

Two-month ban on fishing of kingfish

The ban aims to increase the Kingdom's kingfish stocks

● The Agriculture and Marine Resources Affairs has called on fishermen to co-operate with the competent directorate to implement the ban and preserve marine wealth.

● Last year, legal proceedings were taken against many fishermen for illegal shrimping.

Manama

A seasonal two-month ban on fishing kingfish has been announced by the Agriculture and Marine Resources Affairs at the Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning Ministry.

During the ban period, extending between August 15 and October 15, fishermen are not allowed to catch or sell kingfish, locally known as chan'ad.

The ban aims to increase the Kingdom's kingfish stocks, regulate fishing and avoid exhausting and depleting fisheries to achieve balance within marine life, Agriculture and Marine Resources Affairs said, stressing that all necessary measures will be taken to implement the ban.



Kingfish is known as chan'ad in Bahraini markets.

It emphasised that violators of Decree-Law 20/2002 on the regulation of fishing, exploitation and protection of marine wealth will be held accountable, calling on fishermen to co-operate with the competent directorate to implement the ban and preserve marine wealth.

The ban is also in line with the resolution taken by the Agricultural Co-operation at the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) during its 23rd meeting held in Riyadh.

Last year, legal proceedings were taken against many fisher-

men for illegal shrimping.

The ban is one of the measures taken by the government to protect marine resources of the Kingdom.

In a report published last year, many accused told Tribune that they were engaging in illegal shrimping due to unemployment and poverty. A youth, who doesn't want to be identified, had said, "Many fishermen are giving their boats to expat workers, encouraging them to violate the shrimping ban."

"Coast Guard personnel generally don't turn suspicious on

seeing expat fishermen and hence they get away, bringing large quantities of shrimp and flooding the market."

The ministerial resolution mentioned that possessing tools and equipment used to catch shrimp is illegal during the six-month ban period, while warning violators of strict legal actions.

Bahrain annually bans shrimping to protect marine resources and allow the creatures to reproduce.

Similar decisions are applied in other countries in the region such as Kuwait.

Terror attack on Aramco plant condemned

● The Saudi energy minister Khalid Al Falih yesterday confirmed that a drone strike hit the Shaybah natural gas liquefaction facility causing a small fire on Saturday.

● The Houthis have carried out a number of attacks on Saudi Arabia in recent weeks and months, targeting residential areas and airports.

Manama

Bahrain yesterday condemned the terrorist attack on Shayba natural gas plant and oil refinery in Saudi Arabia by the Iranian-backed Houthi militias in Yemen.

The Foreign Ministry denounced the cowardly terrorist act which aims at destabilising security and posing a grave danger to the world energy supply.

It affirmed Bahrain's unwavering support to Saudi Arabia to maintain its security and protect its interests, vowing full solidarity and backing its efforts to eradicate terrorist acts of all forms.

It called for serious and strict measures to put an end to these terrorist acts and attacks and confront those who support and finance them.

The Saudi energy minister



Bahrain denounces the cowardly terrorist act, which aims at destabilising security and posing a grave danger to the world energy supply.

FOREIGN MINISTRY

Khalid Al Falih yesterday confirmed that a drone strike hit the Shaybah natural gas liquefaction facility causing a small fire on Saturday.

In a statement condemning the attack, Falih said there had been "no injuries" and that the fire had been put out after the several drones were fired at the plant.

"This cowardly attack once again highlights the importance of the international community's response to all terrorist agents who carry out such acts of sabotage, including the Iran backed Houthi militias," Falih said in the statement.

The Houthis later claimed responsibility for the attack.

"Saudi Aramco's response team controlled a limited fire this morning at the Shaybah NGL facility," a statement released on the oil giant's website read.

"There were no injuries and no interruptions to Saudi Aramco's oil operations. We will provide further details as they become available."

The Houthis have carried out a number of attacks on Saudi Arabia in recent weeks and months, targeting residential areas and airports.

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Saudi to issue 10 million Umrah e-visas this year



The target number of pilgrims in 2021 will be 15 million, according to officials.

Makkah

The chief planning and strategy officer at the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, Dr Amr Al Maddah, said that as of Saturday, the ministry is seeking to issue 10 million visas for this year's Umrah season.

The visas will be issued electronically without the need to visit embassies and consulates for the stamp, he said.

Al Maddah said that the ministry is seeking to issue Umrah visas for 30 million pilgrims by 2030. Saudi Arabia had the capacity for these numbers, he said, and the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah aims to remove obstacles for businesses offering services to pilgrims.

Al Maddah said: "The target number of pilgrims in 2021 will be 15 million. The ministry is well-prepared for these cumu-

lative numbers, and pilgrims now have several e-booking platforms that continue to increase and are no longer limited to external agents."

"The central reservation platform is a reservation engine that serves as a link connecting all Umrah service providers, including housing, Umrah, reception, transport, experience enrichment, and cultural trips associated with online booking platforms like Agoda, Booking, Musafir and others."

He added: "This way, the ministry ensures that all services are available to pilgrims inside and outside the Kingdom through the internet and reliable websites, which pilgrims are accustomed to using when making their bookings. The ministry will ensure that all offers adhere to the set standards and regulatory requirements."

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