

TF1 FRENCH TV  
1 quai du point du jour  
92100 BOULOGNE-BILLANCOURT  
France

Reykjavík, 28. júní 2024  
UST202405-280/P.V.B.  
09.04.00

**Subject: application for a permit to visit Surtsey**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Michel Izard from the TF1 FRENCH TV, dated May 28<sup>th</sup> 2024, for permit to visit Surtsey.

Surtsey is protected as a nature reserve cf. regulation no. 50/2006. Written permission from the Environment Agency of Iceland is needed to visit the island and dive within the nature reserve. Permits to visit are issued exclusively for research purposes and/or for projects directly related to research. Photographers and filmmakers can apply for permits to visit to produce documentary material relating to Surtsey and associated research projects situated within the designated nature reserve.

**Description of the project:**

Purpose of the visit would be to make a report of the annual biological expedition in Surtsey. The applicant would participate in the annual biological expedition in July 15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> 2024. Drone would be used for filming if allowed.

**Impact assessment:**

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the visit not likely to have negative effect on conservation value and nature in the site if conditions of the permit and instructions from the ranger from the Environment Agency are followed. The Agency considers that the project will have a positive effect on the image of the site and knowledge about the area.

**Conclusions and conditions:**

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Michel Izard permission on its behalf to visit Surtsey as described above on July 15<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> 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.
- When traveling around in Surtsey extra care must be taken not to cause damage to terrain, including vegetation, soil and geological formation.
- The applicant must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.

- Applicant needs to thoroughly clean all clothing and equipment before entering the island to prevent any soil, seeds or organisms from being brought to the island. The expedition leader is responsible for introducing guidelines on how to clean clothes and equipment to other members of the expedition.
- If clothes and equipment are not clean the supervisor from the Environment Agency can request that any equipment is recleaned or left behind, that departure is delayed until improvements have been made or request that the travel permit is withdrawn.
- The applicant is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- Traffic through the seagull collonie should be kept to a minimum and avoid the area when it rains. Special care must be taken not to disturb fledglings. Seals should not be disturbed.
- Make sure that you take all luggage and litter with you when leaving the island.
- There is no drinking water or toilet facilities on the island. The expedition must bring with them all supplies.
- While staying on the island all members of the expedition/crew must comply to the instructions from the supervisor from the Environment Agency that accompanies the group and the scientist staying in the island.
- **Filming must take place in agreement with the scientists who will be working in Surtsey at the time and it is not allowed to disturb their work in any way without their approval.**
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.
- The applicant should be conscious of other people on the sites and make sure that droneflight causes as little disturbance as possible to the scientist working in the area. 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Care should be taken when flying drones to maintain as much distance from nesting areas as possible.

If the applicant 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.

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.

The Environment Agency of Iceland wishes to have access to the report and material filmed that result from the project for educational purposes.

Instruction on how to clean clothes and equipment are in an attachment.

**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 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

Inga Dóra Hrólfsdóttir  
**director**

Jón Björnsson  
**advisor**