

Gregory M Munson
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United States

Reykjavík, 10. March 2022
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09.06.01

Subject: Permit for flying a drone within Hornstrandir nature reserve

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Gregory M Munson, dated 6th January 2022, for filming with a drone within Hornstrandir nature reserve on June 27th– July 2nd, 2022.

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:

The project applied for is to fly a drone within Hornstrandir nature reserve, that is in Hornvík, Hornbjarg, Látravík, Drífandi and Veiðileysufjörður. A map with marked hiking path and shooting sites was sent in by the applicant. The drone use will occur within 0,5 km of the route shown on the map, at an altitude between 1m and 120m. Each flight will last for maximum of 5 minutes. It is also applied for a permit to fly the drone near bird cliffs at a significant distance from the bird cliffs, at an altitude of no less than about 15m above the bird cliffs.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers flying a drone near bird cliffs in Hornstrandir during a sensitive time for birdlife due to nesting is likely to have negative impact on the birdlife. Eggs and youngsters are likely to fall of the cliff if the birds are disturbed with a drone. The bird cliffs in Hornstrandir nature reserve are classified as an important bird area. Some of the species that nest in the cliffs have been categorised as species in danger and between 40 – 56 % of the Icelandic stock nests in the two cliffs surrounding Hornvík.

The guiding light of the management plan for the nature reserve is to preserve the silence and calmness of the area and therefore it is very important that the drone does not disturb the experience of other visitors.

Conclusions and conditions:

The application for flying a drone near bird cliffs within Hornstrandir nature reserve is **declined**.

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Gregory M Munson permission, on its behalf, to film with a drone within Hornstrandir nature reserve as shown on the map here below and as described above, apart from the bird cliffs, on 27th– July 2nd, 2022, on the following conditions:



- Keep this letter with you on site during the project.
- 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.
- To prevent disturbance to other guests the drone shall not be used if other guests are in sight.
- Always stay on authorized paths.
- The rules of conduct that apply to the area shall be followed.
- 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 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 during the area's busiest times of the day.
- 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.
- If the drone crash, all components from it must be collected and removed from the area.
- For safety reasons, the pilot of the drone must wear marked clothing so that the person can be identified.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- Prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.

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 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 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, located in Höfn, Hornvík.

Sincerely

Kristín Ósk Jónasdóttir
team leader

Ingibjörg Marta Bjarnadóttir
advisor