

Grading of beach water quality released

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (July 20) released the latest grading of water quality for 38 gazetted beaches and one non-gazetted beach (Discovery Bay) that are open for swimming.

Seventeen beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1), 19 as Fair (Grade 2) and three as Poor (Grade 3).

Grade 1 beaches are:

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Grade 2 beaches are:

Anglers' Beach	Golden Beach
Approach Beach	Hoi Mei Wan Beach
Big Wave Bay Beach	Kadoorie Beach
Butterfly Beach	Lido Beach
Cafeteria New Beach	Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach
Cafeteria Old Beach	Middle Bay Beach
Casam Beach	Shek O Beach
Clear Water Bay First Beach	Silverstrand Beach
Clear Water Bay Second Beach	Stanley Main Beach
Discovery Bay	

Grade 3 beaches are:

Castle Peak Beach	Ting Kau Beach
Silver Mine Bay Beach	

Compared with the grading released last week, Anglers' Beach, Casam Beach, Hoi Mei Wan Beach and Lido Beach have been upgraded from Grade 3 to Grade 2. Discovery Bay and Middle Bay 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.

Silver Mine Bay Beach was reopened on July 18, following the completion

of an improvement works project. The beach was temporarily closed from November 21, 2016, to carry out the "Improvement Works at Silvermine Bay Beach, Mui Wo, Lantau Island" project under the Signature Project Scheme (Islands District).

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. The 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 and www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach) or the beach hotline, 2511 6666.

[Term of non-permanent CFA judge extended](#)

The following is issued on behalf of the Judiciary:

The Chief Executive has accepted the recommendation of the Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal to extend the term of office of the Right Honourable the Lord Millett, GBS as a non-permanent judge from another common law jurisdiction of the Court of Final Appeal for a period of three years commencing July 28, 2018.

The Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal Ordinance provides for a list of non-permanent Hong Kong judges and a list of judges from other common law jurisdictions. The term of appointment of such judges is three years. That term may be extended for one or more periods of three years by the Chief Executive acting in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Justice.

Shek O Beach reopened

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (July 20) that the shark prevention net at Shek O Beach in Southern District, Hong Kong Island, has been repaired and the beach has been reopened.

The beach was temporarily closed earlier on for shark prevention net maintenance work.

However, due to big waves, the red flag is still hoisted at the beach. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.

Hong Kong Customs seizes suspected dangerous drugs (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs yesterday (July 19) seized about 500 grams of suspected crack cocaine and about 250 grams of suspected cocaine with an estimated market value of about \$900,000 in Tsim Sha Tsui and Causeway Bay.

During an anti-narcotics operation in Tsim Sha Tsui yesterday evening, Customs officers intercepted a man and found about 250 grams of suspected crack cocaine inside a plastic bag carried by him. The 27-year-old man was then arrested.

After follow-up investigation, the arrested man was escorted to a residential premises in Causeway Bay where about 250g of suspected crack cocaine, about 250g of suspected cocaine and a batch of drug packaging paraphernalia were further seized.

Investigation is ongoing.

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, trafficking in a dangerous drug is a serious offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$5 million and life imprisonment.

Members of the public may report any suspected drug trafficking activities to the Customs 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account (crimereport@customs.gov.hk).



Business expectations for third quarter of 2018

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released today (July 20) the results of the Quarterly Business Tendency Survey for the third quarter (Q3) of 2018.

Business situation

For all surveyed sectors taken together, the proportion of respondents expecting their business situation to be better (14%) in Q3 2018 over Q2 2018 is higher than that expecting it to be worse (8%).

When compared with the results of the Q2 2018 survey round, the proportion of respondents expecting a worse business situation in Q3 2018 as compared with the preceding quarter has slightly decreased to 8%, against the corresponding proportion of 9% in Q2 2018.

Analysed by sector, more respondents in the manufacturing, financing and insurance, and information and communications sectors expect their business situation to be better in Q3 2018 as compared with Q2 2018, relative to those expecting a worse business situation. In the construction sector and accommodation and food services sector, however, more respondents expect their business situation to be worse, as compared to those expecting a better business situation.

A Government spokesman cautioned that the results of the survey should be interpreted with care. He said, "In this type of survey on expectations, the views collected in the survey are affected by the events in the community occurring around the time of enumeration, and it is difficult to establish precisely the extent to which respondents' perception of the future accords with the underlying trends." The enumeration period for this survey round was from June 4, 2018, to July 13, 2018.

Volume of business/output

Respondents in most of the surveyed sectors expect their volume of business/output to increase on balance in Q3 2018 as compared with Q2 2018. In particular, more respondents in the financing and insurance; construction; transportation, storage and courier services; manufacturing; and information and communications sectors expect their volume of business/output to increase, as compared to those expecting it to decrease.

Employment

Respondents in quite a number of the surveyed sectors expect their employment to increase on balance in Q3 2018 as compared with Q2 2018. More respondents in the financing and insurance; construction; accommodation and food services; retail; and transportation, storage and courier services sectors expect their employment to increase in Q3 2018 over Q2 2018.

Selling price/service charge

Respondents in most of the surveyed sectors expect their selling prices/service charges to remain broadly unchanged or to go up on balance in Q3 2018 as compared with Q2 2018. In particular, more respondents in the retail sector and transportation, storage and courier services sector expect their selling prices/service charges to go up.

Further information

The survey gathers views on short-term business performance from the senior management of about 560 prominent establishments in various sectors in Hong Kong with a view to providing a quick reference, with minimum time lag, for predicting the short-term future economic performance of the local economy.

The survey covers 10 major sectors in Hong Kong, namely manufacturing; construction; import/export trade and wholesale; retail; accommodation and food services (mainly covering services rendered by hotels and restaurants); transportation, storage and courier services; information and communications; financing and insurance; real estate; and professional and business services sectors.

Views collected in the survey refer only to those of respondents on their own establishments rather than those on the respective sectors they are engaged in, and are limited to the expected direction of quarter-to-quarter change (e.g. "up", "same" or "down") but not the magnitude of change. In collecting views on the quarter-to-quarter changes, if the variable in question is subject to seasonal variations, respondents are asked to provide the expected changes after excluding the normal seasonal variations.

Survey results are generally presented as "net balance", i.e. the difference between the percentage of respondents choosing "up" and that choosing "down". The percentage distribution of respondents among various response categories (e.g. "up", "same" and "down") reflects how varied their business expectations are. The "net balance", with its appropriate sign,

indicates the direction of expected change in the variable concerned. A positive sign indicates a likely upward trend while a negative sign indicates a likely downward trend. However, the magnitude of the "net balance" reflects only the prevalence of optimism or pessimism, but not the magnitude of expected change, since information relating to such magnitude is not collected in the survey.

Furthermore, owing to sample size constraint, care should be taken in interpreting survey results involving a small percentage (e.g. less than 10%) of respondents in individual sectors.

Chart 1 shows the views on expected changes in business situation for the period Q3 2017 to Q3 2018.

Table 1 shows the net balances of views on expectations in respect of different variables for Q3 2018.

The survey results are published in greater detail in the "Report on Quarterly Business Tendency Survey, Q3 2018". Users can download the publication free of charge at the website of the C&SD (www.censtatd.gov.hk/hkstat/sub/sp300.jsp?productCode=B1110008).

Users who have enquiries about the survey results may contact the Business Expectation Statistics Section of the C&SD (Tel: 3903 7263 or email: business-prospects@censtatd.gov.hk).