

Halldór Jóhannsson
Ráðhústorg 7
600 Akureyri
Iceland

Reykjavík, 14. ágúst 2024
UST202408-020/S.K.V.
09.04.00

Subject: permit to conduct research at Strýtur hydrothermal vent

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Halldór Jóhannsson on behalf of School of Oceanography, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China, dated 3rd of August 2024, for taking samples at the hydrothermal vents in Eyjafjörður.

Arnarnesstrýtur hydrothermal vent is protected cf. regulation no. 510/2007. Research and collection of specimens are subject to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland. It is prohibited to disrupt the hydrothermal vent chimneys and attach any kind of sign on the vents.

The Strýtur hydrothermal vent is protected cf. regulation no. 249/2001 Research and collection of specimens are subject to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland. It is prohibited to disrupt the hydrothermal vent chimneys and attach any kind of sign on the vents.

Description of the project:

Samples of water, sediments, rocks and biological specimens around the hydrothermal vents would be collected. The sampling would be conducted by two divers under the supervision of Erlendur Bogason. 4 100ml water samples would be taken as well as small samples of the vents (round 5 x 5 cm in size).

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project to be minimal and not likely to have negative impact on the conservation value of the hydrothermal vents.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Halldór Jóhannsson on behalf of School of Oceanography, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China, permission on its behalf to collect

samples from the geothermal vents in Eyjafjörður as described above from 3rd to 31st of August 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.
- If the project dates or description changes the Environment Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- All traces of the work must be removed carefully from the site by the end of the work/project.
- 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.

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.

Permit from the National Energy Authority is needed for research in geothermal areas (www.os.is).

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

The Environment Agency of Iceland requests access to reports and scientific articles of the aforementioned studies, which could be used for educational purposes about the area and/or assist in its management, free of charge.

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 research and other activities is **62.400 ISK** according to art. 29. a. in the agency's tariff no. 1410/2023.

Sincerely

Dagbjört Jónsdóttir
advisor

Sveinn Kári Valdimarsson
advisor