

# All at sea over refuse collection

By Flora Wong

FLOATING refuse in typhoon shelters and at the seaside will build up as Regional Councilors argue whether the Marine Department or Regional Services Department is responsible for clearing it, council members warned yesterday.

In the last Regional Council meeting in this session, So Shiu-shing put a written question to the Environmental Hygiene Select Committee asking for a solution to the accumulation of floating refuse.

Committee chairman Yeung Fuk-kwong said responsibility for the collection of floating refuse at the seaside and in

typhoon shelters rested with the Marine Department.

"There is no council policy on the collection of floating refuse in typhoon shelters or at the seaside," he said.

"The role played by the Regional Council in so far as the collection of floating refuse is concerned is very limited... since the collection of floating refuse is outside the ambit of responsibility of the Regional Council," he said.

An inter-departmental working group would be set up to address the problem of floating refuse, he said.

This followed Acting Governor Anson Chan's pledge on Wednesday to clean up the

polluted and refuse-littered harbour.

He expected joint clearance operations of the municipal councils and the Marine Department to be stepped up after the establishment of the working group, Mr Yeung said.

Member Sin Chung-kai queried whether refuse above sea-level should be collected by the Regional Services Department, whilst member Reverend Fung Chi-wood pointed out that refuse would float at sea when the tide was high but would be left on the shore at low tide, posing a difficult question as to which department was responsible for it.