

Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (June 9) released the latest grading of water quality for 39 gazetted beaches (see Note 1) and one non-gazetted beach (see Note 2).

Twenty-one beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), 18 as Fair (Grade 2) and one as Poor (Grade 3).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Big Wave Bay Beach*	Lo So Shing Beach
Cafeteria Old Beach	Middle Bay Beach
Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach*	Shek O Beach*
Chung Hom Kok Beach	South Bay Beach*
Clear Water Bay Second Beach*	St. Stephen's Beach
Discovery Bay	Tai Po Lung Mei Beach*
Hap Mun Bay Beach*	Tong Fuk Beach
Hung Shing Yeh Beach*	Trio Beach
Kadoorie Beach*	Turtle Cove Beach
Kiu Tsui Beach	Upper Cheung Sha Beach
Kwun Yam Beach	

Grade 2 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach*	Hoi Mei Wan Beach
Approach Beach	Lido Beach*
Butterfly Beach*	Lower Cheung Sha Beach
Cafeteria New Beach	Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach*
Casam Beach*	Pui O Beach*
Castle Peak Beach	Repulse Bay Beach*
Clear Water Bay First Beach	Silver Mine Bay Beach*
Deep Water Bay Beach*	Stanley Main Beach*
Golden Beach*	Ting Kau Beach*

Grade 3 beach is:

Silverstrand Beach*

Compared with the grading released last week, Discovery Bay has been upgraded from Grade 2 to Grade 1. Butterfly Beach, Cafeteria New Beach, Deep Water Bay Beach, Golden Beach, Repulse Bay Beach and Stanley Main Beach have been changed from Grade 1 to Grade 2.

"The changes are generally within the normal range of fluctuation of the bacteriological water quality of the beaches," an EPD spokesman said.

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.

While the ratings represent the general water quality at the beaches, the 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 EPD's website on Beach Water Quality (www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.

Note 1: Lifeguard services are provided by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department at 22 gazetted beaches, marked with an asterisk (*) above, from May 1.

Note 2: The non-gazetted beach is Discovery Bay which has no lifeguard service.