

Klaipėda University - Marine Research institute  
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Reykjavík, 12. júlí 2022  
UST202205-136/P.V.B.  
09.05.01

**Subject: permit to conduct research in Flatey**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Klaipėda University – Marine Research institute, dated May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, for research permit within Flatey.

Flatey is protected as a nature reserve, cf. regulation no. 955/2021. No one is allowed to enter the nature reserve from April 15<sup>th</sup> til July 15<sup>th</sup> without a permission from the Environment Agency of Iceland. Disturbance to vegetation, and wildlife is prohibited. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland. All construction work within the nature reserve is subject to a permit from the municipality and Umhverfisstofnun.

***Description of the project:***

Purpose of the research is to study invertebrates. Samples will be collected at three sampling plots in Flatey. Each sampling plot is a square of increasing sizes with sides of 1 m, 10 m, and up to 100 m consequently. Four samples will be collected from each plot, one sample per corner. Three types of sampling will take place 1) Samples will be collected by hand or using the simple corer (depending on conditions of the substrate), labeled, and placed into plastic jars. Diameter of the cores is about 3.5 cm and depth max 6 cm. 2) Individuals of invertebrates will be collected by hand in various parts of the coast and placed in plastic jars. Aproximal three individuals per jar 3) three samples of water will be collected by filtering water by using eDNA kits. Number of employee is 1 person and the sampling will take place August 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> 2022.

***Impact assessment:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on nature and conservation value of the site. Nesting season will be over and the protected area in Flatey open for visitors.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Klaipėda University – Marine Research institute permission on its behalf to conduct research within Flatey as described above on August 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> 2022 on the following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project. The permit conditions should be introduced to the staff of the project before work begins.
- The applicant shall inform rangers in the area about their arrival and departure. This is to be done 48 hours before entering the area and again before leaving it.
- If the project dates or description changes the Environment Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- When it is necessary to go off-path, extra care must be taken not to cause damage to terrain, including vegetation, soil and geological formation. All traces of activity must be removed afterwards.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.
- This permit is only valid for research purposes. It does not include permit to utilize the samples for commercial purposes. The samples cannot be signed over to third party for commercial use.
- Every measure should be taken to avoid damage to the sites and unnecessary disturbance while collecting samples.
- Samples should be collected where any resulting disturbance to soil, vegetation or geological formations is not visible to other visitors.
- All participants in the project must wear high-visibility clothing during field work, labelled with the identity of the researcher or the research institute.
- It is not allowed to access the area by boat. The applicant must go to shore outside the protected area and enter it from land.

If the developer causes damage to nature, according to art. 87 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, the Environment Agency of Iceland can, according to the Nature Conservation Act, f.e. order the licensee to fix damage to nature and vegetation and/or stop the project.

The Environment Agency of Iceland can according to art. 89 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013 change conditions of the permit, add new conditions or withdraw the permit in order to prevent damage to nature if environmental conditions change.

According to art 89. in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013 the Environment Agency can withdraw the permit if conditions of the permit are not complied to.

If sampling takes place outside the protected area the applicant will need a permission from Breidafjordur committee ([breidafjordur\(at\)nsv.is](mailto:breidafjordur(at)nsv.is))

A permission from the landowners and/or the municipality might be needed for the project.

If you wish to export samples from Iceland a special permit is needed from the Icelandic Institute of Natural History ([www.ni.is](http://www.ni.is)).

The Environment Agency of Iceland wishes to receive, free of charge, a copy of all reports and scientific articles that result from the research project.

***Permission fee:***

Environment Agency of Iceland charges a fee for processing applications for permits in protected areas based on Article 92 of Act no. 61/2013 on Nature Conservation. The fee for researches is 39.400 ISK according to art. 24. b. in the agency's tariff no. 535/2015.

***Supervision:***

The Environment Agency will supervise the project. The supervisor will be a ranger from the Environment Agency.

Sincerely

Davíð Örvar Hansson  
*advisor*

Þórdís Björt Sigþórsdóttir  
*team leader*