



Joseph Buckby

**SYSSERMESTEREN  
PÅ SVALBARD**

*Our date:*  
12.08.2021

*Our reference*  
21/01213-11

*Your date:*  
10.08.2021

## **Reply to application for supplementary field-location - RiS-ID 11689 - Past constraints on a warmer and wetter future Arctic climate**

The Governor refers to your application dated 10.08.2021, connected to RiS-ID 11689, regarding a supplementary field-location for the project “*Past constraints on a warmer and wetter future arctic climate.*” We also refer to the Governors reply, and decisions dated 02.06.2021, our reference 21/01213-6, to the original project-application. We also refer to your specifications regarding the field activities received here by e-mail 12.08.2021.

### **Application**

The supplementary field-location applied for is Richardvatnet. The primary purpose of the fieldwork at Richardvatnet is the same as for the other field-locations in the project (north-east coastline of Wijdefjorden): to extract sediment sequences from lakes. The sediments will be extracted by using manually coring equipment operated from an electrically powered raft.

The fieldwork will be performed from 12.08.2021-26.08.2021. The fieldworkers plan to travel and stay in a chartered sailing vessel.

Location of supplementary fieldwork:



## Regulations

The Svalbard Environmental Protection Act of 15 June 2001 apply. According to the Act section 25 all species of flora and fauna, including their eggs, nests and lairs, are protected. Section 37 give the Governor the authority to grant exemptions for scientific purposes or when other special reasons so indicate.

Due to the Act section 82, motor traffic in river systems is only lawful with the permission of the Governor.

Richardvatnet is located within Nordvest-Spitsbergen national park, where the Regulation relating to the national parks South-Spitsbergen, Forlandet and North West-Spitsbergen, on the nature reserves North East-Svalbard and South East-Svalbard, and on the nature reserves for birds on Svalbard apply (the Regulation). According to the Regulation section 6, the national park is protected against (among other) all activity which may disturb the natural environment. The Regulation section 11 give the Governor the authority to grant exemptions from this provision for scientific purposes if this does not conflict the purpose of the national park.

## The Governor's considerations

The coring equipment is manually operated, and will as we interpret the application, not impact landscape or terrain, or cause disturbance of the flora or fauna. We assume that all traffic in the purpose of sampling, and the choice of specific coring location will be made carefully to avoid any negative impact on resident flora or fauna, cf. the Act section 25 and the Regulation section 6.

On this basis we conclude that the extraction of sediment samples applied for do not require any special permission according to the regulations relating to neither the Act nor the Regulation.



According to the Act section 82 motor traffic on river systems require a permission of the Governor. We assume that the electrically powered raft is quiet, and that the risk of noise-disturbance of fauna caused by the traffic is limited. The disturbance that may be caused by the traffic will be temporary and quite short-lived. As far as we know there are no large concentrations of mammals or birds with risk of disturbance nearby Richardvatnet. The purpose of the measures is clearly scientific. Consequently, we consider that the traffic applied for do not conflict with the purpose of the national park, cf. the Regulation sections 6 and 11. On this basis we consider that we can grant a permission for the necessary motor traffic as applied for.

### **The Governor's decision**

The Governor has considered your application and made the following decision:

Under the provisions of the Svalbard Environmental Protection Act of 15 June 2001 § 82, and the Regulation relating to the national parks South-Spitsbergen, Forlandet and North West - Spitsbergen, on the nature reserves North East-Svalbard and South East-Svalbard, and on the nature reserves for birds on Svalbard section 11, the Governor grants Joseph Buckby permission to use an electrically powered raft to extract sediment samples from Richardvatnet during the period from 13.08.2021 to 26.08.2021 as described in the application.

The Governor's permission is granted on the following conditions:

- The extent of motor traffic shall be restricted to a minimum necessary for performing the mission.
- The project owner shall provide for the immediate reporting of possible accidents/irregularities to the Governor.
- All equipment you bring during the field trip, and all waste items, are to be removed and brought back to Longyearbyen when the field expedition is finished. Garbage shall not be burned, except clean untreated wood.
- When carrying out the projects, the researchers shall show consideration towards other users of the areas in such a way that the research does not seem provoking or destroy people's wilderness experience.
- The project shall submit a report from the field work by **1<sup>st</sup> of November 2021**. The template for this report can be found on the Governors web pages.
- These exemptions are only valid for the people included in the projects.
- A copy of this permission must be brought along during the fieldwork.

### **Duty of care**

The Governor calls attention to the duty of care in the Svalbard Environmental Protection Act § 5 first sentence: *“Any person who is staying in or operates an undertaking in Svalbard shall show due consideration and exercise the caution required to avoid unnecessary damage or disturbance to the natural environment or cultural heritage”*.

### **Right to complain**

According to Norwegian law you are entitled to complain about the present decision. Written complaints must be submitted within three weeks of receiving this letter. The complaint must be submitted to the Governor.



We kindly request that future applications are submitted in due time, preferably a minimum of 8 weeks prior to the planned field work.

Regards

Håkon Larsen  
Acting Head of Environment Protection

Ingunn Løvdal  
Advisor nature management

*This document is approved and expedited electronically without signature*