

Humblebee Films Ltd
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United Kingdom

Reykjavík, May 2nd 2024
UST202404-213/S.V.
09.04.00

Subject: Permit for Cinematography within Hornstrandir Nature Reserve.

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Humblebee Films Ltd, dated April 17th, 2024, 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 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 will take place in three periods, 01/07/24 - 13/07/27, 23/09/24 - 30/09/24 and 18/03/25 - 02/04/25. The purpose of it is to film the natural behaviour of arctic fox cubs and their parents, as well as their interactions with seabird colonies. The film crew will follow the guidance and advice of Dr. Ester Rut Unnsteinsdóttir on how to minimize impact on the animals. Cameras and one drone will be used for the project. The crew will maintain a minimum of 40 meters distance from the foxes and flight of the drone will be within visual line of sight to a minimum altitude of 120 meters. Basecamp will be situated in the existing camping grounds at Hornvík Bay in the first period as well a generator which will only be used within permitted hours. The film crew consists of 3 persons from Humble Bee plus one local fixer.

Impact assessment:

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project likely to have negative impact on nature and conservation value for shorter time. This can be minimized if conditions for the permit are followed.

The value of Hornstrandir ecosystem is high worldwide. It is one of few places in Iceland where arctic foxes are protected. Unfortunately visitors to the area do stress them which does not have good effect.

There are seven internationally important bird cliffs in this part of Iceland. Hornbjarg and Hælavíkurbjarg are the largest of them. There are about and over 50% of the Icelandic stock, of three species that breed in the cliffs; kittivake (*rissa tridactyla*), common guillemot (*uria aalge*) and Brunnich's Guillemot (*uria lomvia*). It is not aloud to fly a drone anywhere close to the cliffs in the period March until the end of September.

Attention is drawn to that guiding light for this nature reserve is to protect quietness. Therefore it is not aloud to operate the generator at the campsite between 4 pm and 11 am.

Conclusions and conditions:

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby declines Humblebee Films Ltd request to film with a drone near the cliffs Hornbjarg and Hælavíkurbjarg the period of in the period March - August

The Environment Agency of Iceland grants Humblebee Films Ltd permission on its behalf for the film project which spans the periods, 01/07/24 - 13/07/27, 23/09/24 - 30/09/24 and 18/03/25 - 02/04/25 as described above 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.
- Please contact Hornstrandir Visitor Center at Ísafjörður 48 hours before entering the area, all three times, to inform about the team's arrivals and departures.
- If the project dates or description changes the Environment Agency shall be notified as soon as possible.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- According to Icelandic law it is forbidden to fly close to cliffs where birds nest, e.g. from beginning of March to end of August.
- No filming is allowed from 8 pm until 8 am near the dens.
- Keep a 40 meters distance from dens and foxes that occupy them.
- While on the campsite in Höfn, the generator can only operate when other visitors are not in the campsite. That often happens between 11 am and 4 pm.

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 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 cinematography is **83.200 ISK** according to art. 29. b. in the agency's tariff no. 206/2023.

Sincerely

Sigrún Valgarðsdóttir
advisor

Kristín Ósk Jónasdóttir
advisor