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

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (October 18) released the latest grading of water quality for 38 gazetted beaches that are open for swimming and one non-gazetted beach (Discovery Bay*).

Twenty-nine beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1) and 10 as Fair (Grade 2).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Big Wave Bay Beach Casam Beach

Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach

Chung Hom Kok Beach

Clear Water Bay First Beach

Clear Water Bay Second Beach

Deep Water Bay Beach

Discovery Bay Golden Beach

Hap Mun Bay Beach

Hung Shing Yeh Beach

Kadoorie Beach

Kiu Tsui Beach

Kwun Yam Beach

Lido Beach

Lo So Shing Beach

Lower Cheung Sha Beach

Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach

Middle Bay Beach

Pui O Beach

Repulse Bay Beach

Silverstrand Beach

South Bay Beach

St Stephen's Beach Stanley Main Beach

Stantey nath beat

Tong Fuk Beach

Trio Beach

Turtle Cove Beach

Upper Cheung Sha Beach

Grade 2 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach Approach Beach

Butterfly Beach

Cafeteria New Beach

Cafeteria Old Beach

Castle Peak Beach Hoi Mei Wan Beach

Shek 0 Beach

Silver Mine Bay Beach

Ting Kau Beach

Compared with the grading released last week, Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach has been upgraded from Grade 2 to Grade 1.

Under the present grading system, beaches are classified into four

^{*} Discovery Bay is a non-gazetted beach without lifeguard service.

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 department's website on Beach Water Quality (www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.