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

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) today (May 29) released the latest grading of water quality for 38 gazetted beaches (see Note 1) and one non-gazetted beach (i.e. Discovery Bay, see Note 2).

Twenty-eight beaches were rated as Good (Grade 1) and 11 as Fair (Grade 2).

Grade 1 beaches are:

Cafeteria New Beach
Cafeteria Old 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
Hap Mun Bay Beach*
Hung Shing Yeh Beach*
Kadoorie Beach
Kiu Tsui Beach
Kwun Yam Beach

Lower Cheung Sha Beach
Middle Bay Beach
Pui O Beach*
Repulse Bay Beach*
Shek O Beach*
Silver Mine Bay Beach*
Silverstrand Beach
South Bay Beach
St Stephen's Beach
Stanley Main Beach*
Tong Fuk Beach
Trio Beach
Turtle Cove Beach
Upper Cheung Sha Beach

Grade 2 beaches are:

Lo So Shing Beach

Anglers' Beach
Approach Beach
Big Wave Bay Beach
Butterfly Beach*
Casam Beach*
Castle Peak Beach

Golden Beach*
Hoi Mei Wan Beach
Lido Beach*
Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach*
Ting Kau Beach

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.

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: The Leisure and Cultural Services Department has announced that 15 gazetted beaches (marked with an asterisk above) have reopened since May 23, while all the other beaches will remain temporarily closed until further notice.

Note 2: Discovery Bay is a non-gazetted beach without lifeguard service.