

Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (July 14) released the latest grading of water quality for 39 gazetted beaches (see Note 1) and one non-gazetted beach (see Note 2).

Nineteen beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), 14 as Fair (Grade 2) and seven as Poor (Grade 3).

Grade 1 beaches are:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Cafeteria Old Beach | Repulse Bay Beach* |
| Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach* | Shek O Beach* |
| Chung Hom Kok Beach | Silverstrand Beach* |
| Discovery Bay | South Bay Beach* |
| Hap Mun Bay Beach* | St Stephen's Beach |
| Hung Shing Yeh Beach* | Tai Po Lung Mei Beach* |
| Kiu Tsui Beach | Tong Fuk Beach |
| Kwun Yam Beach | Turtle Cove Beach |
| Lo So Shing Beach | Upper Cheung Sha Beach |
| Pui O Beach* | |

Grade 2 beaches are:

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Big Wave Bay Beach* | Golden Beach* |
| Butterfly Beach* | Kadoorie Beach* |
| Cafeteria New Beach | Lower Cheung Sha Beach |
| Castle Peak Beach | Middle Bay Beach |
| Clear Water Bay First Beach | Silver Mine Bay Beach* |
| Clear Water Bay Second Beach* | Stanley Main Beach* |
| Deep Water Bay Beach* | Trio Beach |

Grade 3 beaches are:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Anglers' Beach* | Lido Beach* |
| Approach Beach | Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach* |
| Casam Beach* | Ting Kau Beach* |
| Hoi Mei Wan Beach | |

Compared with the grading released last week, Cafeteria Old Beach, Discovery Bay, Pui O Beach, Repulse Bay Beach, Silverstrand Beach and Turtle Cove Beach have been upgraded from Grade 2 to Grade 1.

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, 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 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.