

Dear Norðurþing,

I am writing this letter as a Húsavík resident voicing my concerns about the location of the planned development of the Íslandsþari kelp processing plant.

I believe there will be negative consequences of the proposed location at the harbour that should be seriously considered. The beautiful architect drawings do not seem accurate in scale or in representing the true industrial nature of the operation.

Húsavík harbour is quaint, beautiful and picturesque. It is an important place for both Icelandic and foreign residents, and also is an important part of the image of the town geared towards tourists. It is naive to think that further industrial development will not tarnish this image, decrease the enjoyment of the harbour area by locals, and negatively impact the tourism that the town's economy so heavily relies on.

The extra ship traffic and transport truck traffic is also a safety concern. Íslandsþari states that the majority of their operations will take place during summer, directly overlapping with when our harbour area is the busiest with whale watching, cruise ships, restaurant customers etc. Just this past summer an industrial accident claimed the life of a tourist in Djúþivogur harbour, a place that hosts many fewer visitors than Húsavík, highlighting this very real risk.

In addition to my concerns about the location at the harbour, I would also like to express my concerns about the project as a whole. Hafrannsóknastofnun granted a 5-year research permit for this project. It seems very premature to build a factory when this research is nowhere near complete. At the open meeting held on November 17 2022, Karl Gunnarsson, in charge of this research, did not give any meaningful answers to questions about the kelp forest size, the animals living there or how this kelp trawling could impact our local ecosystem, which includes the whales and bird colonies that draw tourists to the area and the fish caught by local fishing companies. Ultimately, he admitted there will be results, but not yet. How can a factory that is so tied into our valuable and fragile ocean ecosystem be built based on no available research results? What if the results eventually determine that this is not a properly sustainable plan? These are questions that should be taken very seriously by anyone who cares about this area.

Iceland's, and Húsavík's, pristine nature has value that far exceeds any short-sighted industrial development.

Thank you very much for hearing and considering these concerns.

Sincerely,



Charla Jean Basran, Ph.D.