

Athugasemdir við deiliskipulag (Arguments against kelp factory)

I would like to express my strong opposition for the implementation of the kelp factory in Husavik.

Húsavík is experiencing growing industrial development, with interest from large multinational firms capitalizing on low energy costs and extraction of natural resources. Despite its critical importance for the health of our oceans and climate, kelp forest in the Arctic are recently on the spotlight for industrial exploitation and economic investment. In 2021, a permit was given to Íslandspari ehf (an Icelandic- Scottish company), by the government to build an industrial seaweed factory in Húsavík.

Wrong location

The construction of the kelp factory by the Husavik harbour is definitely not a good location. This huge building would creating visual impact, smell impacts, unnecessary roads, excess of traffic and risk of accidents with citizens and visitors. It would be unsafe for the people and the tourists that walk often in the buys harbour area. Tourists come to Húsavík to experience nature-based tourism far away from noise, constructions and industrial factories.

Húsavík is a strategic place for sustainable tourism

The pristine natural environment and historic, picturesque towns of Húsavík have made this area a world-class tourist attraction, especially for whale watching. Húsavík has branded itself as the Whale Watch Capital of Iceland. This makes it both a special place ecologically, but also for eco-tourism and sustainable initiatives.

Need for ocean protection in Iceland

I strongly believe that this factory should not be place in any place in Iceland, since it is lacking research on potential environmental impacts.

Iceland has not yet defined specific biodiversity objectives in its national Arctic policy and is behind schedule on delivering the goals proposed by the United Nations to protect at least 30% of the oceans by 2030 and in achieving the 12 UN sustainable development goals set in 2015, particularly regarding number 14 “life below water” (United Nations, 2015).

Yet, in 2012 the local community, together with the University of Iceland Húsavík Research Centre, stated their interest in nominating part of the Hope Spot (Skjálfandi Bay) as a marine protected area and it was recognized by international experts in marine planning. However no further steps were taken at that time (Hoyt, 2012). In early 2022, the Hope Spot area was identified as within the targeted area for conservation

proposed by WWF ArcNet , an Arctic Ocean Network of Priority Areas for Conservation ([ArcNet, 2021](#)). Very recently a submission for a Mission Bleu Hope Spot was submitted by Ocean Missions with the support of the community representatives. A comprehensive report that gathers scientific and social arguments to propose the area (Skjálfandi bay- Grímsey and Eyjafórdur) as of critical importance for the ocean health and protection. <https://oceanmissions.org/marine-protection-hope-spot/>

Date: 06/01/2023

Signature:

Belén García Ovide

Founder/Project Manager at Ocean Missions

Official website: <https://oceanmissions.org/>

Address: Höfðavegur 5b, 640 Húsavík, Iceland

Phone: +354 8410906

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a circular scribble on the left and a long horizontal line extending to the right.