



Margje de Jong

**SYSSELMANNEN
PÅ SVALBARD**

**THE GOVERNOR OF SVALBARD
ГУБЕРНАТОР СВАЛБАРДА**

Our date:
25.06.2021

Our reference
20/00922-16

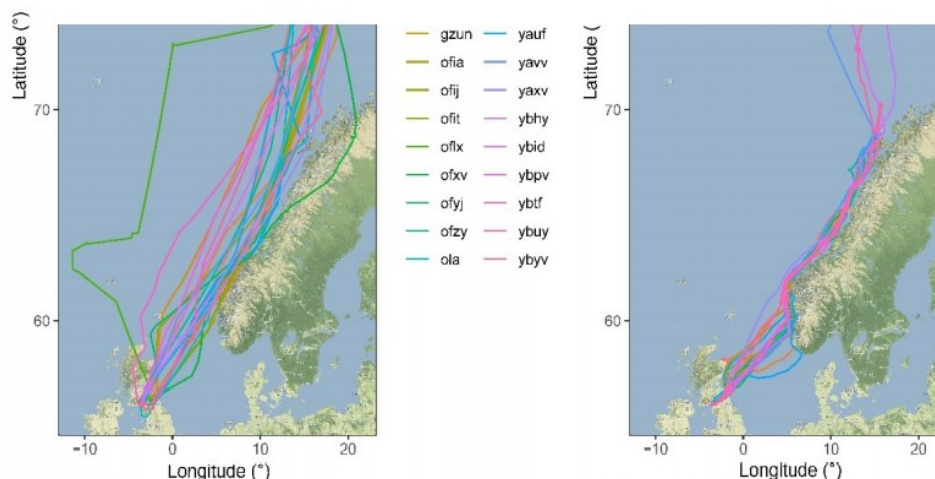
Your date:
03.06.2021

Reply to request for additional permission - RiS-ID 11237

We refer to your request dated 03.06.2021 where you ask for additional permission to existing permission dated 08.04.2021 (our reference 20/00922-11).

Additional application

With this letter we would like to request permission from the Governor of Svalbard for catching 6 additional barnacle geese to attach neck collar devices. We just got the unique opportunity to receive 6 additional GPS-GSM neckbands (exact same model as the ones already in use and which were deployed in 2020) from a colleague in Scotland. He usually fits barnacle geese in Scotland with these transmitters during the winter. Most of his geese migrate to Svalbard or Greenland. As he was unsuccessful in catching this previous winter, he offered to have the transmitters used for our study. So far, all of our 24 geese with GPS-GSM neck bands that were deployed last year in Kongsfjorden are doing well and all transmitters are working properly. All geese have successfully migrated to Scotland in the fall, overwintered in Scotland and nearly all are now out of GSM range which indicates that they are back on Svalbard for breeding (the transmitters store the data until they come back to civilisation; see Figure 1). As the study runs for another year, it would be nice to increase our sample size, also in case some of the transmitters might fail over the course of next year. Additionally, increasing the number of animals would give our statistical analyses higher power.





We have already received permission from the Norwegian animal research authority (NARA) and have attached the document to the e-mail. We would like to change the maximum number of experimental animals, which carry neck collar transmitters for our study, from 24 to 30. This means that we can collect additional data from a maximum of 12 animals as they usually stay close together (6 experimental plus their unmanipulated partners). The method of catching geese and attaching transmitters will stay the same as last year, for which we were granted permission (Sysselmannen på Svalbard 20/00922-2 dated 20.04.2020). Additionally, we were already granted permission to visit the breeding islands again this year, collect barnacle goose droppings on Storholmen and Prins Heinrichøya and place 24 automatic wildlife cameras at several locations to monitor goose behaviour (Sysselmannen på Svalbard reference nr. 20/00922-11 dated 08.04.2021).

The Governor's decision

The additional application includes catching 6 barnacle geese in Kongsfjorden to attach GPS neck bands. The Governor refers to the regulations, considerations and decision in permission dated 08.04.2021 (our reference 20/00922-11):

The Governor of Svalbard grants the University of Vienna att. Margje de Jong permission to conduct fieldwork on barnacle geese as described in the application:

- Visit Storholmen and Prins Heinrichøya (bird sanctuaries) up to 25 times for data collection on barnacle geese for long-term studies in the period 07.06-30.07.2021. Short visits to other islands in Kongsfjorden nature reserve in the case of geese have switched breeding site is acceptable.*
- Capture barnacle geese droppings on Storholmen and Prins Heinrichøya for study on rhythmicity of hormones.*
- Setup of 24 automatic wildlife cameras to monitor goose movement at the locations: Prins Heinrichøya, Storholmen, tundra around Ny-Ålesund, Knudsenheia, Gåsebu and Brandalslaguna as described in the application (period 07.06.-30.07./04.08.2021).*

The permit is given under the provision of the Regulations relating to the national parks Sør-Spitsbergen, Forlandet and Nordvest-Spitsbergen, the nature reserves Nordaust-Svalbard and Sørøst-Svalbard, and the nature reserves for birds on Svalbard, section 37, letter a.

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

- Procedures for preventing transmission of any disease shall be followed.*
- The fieldwork shall not cause unnecessary stress and strain on the birds.*
- The project leader shall provide for immediate reporting of possible accidents/irregularities to the Governor.*
- Whenever possible the observing/data collection shall be done from boat and not going ashore.*
- The installations shall be marked with the owner's name, institution, contact information, RiS-ID, date of deployment and retriever.*
- Installations must be removed and adequate clean up undertaken by the permit expires no later than 05.08.2021.*
- All equipment and all waste items are to be removed and brought back. Garbage shall not be burned, except clean untreated wood.*
- These exemptions are only valid for the people included in the project.*
- This permit must be brought along during the fieldwork.*
- The project shall submit a yearly report from the fieldwork in the RiS database by November 1st 2021.*



The fieldwork and camera locations will take place both inside and outside the plan area in Ny-Ålesund. The activity inside the plan area may need a permission from Kings Bay AS. The decision does not substitute possible permissions needed from property owner in the area.

Additional permission

The Governor of Svalbard grants the University of Vienna att. Margje de Jong permission to catch 6 barnacle geese in Kongsfjorden to attach GPS neck bands in the period 24.06.-30.07.2021.

The permission is granted on the conditions given in 20/00922-11.

Regards

Kristin Heggelund
Head of Environment Protection

Ingvild Øyjordet
Adviser nature management

<i>This document is approved and expedited electronically without signature</i>

Copy
Miljødirektoratet