

Action call to save sea

By Davena Mok

MARINE experts and environmentalists yesterday urged the Government to act quickly in protecting Hong Kong waters.

The plea was made on the opening day of the territory's first International Marine Conservation Symposium.

Experts said the deteriorating marine environment was coming under increasing pressure from industrial and infrastructural development, population growth and over-fishing.

"We always think we have to worry about it later. Well, for Hong Kong, later has

arrived," said Peter Wong, president of the Hong Kong Marine Conservation Society (HKMCS).

Legislator Christine Loh Kung-wai said it was time for the Government to do something about conserving our natural heritage.

"In order to protect our marine environment, the Hong Kong Government must overcome its fear of monetary loss by getting off the economic treadmill," she said.

"The Government must look at other ways of maximising growth (than through environmental destruction) in order to ensure a decent future for the environment and therefore the Hong Kong people."

Talks today will concentrate on destructive fishing practices, such as those involving dynamite, ghost nets and cyanide.