

Axfilms ehf.  
Gufunesvegur 1  
Rvk  
Iceland

Reykjavík, 5. júlí 2022  
UST202201-278/P.V.B.  
09.06.01

**Subject: permit to visit Surtsey**

The Environment Agency of Iceland has received an application from Axfilm ehf. on behalf of Carlos Marques-Marcet and Aleix Plademunt, dated January 26<sup>th</sup> 2022, for permit to visit Surtsey for a filming project.

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:***

The filming project is a documentary film and part of a bigger project. The last stage of this big project is a documentary essay film in the crossing between art, film, social and natural sciences in which the island of Surtsey will have a very relevant role. The main goal of the filming in Surtsey is recording images and sounds of the island, of the nature itself and any small details that can be revealing to better understand the ecosystem and the evolution of the island. In case some of the scientist are willing to share their knowledge with interviews will be record with them at moments when it doesn't interfere at all with their work. The filmcrew consists of 2 employee and will participate in the annual science expedition to Surtsey that takes place July 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> 2022. No drone will be used.

***Impact assessment:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on the conservation value of 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 affect on the image of the site and knowledge about the area.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

The Environment Agency of Iceland hereby grants Carlos Marques-Marcet and Aleix Plademunt permission on its behalf to visit Surtsey and film there as described above on July 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> 2022 on the following conditions:

- This permit is only valid for the following individuals named in the application
  - Carlos Marques-Marcet
  - Aleix Plademunt
- 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 crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- Time spent in the area should be limited as possible.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Environment Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 591 2000.
- The crew should be conscious of other people on the sites and make sure that filming 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.
- The project's staff is required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- Crew members need 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 re-cleaned or left behind, that departure is delayed until improvements have been made or request that the travel permit is withdrawn.
- It is not allowed to disturb fauna, geological formations or wildlife in Surtsey.
- 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.

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.

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 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

Magnús Freyr Sigurkarlsson  
*advisor*

Pórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir  
*advisor*