

Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (May 11) released the latest grading of water quality of 37 gazetted beaches and one non-gazetted beach (Discovery Bay) that are open for swimming.

Twenty-four beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), 10 as Fair (Grade 2) and four as Poor (Grade 3).

Grade 1 beaches are:

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Grade 2 beaches are:

Approach Beach	Castle Peak Beach
Butterfly Beach	Clear Water Bay First Beach
Cafeteria New Beach	Kadoorie Beach
Cafeteria Old Beach	Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach
Casam Beach	Stanley Main Beach

Grade 3 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach	Lido Beach
Hoi Mei Wan Beach	Ting Kau Beach

Compared with the grading released last week, Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach has been upgraded from Grade 3 to Grade 2. Castle Peak Beach, Clear Water Bay First Beach, Kadoorie Beach and Stanley Main Beach have been changed from Grade 1 to Grade 2; Hoi Mei Wan Beach, Lido Beach and Ting Kau Beach from Grade 2 to Grade 3.

"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 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. Latest beach grades based on the most current data may be obtained from the department's websites on Beach Water Quality (www.beachwq.gov.hk or www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.