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

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (June 8) released the latest grading of water quality for 37 gazetted beaches and one nongazetted beach (Discovery Bay) that are open for swimming.

Twenty-five beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), 12 as Fair (Grade 2) and one as Very Poor (Grade 4).

Grade 1 beaches are:

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ChungHomKokBeagh
ekOBeach

С l e a r Whaoruthermany Manuacter в e a c h

DeepWaterBayBeathtephen'sBeach

Grade 2 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach Approach Beach Hoi Mei Wan Beach Kadoorie Beach Butterfly BeachLido BeachCasam BeachMa Wan Tung Wan BeachCastle Peak BeachSilverstrand BeachClear Water Bay First BeachTing Kau Beach

Grade 4 beach is:

Discovery Bay

Compared with the grading released last week, Cafeteria New Beach has been upgraded from Grade 2 to Grade 1, and Lido Beach and Ting Kau Beach from Grade 3 to Grade 2. Silverstrand Beach has been changed from Grade 1 to Grade 2 and Discovery Bay from Grade 1 to Grade 4.

"The deterioration of water quality at Discovery Bay was due to the heavy rain yesterday (June 7), while the changes in other beaches are generally within the normal range of fluctuation of the bacteriological water quality of the beaches," the EPD spokesman said.

The EPD spokesman also 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.

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.

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 (<u>www.beachwq.gov.hk</u> and <u>www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach</u>) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.