

Octopuce Production

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Application for a permit to film with a drone within Hornstrandir nature reserve

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Octopuce Production, dated on the 22nd of May 2025 for a permit to film with a drone within Hornstrandir nature reserve.

Hornstrandir is protected as a nature reserve, 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 nature reserve, cf. regulation no 161/2019, 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 Nature Conservation Agency.

Description of the project:

The project applied for is for filming with a drone at 13 locations within Hornstrandir nature reserve. The project will take place from 1st of August to the 17th of August 2025. The flight time for each flight is a maximum of 20 minutes and the altitude of the flights is 2-477m. The flight will all be close to hiking trails and bivouac sites. A report with detailed description of each flight, coordinates and a map showing the locations were attached to the application.

Impact assessment:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland considers the project as described not likely to have negative impact on the nature of the area since it will take place in August once the nesting is coming to an end. It is very important that the drone flights do not disturb other guests in the area and are not executed if there are people in proximity to a flight location. Hornbjargsviti will have visitors until the 9th of August. For the project at Hornvík it is important to consult with the ranger before flying the drone. Special care must be taken not to disturb wildlife and other guests within the nature reserve.

Conclusion:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants Octopuce Production permission on its behalf to film with a drone within Hornstrandir nature reserve as described above and according to the report that was attached to the application on the 1st to the 17th of August 2025. Note that according to regulation no 1360/2024 on operation of unmanned aircraft it is prohibited to fly above 120m altitude. The permit is granted under 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.
- 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 Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland shall be notified as soon as possible.
- Crew members should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- The crew must follow rules of conduct that apply to the area.
- Every measure must be taken not to cause damage to the site and limit the size of the filming site.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 556 6800.
- The project's staff are required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- The crew should be conscious of other guests and wildlife on the sites and make sure that filming causes no disturbance to other visitors.
- If the material is meant for public viewing it must be noted in the video/subtext that permission from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland was obtained for the use of drone.
- All disturbances to wildlife and other guests are strictly prohibited.
- An unmanned aircraft should never be flown in close proximity to people. Please take precautions not to disturb people's experience, their safety or personal privacy nor the general peace of the protected areas being filmed.
- Maximum altitude of the flight cannot be higher than 120m, according to regulation [1360/2024](#) on unmanned aircraft.
- 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 for 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.
- For safety reasons, the pilot of an unmanned aerial vehicle must wear marked
- If falcons or eagles are seen in the area, it is not allowed to fly the drone there.
- It is not allowed to feed the animals in the area.
- Keep at least 40 meters distance from dens and foxes that occupy them.
- No filming is allowed from 8 pm until 8 am near the dens.

If the licensee causes damage to nature, according to art. 87 in the Nature Conservation Act no. 60/2013, the Nature Conservation 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 Nature Conservation 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 Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland can withdraw the permit if conditions of the permit are not complied to.

Unmanned aircraft should take off and land at a safe distance from other visitors according to regulation 1360/2024 on unmanned aircraft.

The usage of a drone shall be according to regulation no. 1360/2024 on the operation of remotely piloted aircraft (<https://www.icetra.is/aviation/drones/>).

Please note that according to the regulation all drones need to be registered at the Icelandic Transport Authority. You can register them at the webpage [flydrone.is](https://www.flydrone.is)

Permission fee:

Nature Conservation 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 construction, drone flights, cinematography and/or photography is **83.200 ISK** according to art. 7. b. in the agency's tariff no. 354/2025.

Supervision:

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland will supervise the project. The supervisor will be a ranger from the agency.

Sincerely

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advisor

Ingibjörg Marta Bjarnadóttir

advisor