

Tej Mehta

Garðabær, 16. júní 2025

202505-0121/I.M.B.

10.02.01

### **Application for a permit to use a drone within Hornstrandir nature reserve**

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Tej Mehta, dated on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2025 for a permit to fly 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 within 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 nature reserve is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

#### ***Description of the project:***

The project applied for is for using a drone on two locations within Hornstrandir nature reserve on the above mentioned dates. The flight descriptions are as follows:

Take off near mid trail head of Skálarkambur pass (approximate GPS location 66°24'52.8"N, 22°33'57.4"W). Fly over land around mid-portion of pass avoiding proximity to any nearby campsites. Return to take off site and land. The flight altitude will range from 15-100 meters. Will not loiter overland at takeoff/landing location. Will also maintain line of sight distance of 100 meters from operator to any nearby people during takeoff/landing

Take off near western portion of Skálarkambur pass (approximate GPS location 66°25'06.3"N 22°38'37.6"W). Fly over land around the western portion of pass and nearby water to the north avoiding proximity to any nearby campsites. Return to take off site and land. The flight altitude will range from 15-100 meters. Will not loiter overland at takeoff/landing location. Will also maintain line of sight distance of 100 meters from operator to any nearby people during takeoff/landing to reduce disturbances to any people.

An aerial photograph showing the flight paths, take-off and landing of the drone was attached to the application.

#### ***Impact assessment:***

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland considers the project not to be harmful to the nature of Hornstrandir, if rules and conditions are followed.

It is very important to respect the peace and quiet of the area and therefore not to operate the drone close to other people. Other visitors should not be aware of the drones.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants Tej Mehta permission on its behalf to use a drone within Hornstrandir nature reserve as described above on the 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2025 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 24 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.
- If any complications occur during the project, please contact the ranger or the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland, tel. +354 556 6800.
- All disturbances to animals and wildlife are strictly prohibited.
- The project's staff are required to prevent all disturbance to the environment and make sure that all litter is removed from the sites.
- 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 filming/photography.
- The crew should be conscious of other guests on the sites and make sure that filming causes as little disturbance as possible to other visitors.
- 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.
- 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.

- 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 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 no [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](http://flydrone.is)

***Permission fee:***

Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland charges a fee for processing applications for permits within protected areas based on Article 92 of Act no. 61/2013 on Nature Conservation. The fee for droneflight for recreational flights in up to two areas is **41.600 ISK** according to art. 7. b. in the agency's tariff no. 354/2025.

***Supervision:***

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

Sincerely

Kristín Ósk Jónasdóttir

***advisor***

Ingibjörg Marta Bjarnadóttir



*advisor*