## Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (August 3) released the latest grading of water quality for 38 gazetted beaches and one non-gazetted beach (Discovery Bay) that are open for swimming.

Twenty-two beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), 15 as Fair (Grade 2) and two as Poor (Grade 3).

Grade 1 beaches are:

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## Grade 2 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach Approach Beach Big Wave Bay Beach Butterfly Beach

Hoi Mei Wan Beach Kadoorie Beach Lido Beach Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach Casam Beach
Clear Water Bay First Beach
Clear Water Bay Second Beach
Discovery Bay

Shek O Beach Silver Mine Bay Beach Silverstrand Beach

Grade 3 beaches are:

Castle Peak Beach

Ting Kau Beach

Compared with the grading released last week, Cafeteria New Beach, Cafeteria Old Beach, Middle Bay Beach and Stanley Main Beach have been upgraded from Grade 2 to Grade 1, and Casam Beach from Grade 3 to Grade 2.

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four grades 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.

While the ratings represent the general water quality at the beaches, an EPD spokesman reminded members of the public that water quality could be temporarily affected during and after periods of heavy rain. Bathers should avoid swimming at beaches for up to three days after a storm or heavy rainfall.

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 department's websites on Beach Water Quality (<a href="www.beachwq.gov.hk">www.beachwq.gov.hk</a> and <a href="www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach">www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach</a>) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.