




"Antony Wood"
< >
2011/03/10 PM 06:54

To
cc
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
 rges if one looks at market data and economic
 ndary 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
 y are still, on average, about 25 per cent off the
 07. Government figures suggest that the average
 ling a lower proportion of their income on
 s than the average proportion for the past 20
 ow the 1997 peak. True, interest rates can shoot up
 banks, 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
 used 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
 roperty 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
 ee-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
 ns officials will work to make the market more
 sure developers follow best practices. Making
 ssive common areas, exploiting loopholes in
 ng floors, and skipping floors to make a building
 are unsavoury practices that should be
 government can keep developers honest, it will

on for Beijing in ckling the media

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.
 urrent crop of journalists have experienced tougher
 ost 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
 a travel and on 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

Unemployment cause of poverty

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 ass-
 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
 income disparity) from 1990-2006. The logic,
 supported, appears to be that a level of incom-
 inequality 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 th
 nations of the world in terms of its Gini coeffic-
 Many argue that we should be higher, alongsi-
 such tax-and-spend stars as Finland and Swed-
 Few grasp that the more egalitarian economic
 include Ghana, Malawi and Albania. Singapo-
 about the same place we occupy. Exactly how
 millionaires, income disparity and the propos-
 minimum wage law are related to poverty you
 explain. Instead, it is simply assumed that a hi-
 minimum wage will reduce the number of pe-
 poverty. 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: Marti

Under fire. The chief execut-
 relatives. Critics say he should
Difficult job. Public doctors
 and shorter hours. What do y

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
 questions about the proposed rail

cards ar-
 who are
 cheaper
 mainlar
 Jan Boet

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