

Tobias Mennle filmproduction  
Berlinerstr.14  
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20. júní 2019  
UST201905-143/P.V.B.

**Subject: Regarding application for filming permit in Hornstrandir**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Tobias Mennle, dated May 15<sup>th</sup> 2019, for filming permit within Hornstrandir Nature reserve.

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 visitors experience and flying an unmanned aircraft/drone within the boundaries of the protected site is subjected to a permit from the Environment Agency of Iceland.

***Description of the project:***

The filming is for a documentary about the research Ester Rut Unnsteinsdóttir is conducting on Arctic foxes in Iceland. The plan is to accompany her for one year while conducting field work in Hornstrandir nature reserve. Most of the close ups of foxes will come from archive. Shooting periods will be June 20<sup>th</sup>- July 5<sup>th</sup> 2019, August 23<sup>rd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 and March 12<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>sd</sup> 2020. There should also be a couple of selected drone shots to give the audience a sense of space and greatness of the landscape. Flight paths and altitude is described in the application. Flight one is close to the house the group will stay in with altitude around 50 meters. Flight two will be in mount of the bay near the waterfall with altitude of 10-100 meters. Flight three is between location one and two flying over to coast line with flight altitude of 20-50 meters. Flight four will take place at Hornbjarg at the edge of the bird cliffs early in the morning or late in the evening. Flight altitude will be 5-50 meters and the plan is to fly 400 meters along the edge of the cliff. Flight five will also take place near the cliff edge at Hornbjarg flying downwards towards the sea keeping 50 m right to the cliff for about 300 meters. Flight six is also at the cliff edge of Hornbjarg for about 100 meters. Flight altitude 20 meters. Flight seven will 100 meters above summit of „pyramyd“ for an overview of landscape early in the morning or late evening. Flight eight is near the house the groups stays in and with flight altitude of 50 meters. Flight nine will take place near the waterfall in the mount of the bay with altitude of 10-100 meters. Flight ten will be between flights eight and nine following the coast line with flight altitude 20-50 meters. Flights 4-7 will take place in June 2019. Flights 7-8 will take place in August 2019. Flights 1-3 and 10 will take place in March 2020. Batteries will be charged using a Honda generator. The generator

will be placed in the drainage channel behind the base camp near Stig's house to minimize noise pollution.

***Impact assessment:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers a part of the project not likely to have negative impact on the conservation value of the protected area, given that the applicant follows instructions from the Icelandic Institute of Natural History and the drone flight takes place when few visitors are in the area.

The part of the project that includes drone fly near Hornbjarg (flights 4-6) is considered to have great negative impact on the wildlife of the area since the breeding period for many seabirds nesting in Hornbjarg cliff has started and a drone can have very disturbing effects on nesting birds.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

June is the breeding period for many seabirds that nest in Hornbjarg cliff. Flying a drone near the cliff in low altitude in June can cause great disturbance and stress for the birds nesting there. The Environment Agency of Iceland thereby **declines** Tobial Mennle application for flying a drone near Hornbjarg during nesting season as described in the description of the project above for drone flights 4-6. The Environment Agency **grants** Tobias Mennle permission on its behalf to film within Hornstrandir nature reserve and fly a drone as described in flight paths 1-3 and 7-10 here above on following conditions:

- Keep this letter with you on site during the project. The permit conditions should be introduced to the staff before the work begins.
- If the dates of the project or project description changes the Environment Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- The applicant shall inform rangers in the area 48 hours before drone flight starts or when he will arrive in the area.
- Fauna, geological formations and landscape should not be disturbed in any way.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Crew members should always stay on authorized paths/tracks when possible.
- Crew members shall wear marked clothing or some kind of identification when filming.
- The crew shall be conscious of other guests on the sites and make sure that drone flight causes as little disturbance as possible to other visitors.
- If the drone flight causes disturbance to birds or other animals in the area the applicant shall cease the flight at once.
- An unmanned aircraft should never be flown near people. Please take precaution not to disturb people's experience, their safety or personal privacy nor the general peace of the protected areas 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.
- The conductor of the unmanned aircraft is responsible for the aircraft within the protected area. This includes responsibility so that people, fauna and nature is unharmed because of the aircraft's use and that no permanent mark be left on the site

- in question. Should the aircraft crash, all components from it must be collected and removed from the area.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.

The decision may be appealed to the Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources according to Article 26 of Act no. 37/1993 on Administrative Procedures, based on Article 91 of Act no. 60/2013 on Nature Conservation within three months from the date of this letter.

If the applicant causes damage to the 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. ordered the licensee to fix damage to the 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.

The usage of 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.

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

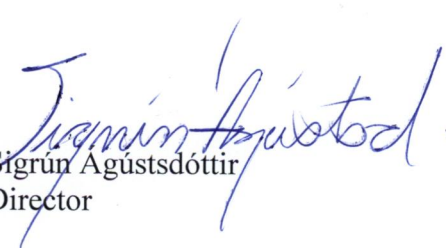
***Permission fee:***

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 cinematography and/or photography is 52.600 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



Sigrún Agústsðóttir  
Director

Kristín Ósk Jónasdóttir  
Kristín Ósk Jónasdóttir  
Advisor