

AL SIDRAH

May 2017 | Vol .3 | Issue 5

Requiring the fishermen of Ras Al Khaimah to numbering their equipment from the first of July

EPDA announced its commitment to oblige all fishermen working on the coast of the emirate, which extends about 50 kilometers, to "digitize" all fishing equipment used in fishing operations from first of June, and give them one month to adjust their situation, to begin implementation of the decision on first of July . The "numbering" decision, contributes to the identification of offending fishermen, fishing nets and other neglected fishing equipment, which are thrown into the sea and settle in the hall and it's accumulate in large quantities over the past years, it's also threatening the marine environment and fisherman's property and causing differences between them.

Dr. Saif Al Ghais, Executive Director confirmed that EPDA has notified, during the past few days all fishermen working in the emirate, about 1800 fishermen, citizens, Asians and others, including about 900 fishermen citizen to number all fishing equipment, within the Federal Law No. 23 of 1999 and the amendment to Law No. 11 of 2016. And Dr. Al Ghais explained that the numbering operations imposed, include all fishing equipment like fishing nets «Al leek», «Gargor» and «buoys», while the decision previously included fishing boats.



A team from EPDA headed by Dr. Saif Al Ghais participated in the evaluation of the schools which participated in the Ras Al Khaimah Award for Educational Excellence-Category of Outstanding School in Sustainable Environment, this category focuses on developing environmental awareness in schools through the application



of best environmental practices and the creation of a healthy and sustainable environment. The team was visited Ibn Zaidon School , Al Wataneya School and Masaffi School . Where the team noted the interest of the schools in the award and its standards through the activities and events that have been implemented and that contribute to the protection and sustainability of the environment



EPDA Strategic Planning Team held a meeting headed by Dr. Saif Al Ghais EPDA executive director, to discuss the Strategic Plan of 2018-2021, Where they discuss the strategy of the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah and the National Agenda . In addition, the team was conducted to discuss SWOT analysis and they discuss the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that the EPDA can exploit and overcome it.

VISION

Protection of the environment & sustainability of resources.

MISSION

Uniqueness in providing, monitoring and environmental awareness services through the application of laws and regulations and investing relationship with partners and conduct studies and research that contribute to the protection of our natural resources.



UAE bans import of vegetables, fruits from select countries

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) issued an advisory noting that it has “banned imports of certain vegetables and fruits from select countries with effect from May 15, 2017 as those products have been found to contain pesticide residues in excess of permissible limits”.

“The countries that will be impacted by the ban include Egypt, Oman, Jordan, Lebanon and Yemen,” the ministry announced on Monday. Unacceptable levels of pesticides in food imports were last reported in the UAE from India in May 2016 prompting similar concerns of safety.

On 24 April, the ministry did not reveal the degree to which some fruits and vegetables exceeded proper maximum tolerance levels of pesticides.

Residue levels

Maximum residue levels (MRL) for pesticides are set by the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAA), a regulatory body governing food safety for the United Nations and World Health Organisation, and adopted by countries around the world.

“The maximum permitted levels of pesticide residues in foods are stipulated by regulatory bodies in the UAE. Exposure of the general population to such residues most commonly occurs through the consumption of treated food sources,” the ministry said in a statement.

“Many of these residual chemicals, especially derivatives of chlorinated pesticides are capable of bioaccumulation and can build up to harmful levels in the body as well as in the environment.

“Persistent chemicals get magnified throughout the food chain and have been detected in products ranging from meat, poultry, and fish, to vegetable oils, nuts, and various fruits and vegetables,” it added.

List of produce

Some of the foods to be banned include “all varieties of pepper from Egypt, pepper, cabbage, cauliflower, lettuce, squash, beans and eggplant from Jordan, apples from Lebanon, melons, carrots and watercress from Oman and all types of fruit from Yemen are on the list of banned produce,” the ministry said.

Countries named in the ban have been requested by the UAE to provide a certificate of analysis of pesticide residues for all other vegetables and fruits stating that they are free of such residues as of May 15, 2017.

The ministry said that the ban “on the above mentioned produce will continue until the necessary safety requirements are met and pesticide residues are cleared.”

The UAE assured the public that it relies on sound testing results delivered by accredited laboratories British Commission for Accreditation (UKAS) which meets all international standards, the ministry said.

“Food safety is a core priority of the UAE’s food security system ... the ministry is also keen to ensure that all foodstuffs and products in the country, both domestically produced and imported, are safe for consumption.”

Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi released 50 turtles after rehabilitation

The Environment Agency of Abu Dhabi, EAD, in collaboration with the Dubai Turtle Rehabilitation Project, DTRP, and Emirates Palace, have released 49 Critically Endangered Hawksbill Turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and one Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) on the beach of Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi. This event is in celebration of Endangered Species Day, which falls on May 19. The event highlights the plight of many threatened and critically endangered species and the ways in which we can alter our behavior in to help protect and save animals.

With the help of members of the public, fishermen, EAD rangers and stakeholders, these turtles have been rescued over the last year and sent to DTRP, where they were treated for any infections, diseases or injuries. This release is the result of a successful cooperation between EAD and the Dubai Turtle Rehabilitation Project.

According to the list developed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the Hawksbill sea turtle is one of the most endangered species in the world, **and** it is important that people understand this fact, so that they deal with it properly.



UN agricultural agency links food security and climate change in new guidelines

The United Nations agricultural agency today unveiled guidelines to help Governments balance the needs of farming and climate change when making decisions, such as whether to refill a dried up lake or focus instead on sustainably using the forest on its shore.

"Medium to long-term adaptation planning is crucial to build climate resilience and [food security](#) for future generations," said Julia Wolf, UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) Natural Resources Officer and co-author of the guidelines. "The agriculture sectors, often the economic backbone of developing countries, need to be a key driver and stakeholder. The guidelines are set out to address the key issues, entry points and steps to take," Ms. Wolf said.

Agriculture – including fisheries and forestry – are important in efforts to keep global temperatures from rising more than two degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial levels. The industry is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, to meet the food demand of a larger population, food production would need to be 60 per cent higher in 2050 than it was in 2006, said FAO. The UN agency's new guidelines "are geared to address the specific challenges that adaptation and mitigation efforts pose in the agricultural arena – steering change at a bearable pace for those who depend on related activities for incomes, livelihoods and food security." They are aimed at national planners, agriculture, forestry and fisheries authorities and experts as well as United Nations and bilateral donors.

The guidelines are expected to help countries achieve the climate pledges made in December 2015 when the Paris Climate Accord was agreed to in France.

Indian solar power prices hit record low, undercutting fossil fuels

Wholesale solar power prices have reached another record low in India, faster than analysts predicted and further undercutting the price of fossil fuel-generated power in the country.

At a auction in Rajasthan, power companies Phelan Energy and Avaada Power each offered to charge 2.62 rupees per kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity generated from solar panels they hope to build at an energy park in the desert state. Last year's previous record lowest bid was 4.34 rupees per kWh.

Analysts called the 40% price drop "world historic" and said it was driven by cheaper finance and growing investor confidence in India's pledge to dramatically increase its renewable energy capacity.

It reduces the market price of solar tariffs well past the average charged by India's largest thermal coal conglomerate, currently around 3.20 rupees per kWh. Wholesale price bids for wind energy also reached a record low of 3.46 rupees in February. India is the world's third-largest carbon polluter after China and United States, with

emissions forecast to at least double as it seeks to develop its economy and lift hundreds of millions of citizens out of poverty.

India aims to have the capacity to generate 175 gigawatts of power from solar, biomass and wind energy. A draft report by the country's electricity agency in December predicted that capacity would increase to 275 gigawatts by 2027.

Irish beach reappears 33 years after vanishing into Atlantic Ocean

A beach that was swept away more than 30 years ago from a remote island off the west coast of Ireland has reappeared after thousands of tons of sand were deposited on top of the rocky coastline.

The 300 meter beach near the tiny village of Dooagh on Achill Island vanished in 1984 when storms stripped it of its sand, leaving nothing more than a series of rock pools. But after high spring tides last month, locals found that the Atlantic Ocean had returned the sand. "It's enormously significant," Sean Molloy of Achill's tourism office told the Irish Times newspaper, recalling how the popular beach once sustained four hotels and a number of guesthouses on the west coast of the island of 2,600 people.

"Achill already has five blue-flag beaches, so we are hoping that in time it will be awarded a sixth." The island, the largest off the coast of Ireland, forms part of the Wild Atlantic Way, a tourist trail stretching from the south of the country to the north-west that has benefited from a tourist boom in the European Union's fastest-growing economy.



Ramadan Tips

It's preferred not to utilize dishes that are for one-time use only, but use dishes and containers which are for multiple use or recyclable as possible



Eid Al Fitter is coming soon: Bad planning and not listing in advance you requirements often lead to multiple trips to souq, impulse buying, and wasted energy. Make a plan so that you can run all your errands on the same day.

Reduce energy consumption: Take advantage of the long period of the sunny day and maintain power by taking advantage of natural lighting as much as possible.



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