



Polar Marine Geological Research Expedition
(PMGRE)

**SYSSELMANNEN
PÅ SVALBARD**

**THE GOVERNOR OF SVALBARD
ГУБЕРНАТОР СВАЛБАРДА**

Our date:
22.06.2021

Our reference
20/00939-9

Your date:
14.04.2021

Reply to research application - RiS-ID 11477 - Polar Marine Geological Research Expedition

We refer to your application dated 04.03.2021, RIS-ID 11477, regarding fieldwork to carry out geological mapping. The fieldwork will be performed in the period from 01.08.2021 to 30.08.2021. We also refer to your e-mail to the Governor dated 14.04.2021 with asked survey-method specifications.

Application

The fieldwork will be implemented by walking predetermined routes within the field-area. Distance between lines of route changes from 2 to 4 km according to relief. Loose rocks, weight- up to 0,5 kg, will be collected by shovel for laboratory-studies. Sampling points locate on the line of route in 0,5-1 km each other. Further, small pieces of rock from 50 to 300 gm, will be split off by geological hammer from natural solid rock massifs. Sampling points locate on the line of route in 1-2 km each other. The fieldworkers plan to move by boats along the coast.

Three (3) out of four (4) field-locations applied for is within Nordre Isfjorden National Park, cf. figure 1.

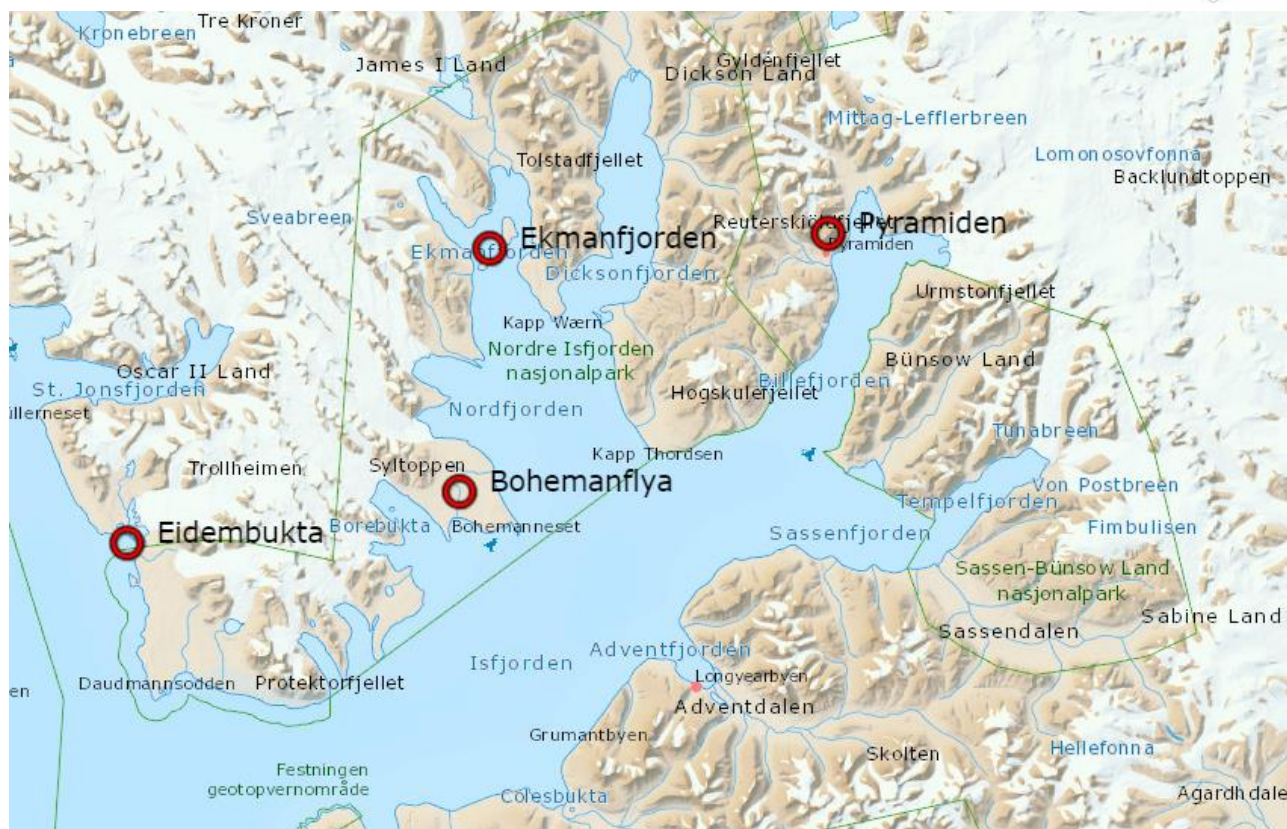


Figure 1: Field locations applied for.

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.

Three out of four field-locations applied for is within Nordre Isfjorden national park where the *Regulations relating to Nordre Isfjorden national park of 26 September 2003* apply:

Section 3: The purpose of the regulation is (among others) to preserve well developed and interesting quaternary geological structures.

Section 4 nr. 1: It is prohibited to initiate activity which can permanently impact landscape or the natural environment, including (among others)...mineral extraction.

Section 6: The Governor may grant exemptions for scientific purposes if this does not conflict with the purpose of the protection or are in risk of having notable impact on the state of the protected nature or cultural heritage.

The Governor's considerations

The weight of each rock to be collected is modest (<0,5 kg), and we assume that the number of rocks collected also will be modest and restricted to what is strictly needed to fulfil the survey applied for. On this assumption, we conclude that the fieldwork activities do not conflict with the purpose of the protection or are in risk of having notable impact on the state of the protected nature



environment, c.f. the Regulation relating to protection of Nordre Isfjorden national park in Svalbard sections 3 and 6.

The Governor's decision

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

Under the provisions of the *Regulations relating to Nordre Isfjorden national park of 26 September 2003* section 6, The Governor grants Polar Marine Geological Research Expedition by project owner Alexandr Sirotkin permission to collect a modest number of loose rocks, weight- up to 0,5 kg, and to split small pieces of rock (50-300 gm) as described in the application in South-Spitsbergen National park during the period 1st of July – 30th of August 2021.

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

- Handling of rocks and collecting samples must be done with special care, as to minimize negative impact on flora, fauna, and terrain. Traces produced by sampling shall be made as little visible as possible.
- The project owner shall provide for the immediate reporting of possible accidents/irregularities to the Governor.
- The project shall submit a report from the field work by **1st of November 2021**. The template for this report can be found on the Governors web pages.
- All equipment you bring during the field trip, and all waste items, are to be removed and brought back to Barentsburg 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.
- 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."*

Notification of travel plans

Please notice that your planned field work outside Management Area 10 requires notification to the Governor according to the regulation FOR-1991-10-18-671 on travel in Svalbard (the Tourism Regulation). The notification form is available here: [Notification of travel plans](#).

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.



Regards

Kristin Heggelund
Head of Environment Protection

Ingunn Løvdal
Advisor nature management

This document is approved and expedited electronically without signature