

"Antony Wood"

To cc

2011/03/10 PM 06:54

bcc

Subject Trawling ban in HK coastal waters

History:

This message has been forwarded.

Dear Sir.

I write to offer my unreserved support for the ban of coastal fishing in Hong Kong waters. Having lived in HK on and off since 1975 I have witnessed coastal trawling evolving from having been a contributor to the community to becoming the cause of devastating destruction to the in-shore seabed and an outright danger to local pleasure boating. One day there will be a fatality in Tai Tam or one of the other bays on the south side of the Island. Stop it right now and without equivocation. Please see attached my letter to the SCMP on the subject. Yours Faithfully

Antony W Wood Co-Vice Chairman HK Outrigger Canoe Club

CC Chairman, Co-Vice Chairman



SCMP letter trawlers 29.10.09.PDF

e market for luxury flats. Most people are not et anyway. Even so, officials felt the need to do te critics, albeit with little conviction. For 0 per cent cap - down from 70 per cent - on y flats will not dent the purchasing power of most om the mainland and pay mostly in cash. ot be unduly alarmed about rising property it automatically spell market bubbles. A very nerges if one looks at market data and economic ondary prices in the mass market may have gone t this year, but late last year they fell steeply, to e the second half of 2007, as a result of the global v are still, on average, about 25 per cent off the)7. Government figures suggest that the average ling a lower proportion of their income on s than the average proportion for the past 20 w the 1997 peak. True, interest rates can shoot up panks, especially the US Federal Reserve, feel the inflation that loose monetary conditions could . we are still far from that scenario. ill fresh of the pain deflation and widespread ised to homeowners and the damage inflicted on omy. The government is well aware of this. The anding, it is fair to assume the vast majority of are not overly worried about rising home prices. h big developers this week, Financial Secretary wah reportedly threatened government property market became unfair and unhealthy. alk. When the government suspended the Home e in 2002, the housing chief at the time, Michael promised it would not try to intervene in the aid this to restore confidence after the chief iee-hwa, had proposed to make 85,000 new flats a idea later quietly dropped. s not need government influence. That would inty and volatility. But talk of intervention can be as officials will work to make the market more isure developers follow best practices. Making essive common areas, exploiting loopholes in ng floors, and skipping floors to make a building

on for Beijing in Ekling the media

are unsavoury practices that should be

government can keep developers honest, it will

ns of mainland journalists have no experience of eedom unless they have been posted abroad to om a place that enjoys it. Until yesterday that did ide Taiwan, a democracy that upholds robust eedom, but denied it - tit for tat - to mainland laxation of controls that treated the mainland's es sets a good example, one Beijing should follow. irrent crop of journalists have experienced tougher nost since the mainland's opening up 30 years ago, has kept its promise to allow foreign media nce before the Olympic Games last year - a ended. Beijing has cracked down on its own es and negative reporting, including on the red attempt to maintain social harmony for the ries of politically sensitive anniversaries this year. opes that the relaxed reporting rules for foreign forerunner of greater domestic media freedom. on to allow mainland media - including state-run hua news agency and Chinese Central Television and freedom of travel deserves to be reciprocated, media representatives on the mainland no longer aval and an what they can report. It is good that



SCMP 29.10.09

Trawlers are causing chaos in coastal waters

Half a century ago the local fishing industry was on its last legs, with inadequate, sail-powered, old-fashioned junks unable to compete with modern methods employed by other fishing fleets.

The Hong Kong government of the day came to the rescue. In an enlightened move initiated by the venerated Sir Jack Cater, a trawler design from the English North Sea fishing fleet was brought to Hong Kong and adapted to local conditions.

By the 1970s the old sailing junks in Aberdeen were being rapidly replaced by the new boats inspired by the North Sea design.

As a consequence, Hong Kong's commercial fishing enjoyed a 20- to 30-year period of prosperity, while the local population was provided with an abundance of local fish to eat.

However, I suspect that Sir Jack would be turning in his grave if he could witness the chaos and destruction being caused daily in the coastal waters off the south of Hong Kong Island by the invasion of these trawlers.

It was never the intention to bring such powerful fishing machines to Hong Kong only for them to cause wilful damage and imperil recreational pursuits. There have been countless studies making the case to abandon deep-net commercial fishing in coastal waters.

The daily catch scarcely covers the cost of the diesel, and it is this fact that encourages the trawlers to stay close to home, so they do not go far out to sea.

By all means, figure out some way to compensate the fishing industry – but let's put a stop to this inshore fishing right now. Antony Wood, Mid-Levels

Why we need this fast rail link

When a major infrastructure project is planned, some people always express concerns about whether or not the costs involved can be justified.

For instance, questions have been raised about the HK\$65.2 billion cross-border express rail line. It could be argued that this is

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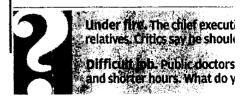
Your editorial ("A minimum wage must tackle poverty", October 19) opined, without evidence the 61.3 per cent collapse in the number of US millionaires in Hong Kong made it "safe to asset that tens of thousands of Hong Kong families | fallen into poverty since 2007.

You referred to the (allegedly) widening we gap, by citing the Gini coefficient (a measure c income disparity) from 1990-2006. The logic, I supported, appears to be that a level of incominequality evident in 2006 must have worsene the economic shock wave that led to the collap Bear Stearns, Lehman Brothers and others.

Hong Kong ranks in the mid-80s among the nations of the world in terms of its Gini coeffic Many argue that we should be higher, alongsis such tax-and-spend stars as Finland and Swer Few grasp that the more egalitarian economic include Ghana, Malawi and Albania. Singapor about the same place we occupy. Exactly how millionaires, income disparity and the propose minimum wage law are related to poverty you explain. Instead, it is simply assumed that a himinimum wage will reduce the number of perpoverty. If such were the case, why not set the minimum legal wage at HK\$500 an hour?



The minimum wage must set a rate that will (threaten jobs, says David O'Rear. Photo: Martic



Question on financing

As a regular taxpayer for more than 20 years and living in a city where I have little say on how my money is spent, I have just two cards ar who are cheaped mainlar Jan Boch

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