

Government consults on new measures to boost the fishing industry and coastal communities

Press release

Package of consultations launched seeking views on opportunities for the fishing industry



New proposals seek to ensure more catch is landed in the UK.

The government is seeking views on new measures to boost our fishing industry, including how to fairly distribute the new opportunities from leaving the Common Fisheries Policy, and increase the economic benefits from fishing activity for our coastal communities.

The government has today launched a package of consultations which seek views on:

Fisheries Minister Victoria Prentis said:

As we take back control of our fisheries, we are creating new powers to set fairer fishing opportunities for industry and coastal communities through our flagship Fisheries Bill.

We want your help to design a more profitable fishing industry. This includes ensuring that more fish are landed in UK ports, providing a boost to the whole supply chain, from auction houses to fish processors.

The strengthened 'economic link' proposals put forward for consultation would see English licenced fishing vessels land 70% of their catch in the UK – up

from 50%. The plans would allow vessel owners to use a combination of the two criteria – landings and quota donation – to meet the economic link requirement, recognising the importance of flexibility to support ongoing business practices.

As the UK continues to negotiate with the EU and other coastal States, the UK government is seeking views on how new opportunities secured through these negotiations should be distributed, both across the UK and within England, in order to deliver maximum benefits to our fleets and coastal communities.

The three consultations are open from today for four weeks, until 10 November 2020.

Published 13 October 2020

[LCSD launches online music programme “Jazz Un-cancelled”](#)

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has launched an online jazz music programme "Jazz Un-cancelled", an online site-specific project held at the Kwai Tsing Theatre. The four-episode project aims to explore music improvisation with surprise elements, integrating different parts of life (such as meditation and coffee making) with different genres played out in various spaces of the theatre (such as the dressing room, loading bay, foyer, etc) to expand the possibilities of staging.

The first two episodes are available for viewing online and others will be released very soon. Discussion sessions are conducted in Cantonese. Programme details are as follows:

First episode: "Jazz, World Music & Percussion"

Content is from Hong Kong-born drummer Anna Fan, who holds a music degree from the Hong Kong Baptist University, majoring in percussion. In 2008, she studied jazz drumming at the Berklee College of Music in the US. She also formed the band Da Jian, which focuses on mixing jazz with ethnic rhythms. Their performance is held at the theatre's loading bay, where they explore some vigorous, powerful and energetic rhythms.

Da Jian band members are Anna Fan (drums), Perkin Yu (low tom) and Tracy Lam (snare, repique).

Guests are Kenny Lin (saxophone), Kaho Wong (saxophone, flute), Joey Wong (percussion) and Jason Leung (percussion).

Second episode: "Jazz & Mindfulness"

Content is from Angelita Li, who is regarded as one of the most prominent singers of jazz and Brazilian music in Hong Kong. She is also a certified

yoga instructor and meditation practitioner. Backed by soft jazz played by Alan Kwan and friends at the foyer of the Kwai Tsing Theatre, the alluring voice of famed jazz singer Li creates a meditative space that lures the audience in.

Band members are Angelita Li (vocal), Alan Kwan (guitar), Scott Dodd (upright bass) and Dean Li (drums).

Third episode: "Chamber Jazz & Hand-Drip Coffee"

Content here comes from a cup of good coffee, and is the creative drive behind Teriver Cheung and his musicians that make up Ensemble Transience. In this performance, they invite Vincent Hung, an outstanding barista in Hong Kong, to share the "stage" with them. Vincent has been featuring live jazz at his cafés to promote music culture in Hong Kong. The sounds of making coffee and jazz come together to create some amazing music.

Band members are Teriver Cheung (guitar, composition), Rebecca Li (cello), Bowen Li (keyboard) and Samuel Chan (drums). The guest barista is Vincent Hung.

Fourth episode: "Jazz & Ambience"

Content is from Mike Yip, who is more than just a traditional jazz musician, is deeply fascinated by the sounds and textures of the modular synthesiser and is keen to explore the ambience that it brings. In this new project with fellow musicians Vic Tsui, Olivier Cong and special guest Nelson Hiu, he and the band have transformed the theatre's dressing room into a performance space filled with a unique sound and ambience.

Thisisthewaytheworldends band members are Mike Yip (eurorack synthesiser, electric guitar), Vic Tsui (percussions, synthesiser) and Olivier Cong (voice, electric organ). The guest is Nelson Hiu (keyboard).

To view the online programme, please visit the LCSD's one-stop Online Resources Centre at www.lcsd.gov.hk/en/onlineresources.html. For programme enquiries or more information, please call 2268 7321 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/cp.

[Hook urges UN to heed US call for 'snapback' of sanctions on Iran](#)

Author:

AFP

ID:

1598038486067646200

Fri, 2020-08-21 16:49

NEW YORK: A day after US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo notified the UN Security Council of its demand that all UN sanctions on Iran be restored, Washington's special representative for Iran, Brian Hook, urged council

members to act on it.

“President Trump restored American sanctions when he left the deal, and now it’s time for the UN to restore its sanctions,” said Hook, referring to the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), also known as the Iran nuclear deal, from which the US withdrew in 2018.

“I have yet to hear anybody make the argument that Iran’s behavior merits sanctions relief. I have yet to hear anybody argue that if the arms embargo expires on the world’s leading sponsor of terrorism and anti-Semitism, that this would somehow advance national security.”

He said the Security Council’s failure on Aug. 14 to vote in favor of a US resolution to indefinitely extend the arms embargo on Iran, which is due to expire in October, left the US with no choice but to trigger a “snapback.”

This is a mechanism within the JCPOA that allows any of the powers that signed the deal – the US, UK, China, Russia, France, Germany and the EU – to submit a complaint to the Security Council about any breach of the deal by Iran. If the concerns are not resolved, then all of the UN sanctions that were in place before the nuclear deal would be automatically restored, including an arms embargo. Iran would also be required to suspend all nuclear-enrichment activities.

While the Trump administration insists that under the Security Council resolution that endorsed the nuclear deal it retains the right to initiate a snapback, even after withdrawing from the agreement, most other council members say it does not because it is no longer a party to the deal.

In response to criticism of Washington’s uncompromising attitude during negotiations with other council members, Hook said the US was the only member to table a proposal for an extension of the arms embargo.

“Since December 2018, the United States has been talking about how we are going to extend (it),” he said. “And we have been very methodical, very patient and very open to any ideas. We were never presented with any compromise, so I think this exists in the mind of the media.”

During last week’s vote, 11 members of the 15-member Security Council abstained from voting on the US resolution to extend the arms embargo. China and Russia opposed it, and only the Dominican Republic supported it.

Asked for his reaction to China’s decision to vote against the resolution, Hook said that Beijing owes an explanation to the nations in the Middle East that asked the Security Council to extend the embargo.

“China should be asked to explain why they rejected the views of the Gulf Cooperation Council,” he said. “The UN is obviously a very important multilateral body but it is not the most relevant.

“The most relevant multilateral body is the GCC, and all six (member)

countries came together (and) put aside their differences (to) demand that the Security Council (extend) the arms embargo on Iran. These are the countries that are closest to the danger and the council had a responsibility to respect their views and to extend the arms embargo.”

Hook accused council members of failing in their duty, saying: “If you are on the Security Council, your role is to advance international peace and security – and the council failed on Friday.”

He said the US will take unilateral action to “freeze the assets and restrict the travel of Iranians who worked on the nuclear program and on missiles, and those Iranians who foment terror.”

He added that a snapback would mean: “The UN is going to be restoring sanctions on Iranian banks that finance Iran’s nuclear and missile programs. Restoring sanctions will encourage UN member states to interdict shipments of Iranian weapons (going) into conflict (zones).”

He also reiterated calls from Trump and Pompeo for the international community to abandon the nuclear deal, “which today is more form than substance, and to join us in getting a stronger deal.”

Hook will step down at the end of August and hand over the Iran role to Elliot Abrams, who is currently the US special representative for Venezuela.





Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[US](#)

[Iran](#)

[UK](#)

[France](#)

[iran sanctions](#)

British-Australian academic being held in virus-hit Iranian jail 'without enough food, water'

[OSCE Mission to Skopje: UK statement](#)

Delivered by Nicola Murray, Deputy Head of Delegation, at the OSCE Permanent Council on 23 July 2020.

[Iranian president calls Iraqi](#)

premier's visit 'turning point'

Author:

Wed, 2020-07-22 02:00

TEHRAN: Iran's President Hassan Rouhani called a visit on Tuesday by the new prime minister of Iraq, where the US military has a presence, "a turning point" in the countries' relations and vowed to continue supporting the neighboring Arab nation.

Mustafa Al-Kadhimi arrived on his first official visit abroad since taking office more than two months ago, Iranian media reported.

State television showed footage of Al-Kadhimi landing at Tehran's Mehrabad airport. The TV outlet said Al-Khadhimi would meet top Iranian leaders, including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The official website of the office of the Iranian presidency later released a photo of Rouhani and Al-Kadhimi at a welcome ceremony in Tehran, showing both wearing protective face masks to help prevent spread of the coronavirus.

"We are certain that the visit will be a turning point in relations between the two countries," Rouhani said after meeting with the Iraqi premier. "We still remain ready to stand by the Iraqi nation and apply efforts for stability and security in Iraq and the region."

Al-Kadhimi replied: "Iraq will not allow the posing of any threat from its soil against Iran."

Iran sees the US military presence in Iraq a threat to Tehran.

The visit came after Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif traveled to Baghdad over the weekend. It was Zarif's first visit to Iraq since a US airstrike in January killed a top Iranian general, Qassem Soleimani, outside Baghdad's international airport. The strike catapulted Iraq to the brink of a US-Iran proxy war that could have destabilized the Middle East.

In Baghdad, Zarif paid a visit to the site where Soleimani was killed, saying "Iran-Iraq relations will not be shaken" despite the general's death. Soleimani led Iran's expeditionary Quds Force and was the architect of its regional military activities.

In Tehran, Al-Kadhimi said Iraq's foreign policy is based on "balance and avoiding any alignment." The Iraqi premier said his country seeks to improve relations with Iran "based on nonintervention in domestic affairs of the two countries."

A former intelligence chief backed by Washington, Al-Kadhimi took office in May after he had played a significant part for years in the war against the Daesh group, which was declared defeated in Iraq in 2017.

The Iraqi prime minister had planned a visit to Saudi Arabia on Monday,

before his trip to Tehran, but postponed it following news that Saudi King Salman was admitted to a hospital in the capital, Riyadh.

Iran sees Iraq as a possible route to bypass US sanctions that President Donald Trump reimposed on Tehran in 2018, after pulling America out of the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

Last year, Iran's exports to Iraq amounted to nearly \$9 billion, the official IRNA news agency reported Tuesday. It said the two nations will discuss increasing that amount to \$20 billion.

Since the outbreak of the coronavirus, religious tourism between Iraq and Iran has stopped. Before the pandemic, some 5 million tourists – bringing in nearly \$5 billion a year – visited Shiite sites in the two countries. Under former dictator Saddam Hussein, Iraq waged an 8-year war in the 1980s against Iran, a conflict that left nearly 1 million killed on both sides.

In another development, a German national was kidnapped late on Monday outside her office in central Baghdad.

Hella Mewis, a who ran arts programs at the Iraqi art collective Tarkib, had left her office and was "riding her bicycle when two cars, one of them a white pickup truck (of the type) used by some security forces, were seen kidnapping her," the security source said.



Main category:

[Middle-East](#)

Tags:

[Iran](#)

[Hassan Rouhani](#)

[Iraq](#)

[Mustafa Al-Kadhimi](#)

Iraqi PM arrives in Tehran in first trip abroadIran hits record 229 deaths from coronavirus in past 24 hours