

Orca Procuptions ehf  
Síðumúli 29  
108 Reykjavík

Garðabær, 3. apríl 2025  
202503-0237/p.V.B.  
10.02.01

**Subject: Permitt to film and fly a drone in protected areas**

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland has received an application from Orca Procuptions ehf, dated, March 17<sup>th</sup> 2025, for filming permit at Svöðufoss, Sönghellir, the beach at Stapi and Hellnar and Snæfellsjökull national park.

The beach at Stapi and Hellnar is protected as a nature reserve cf. regulation no. 284/1988. Disturbance to geological formations, vegetation and wild animal life in the protected area is prohibited. Operating an unmanned aircraft/drone within the protected area is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland.

Snæfellsjökull National park is protected as a national park cf. regulation no. 935/2021. Operating an unmanned aircraft within the national park is subjected to a permit from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland according to art. 7 in the Regulation during nesting season. Permit from the Nature Conservation Agency is needed for any kind of commercial activity and events within the national park according to art. 15 in the Regulation.

Svöðufoss and Sönghellir are not within a protected area or under the supervision of Nature Conservation Agency. The applicant needs to apply directly to the landowner/municipality of the area.

***Description of the project:***

At the beach at Stapi and Hellnar the filming would take place both at Arnarstapi and Hellnar. Within Snæfellsjökull national park the filming would take place at Djúpalónssand, Malarrif and Saxhól. Filming would take place for approximately 8 hours per day either on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 2025 or April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 2025. Maximum time at each location would be 2 hours. There would be no need to go off paths. Other visitors would be politely asked to wait few seconds if needed for a shot to complete. Drone would be used for the filming and a handheld camera. Number of employees would be 5 persons with 2 normal passenger cars for transport.

***Impact assessment:***

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland considers the project not likely to have negative impact on conservation value of the sites. The drone flights might have negative impact on birdlife and visitors experience at the beach at Stapi and Hellnar but the impact can be reduced if conditions of the permit are followed.

***Conclusions and conditions:***

After revision of the application, regulations for the sites and management plans it is concluded that no permission is needed from the Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland to film and fly a drone within Snæfellsjökull national park in the period requested if the project does not disturb wildlife and other visitors experience.

The Nature Conservation Agency of Iceland hereby grants Orca Procuitions ehf permission on its behalf to fly a drone within the beach at Stapi and Hellnar as described above on April 8<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> 2025 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.
- 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 shall be notified as soon as possible.
- Crew members should always stay on authorized paths/tracks/roads.
- 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 is 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 on the sites and make sure that filming causes as little disturbance as possible 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 was obtained for the filming/photography.
- All disturbance to animals and wildlife is strictly prohibited.
- An unmanned aircraft should never be flown in close proximity to 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.
- It is forbidden to fly drones next to bird cliffs in a closer proximity than 50 meters, if birds are in the cliffs.
- 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. 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.

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 in a safe distance from other visitors according to regulation 1360/2024 on unmanned aircrafts.

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://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 constructions, droneflights, cinematography and/or photography is **83.200 ISK** according to art. 29. b. in the agency's tariff no. 1410/2023.

### ***Supervision:***

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

Ragnhildur Sigurðardóttir

***park manager***

Pórdís Vilhelmína Bragadóttir

***advisor***