

## Nico Schmid umsögn

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**From:** Nico Schmid

**Sent:** fimmtudagur, 19. janúar 2023 21:28

**To:** Norðurþing

**Subject:** Kelp factory - a tourist's perspective

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write to express my concern about the construction of the kelp factory by Íslandsþari in Húsavík.

As kelp forests are very important spawning and nursery grounds for fish and home to many other species, they play an important role for the richness of the entire ecosystem around Skjálfandi bay. Such ecosystems function upon very well balanced interconnections. Bringing an ecosystem out of balance can therefore happen easily. However, repairing it may take many years. The biodiversity of Skjálfandi bay attracts many tourists from all around the world, which brings a lot of income to the area and creates jobs for locals. I consider uprooting large quantities of seaweed without fully understanding the consequences shortsighted. While the kelp may bring quick profits, I fear it could very well have a devastating effect on the local economy, especially the tourist industry, in the long run.

Further, I think it should also be of concern how Húsavík wants to position itself from a marketing perspective towards tourists. I believe that especially the target group of people visiting Húsavík for responsible whale watching, value respect for nature a lot and would be repelled by such practices.

I am writing this from the perspective of a tourist and marketing manager from Germany who has already visited and plans on visiting the area many more times. As a supporter of Ocean Missions, I feel that it is my duty to speak up in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Nico Schmid