

Iceland review
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Iceland

Reykjavík, 12. júlí 2024
UST202407-118/P.V.B.
09.04.00

Subject: filming and drone permit Hornstrandir

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Iceland review, dated July 4th 2024, for permit to film and fly a drone within Hornstrandir.

Hornstrandir is protected as a nature reserve by act no 60/2013 on nature conservation, cf. Regulation no 332/1985. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. According to the management plan for Hornstrandir, filming and photography that can affect wildlife and visitor experience and flying an unmanned aircraft/drone within the boundaries of the protected site is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency.

Description of the project:

Permit is requested to film and fly a drone in Hornstrandir in several locations. Drone would not be used near animals, campsites or over people and other infrastructure. Flight time would be kept at minimum. If arctic foxes would be encountered, a minimum of 40 metres will be maintained from the animal. Filming would take place in Fljótavík, Látrar, Hornbjargsviti, Hornvík, Hlöðuvík, Hesteyri and on routes between these places. Drone would be used at Fljótavík (flight plan 1), Straumnes (flight plan 2) and from Hornvík (flight plan 4). Detailed description of the flightpaths, maps, altitude, distance from cliffs, dates and time of day was included in the application with changes to flight plan 4 received on July 11th 2024. The filming and droneflight would take place in the period of July 14th -22nd 2024. Number of employees would be two persons.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project likely to have negative impact on nature and conservation value for shorter time in the flight routes requested. This can be minimized if conditions for the permit are followed and applicant makes sure not to fly near birds and foxes. The Environment Agency considers drone flights as having possible

negative affects on other visitors and it is emphasised that utmost care is taken so others will not notice, when it is flown.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Iceland review permission on its behalf to fly a drone and film within Hornstrandir as described above on July 14th -22nd 2024 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.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.
- The project's staff is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- If the material is meant for public viewing it must be noted in the video/subtext that permission from the Environment Agency was obtained for the filming/photography.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- It is not allowed to use generators in the campsites.
- It is not allowed to feed the animals in the area.
- Keep a 40 meters distance from dens and foxes that occupy them.
- No filming is allowed from 8 pm until 8 am near the dens.
- An unmanned aircraft should never be flown in close proximity to people. Please take precaution not to disturb people's experience, their safety or personal privacy nor the general peace of the protected areas being filmed.
- According to Icelandic law it is forbidden to fly close to cliffs where birds nest. An unmanned aircraft should never be flown near animals or birds, neither in nesting areas nor during nesting season or any other seasonal time when animals or bird habitats are considered vulnerable.
- Flight time should be kept to a minimum and flight should be avoided when other visitors are near.
- If the use of unmanned aircraft causes disturbance to wildlife in the area, its use should be ceased at once.
- The conductor of the unmanned aircraft is responsible for the aircraft within the protected area. This includes taking responsibility of any possible risk of harm to

people, fauna and nature and leaving no permanent marks on the site in question. Should the aircraft crash, all components from it must be collected and removed from the area.

- It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 200 meters.
- If falcons or eagles are seen in the area, it is not allowed to fly the drone there.

If the licensee 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.

Unmanned aircraft should take off and land in a safe distance from other visitors according to regulation 990/2017 on unmanned aircrafts.

The usage of a drone shall be according to regulation no. 990/2017 on the operation of remotely piloted aircraft (<https://www.icetra.is/aviation/drones/>).

Please note that according to the regulation all drones used for commercial flight need to be registered at the Icelandic Transport Authority.

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 constructions, droneflights, cinematography and/or photography is **83.200 ISK** according to art. 29. b. in the agency's tariff no. 1410/2023.

Supervision:

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

Sincerely

Kristín Ósk Jónasdóttir
advisor

Pórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir
advisor