



Anna Beata Seniczak

Saksbehandlar, innvalstelefon

Johannes Anonby, 5764 3125

Permission to sampling arthropods and *Sphagnum* mosses in three nature reserves - Herlandsnesjane, Kråmyrane and Natås in municipalities Osterøy, Bergen and Alver respectively.

Anna B. Seniczak ved Universitetet i Bergen, med samarbeidspartar, får på nærare vilkår løyve til å ta vass- og torvmoseprøver for å undersøkje midd og zooplankton, og også samle inn andre virvellause dyr, frå myrreservata Herlandsnesjane, Kråmyrane og Natås i Vestland fylke. Vedtaket kan påklagast av partar og andre med rettsleg klageinteresse.

We refer to your application dated 22 June 2022, as well as to permission given 21 Aug.2021 and later e-mail correspondence.

The application is closely related to the former application of 5 August 2021. However, the permission of 2021 was not actually used, since it turned out that you found relevant sampling sites outside the protected areas. Still, exploring biodiversity in protected areas is desirable, both because of their particular potential for biodiversity, and because knowledge is an important basis for good management of the reserves. The State administrator therefore appreciated your afterthought concerning an investigation in the three nature reserves this year. In the application you are asking to do the following:

Collecting water mites (and other macroinvertebrates) from pools and ponds using light traps. This part of the fieldwork will be done on 27-30 June 2022, by you and project collaborator from Szczecin University, Professor Andrzej Zawal (expert on Trombidiformes water mites), and his team (four researchers and three PhD students).

In addition, in each bog you plan to collect ca. 30 samples of *Sphagnum* mosses, each of volume 500 cm³ for studying the diversity of mites. This part of the fieldwork will be done once in each bog, in the period June-August 2022, by you and an assisting person.



The State Administrator's assessment

The legal basis, in the form of bylaws for each of the three nature reserves, <https://lovdata.no/dokument/LF/forskrift/1983-05-27-1040?q=Herlandsnesjane>
<https://lovdata.no/dokument/LF/forskrift/1983-12-16-1985?q=Kråmyrane>
<https://lovdata.no/dokument/LF/forskrift/1983-12-16-1988?q=Natås>.

together with our considerations of your planned sampling work, is virtually unchanged since our permission given 21 August 2021, and we therefore refer to our conclusions therein, which are still valid.

The inclusion of unspecified macroinvertebrates in the sampling program, which is new to the present application, may arguably pose some increased risk of killing individuals that may be important for the local survival of possible species being present in very low numbers. This might be true for e.g. rare Odonata species. However, we have no indication that such particularly vulnerable species are present in these reserves, and if they were, we find it likely that you would be the first to notice, and to show due care in case such individuals are trapped. As in general, we find it likely that the lack of knowledge poses at greater risk to the local invertebrate populations of these reserves than the sampling work and slight degree of disturbance needed to obtain the basic knowledge of what species are present.

Decision

Anna Beata Seniczak and co-workers as explained in the application are hereby allowed to do the fieldwork in the three mentioned nature reserves as described in the application, with the following conditions:

1. The fieldwork should be done in a way that fulfills the purpose of the study with as little physical traces as possible, and in a way that minimizes risk of harm to the Sphagnum layers as well as other species and the environment as a whole.
2. Statens Naturoppsyn, represented by Ragni Nordås, may possess particular information on sensitive species that need special consideration, or other ways to minimize stress on the environment, and her advice should be listened to.
3. The sampling sites should be documented by GPS-positioning, and informative photos (preferably both before and after work) including photos of sampling holes that might be of particular interest – based on the Sphagnum expertise within your team – for subsequent documentation of how sampling holes (both in hummocks and wetter lawns) develop afterwards.
4. The results of the study should be made available to the State administrator - Statsforvaltaren i Vestland - when they are ready, to benefit both the management of the reserves and our information to the public on biodiversity in protected areas.
5. This permission is given for the year 2022. If the work for some reason is to be postponed to another year, we want to consider the possible need of avoiding the breeding season for birds, or any new information that may come to our notice in the meantime.

Right to appeal

This is an individual decision that can be appealed according to the rules in the Public Administration Act, by anybody who is directly affected by the decision or is considered to have a legal interest to



appeal. Any appeal must be addressed to the Norwegian Environment Agency, but sent to Statsforvaltaren I Vestland, and must be sent within 3 weeks after the appellant is aware of this decision.

Med helsing

Solveig Kalvø Roald
seniorrådgjevar

Johannes Anonby
seniorrådgjevar

The document is authorized electronically

Kopi til:

Ragni Nordås

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