmon, an endangered species, Coho Salmon south of Punta Gorda, *Oncorhynchus kisutch*, an endangered species, Coho Salmon north of Punta Gorda, a threatened species, and Steelhead Trout, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, a candidate species.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Arn Aarreberg Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (707) 576-2889

Signature: 
Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region

Date: 04/10/2020

Governor’s Office of Planning & Research

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: APR 10 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE