<u>Grading of beach water quality</u> <u>released</u>

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (August 7) released the latest grading of water quality for 38 gazetted beaches (see Note 1) and one non-gazetted beach (i.e. Discovery Bay, see Note 2).

Twenty-four beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1) and 15 as Fair (Grade 2).

Grade 1 beaches are:

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Anglers' Beach Approach Beach Butterfly Beach Cafeteria New Beach Cafeteria Old Beach Casam Beach Castle Peak Beach Golden Beach Hoi Mei Wan Beach Kadoorie Beach Lido Beach Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach Pui O Beach Silver Mine Bay Beach Ting Kau Beach

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades, namely Good (Grade 1), Fair (Grade 2), Poor (Grade 3) and Very Poor (Grade 4), according to the level of E. coli in the water. Grades are calculated on the basis of the geometric mean of the E. coli counts on the five most recent sampling occasions.

A summary of beach grades is published weekly before the weekend. The latest beach grades based on the most current data may be obtained from the EPD's website on Beach Water Quality (<u>www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach</u>) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.

Note 1: In view of the latest situation of COVID-19, the Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced on July 13 that all beaches would be temporarily closed from July 15 until further notice.

Note 2: Discovery Bay is a non-gazetted beach without lifeguard service.