

Beach Water Quality in Hong Kong 2023

Our Mission:

To safeguard the health and welfare of the community and meet conservation goals by working to achieve and maintain the bacteriological Water Quality Objective for bathing beaches

[Photo: Beautiful beaches under clear sky]

Introduction

Hong Kong is surrounded by the sea and has many beautiful beaches along its long and winding coastline. To safeguard the health of beachgoers, we have to upkeep a clean swimming environment at these beaches.

Since 1986, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has implemented a comprehensive beach water quality monitoring programme established based on scientific studies. This report presents the beach water quality monitoring data and results for the 2023 bathing season, as well as summarizes the corresponding bacteriological Water Quality Objective (WQO) compliance rate and water quality rankings for all gazetted beaches in Hong Kong.

[Photo: Beaches are ideal places to relax and enjoy sea bathing]

The EPD conducts weekly water quality monitoring at all gazetted beaches in the territory from March to October, including inspection of beach environmental conditions and collecting water samples for laboratory analysis of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) level. In-situ measurements of physicochemical water quality parameters including dissolved oxygen, pH, salinity, temperature and turbidity of beach water are also taken.

[Photo: EPD's staff collecting water samples and conducting field measurement at beaches]

[Photo: EPD's staff conducting testing and analysis of beach water samples at the Environmental Microbiology Laboratory]

The EPD has established a dual rating system to assess the beach water quality in Hong Kong. Annual ranking and weekly grading of the beaches are determined according to the measured *E. coli* level in beach water, with each ranking or grading representing different levels of swimming-associated health risk in contracting minor gastrointestinal and skin illnesses. The annual ranking represents the overall water quality of the beach in the entire bathing season of the year, whereas the weekly grading reflects more recent temporal changes in water quality. Under this dual rating system, beaches are categorised into “Good”, “Fair”, “Poor” or “Very Poor”. Beaches receiving a “Good” or “Fair” annual ranking meet the bacteriological WQO for bathing waters.

[Photo: Water quality grading displayed at the gazetted beaches]

New Development - Beach Water Quality Forecast System

In line with the vision to develop Hong Kong into a smart city and to enhance our services to the public, the EPD launched the new Beach Water Quality Forecast System on 15 August 2023. The system was jointly developed by the EPD and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, using statistical multiple linear regression model which takes into account the most relevant and the latest environmental and hydrometeorological data, including microbiological data, rainfall, onshore wind, tide level, salinity, solar radiation and water temperature, to forecast the daily *E. coli* level in beach water.

The forecast system aims to predict the short-term beach water quality fluctuations arising from changes in hydrometeorological conditions, and produce near real-time water quality forecast to supplement the existing Beach Water Quality Monitoring Programme which relies on routine water quality monitoring data, assisting the public in early planning of water recreation activities. Through the smart technology platform, we can transform the water quality forecast model into a practical tool for disseminating the latest water quality forecast results to the public.

The forecast results are then converted into an easy-to-understand "Beach Water Quality Forecast Index", which is established making reference to the existing rating system for beach water quality, and is categorized into "1-Good", "2-Fair", "3-Poor" and "4-Very Poor". When the forecast result of a beach is "4-Very Poor", members of the public should consider avoiding swimming at that beach and could choose from the forecast system other beaches with better predicted water quality.

Members of the public can obtain the latest beach water quality forecast information through the "Beach Water Quality Forecast" mobile application (<https://www.epd.gov.hk/en/BWQApp>) or the dedicated beach water quality forecast page (<https://www.epd.gov.hk/en/BWQForecast>) on EPD's "Beach Water Quality" thematic website. The forecast results and information are updated daily and issued before 9 am in the morning.

[Photo: Daily water quality forecasts are available at Beach Water Quality Forecast mobile application]

Annual Beach Ranking in 2023

All 42 gazetted beaches complied with the bacteriological WQO in 2023. When compared to 2022, the number of beaches ranked as "Good" has slightly decreased from 27 beaches (or 64%) to 26 (or 62%), and the number of beaches ranked as "Fair" has increased from 15 (or 36%) to 16 (or 38%). No beaches were ranked as "Poor" or "Very Poor".

[Photo: The white sand and turquoise water at Stanley Main Beach]

The slight overall beach water quality fluctuation in 2023 was primarily attributed to the extreme weather in September with an unusually high monthly rainfall record (1,067 mm). During the period, Hong Kong was ferociously struck by the Super Typhoon Saola, followed by the prolonged torrential rain associated with the remnants of Typhoon Haikui. The cumulative rainfall recorded in the 2023 bathing season (2751 mm) was 54% higher than that in 2022 (1786 mm), and was also 20% higher than the 30-year climatological normal between 1991 and 2020. Consecutive heavy rainstorms could have washed off pollutants on land to the sea, causing rapid elevation of *E. coli* levels in seawater. Nevertheless, these beach water quality fluctuations were generally transient and still within the normal range of natural fluctuations.

In 2023, among the 42 gazetted beaches distributed across 6 different districts in Hong Kong, beaches in Southern (Hong Kong Island South), Islands, Sai Kung and Tai Po Districts continued to receive relatively better annual ranking as compared with those beaches in Tuen Mun and Tsuen Wan districts. Ten out of the 12 beaches in the Southern District were ranked as “Good”. Deep Water Bay Beach was changed from “Good” to “Fair”, while Big Wave Bay Beach continued to receive a “Fair” ranking. All of the beaches in the Islands District maintained the same ranking as recorded in the previous year, with Lower Cheung Sha Beach and Silver Mine Bay Beach being ranked as “Fair”, and the rest as “Good”. In Sai Kung District, except a change in ranking from “Good” to “Fair” at Silverstrand Beach, all other 5 beaches remained to be ranked as “Good”.

[Photo: Tong Fuk Beach has maintained a “Good” annual ranking since 1988.]

Tai Po Lung Mei Beach in Tai Po District has maintained a “Good” annual ranking since its opening in June 2021.

Since the commissioning of the disinfection facilities of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme in 2010, there has been a significant improvement in the water quality of beaches in Tsuen Wan District. All 8 beaches in the district have maintained a “Fair” annual ranking, on par with the situation in the previous years. Adjacent to the Tsuen Wan District, Tuen Mun District has 6 gazetted beaches and 3 of them, namely Golden Beach, New Beach and Cafeteria Old Beach, attained a “Good” annual ranking. The later in particular showed a gradual water quality improvement. The other 3 beaches in Tuen Mun District maintained a “Fair” ranking.

EPD’s beach water quality monitoring also covers 2 fairly popular non-gazetted beaches, namely the Discovery Bay Tai Pak Beach on Lantau Island and the sandy beach New Kiu Tsui in Sai Kung. Both beaches continued to achieve a “Good” ranking in 2023.

[Photo: Tai Po Lung Mei Beach is a great place for the public to enjoy the nature.]

Weekly Beach Grading in 2023

In addition to the annual ranking, the EPD also issues weekly grading of gazetted beaches during their opening periods to keep beachgoers updated with the more recent trends of beach water quality. This up-to-date grading information can be obtained through different channels including press releases, the EPD's beach thematic website (<https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach>), beach water quality hotline (2511-6666), GeoInfo Map of the GovHK website and noticeboards at the beaches. This section provides an overview of the weekly grading status of beaches during the 2023 bathing season.

In 2023, beaches in Southern District generally had decent water quality, and maintained a “Good” grading for 80% of time in the bathing season. In particular, Chung Hom Kok Beach, South Bay Beach and St. Stephen’s Beach achieved 100% “Good” grading throughout the entire bathing season. Both Deep Water Bay Beach and Stanley Main Beach were once temporarily graded as “Very Poor” in June after heavy rainstorms, and their water quality returned to normal shortly. Towards the end of bathing season, the water quality at Deep Water Bay Beach was temporarily affected again by an emergency repair works for a sewage rising main in the vicinity, leading to another “Very Poor” grading.

Most beaches in Islands District continued to possess pristine water quality. Among the 9 gazetted beaches in the district, Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach, Hung Shing Yeh Beach and Tong Fuk Beach maintained “Good” grading throughout the entire bathing season. On the other hand, a regional water quality fluctuation associated with heavy rainstorm was observed in the district in early May, when Lower Cheung Sha Beach, Upper Cheung Sha Beach, Pui O Beach and Silver Mine Bay Beach were downgraded to “Very Poor” but recovered quickly.

[Photo: St. Stephen’s Beach and the nearby water sports centre.]

The beaches in Sai Kung District continued to achieve good weekly grading. Among all 6 beaches in the district, Hap Mun Bay Beach, Kiu Tsui Beach and Trio Beach had the best water quality attaining a “Good” grading for over 90% of time in the bathing season. The only “Very Poor” grading in the district, which was associated with heavy rainfall, was reported at Silverstrand Beach.

Same as previous years, Tai Po Lung Mei Beach in Tai Po District was mostly graded as “Good”. Its grading was changed to “Fair” under rare occasions due to heavy rainstorms occurred between July and September. There was no “Poor” or “Very Poor” grading throughout the bathing season.

All beaches in Tuen Mun District, except for Castle Peak Beach, had relatively stable water quality rating between "Good" and "Fair" throughout the bathing season. Occasions of “Very Poor” grading at Castle Peak Beach were recorded, which could largely be attributed to slower water quality recovery from extreme weather due to its relatively enclosed environment as compared to other beaches in the vicinity.

As in the past years, beaches in Tsuen Wan District mostly attained a “Fair” grading in the bathing season, with district-wide fluctuation of water quality observed in June, when the unsteady weather also occasionally brought “Very Poor” grading to all beaches, except Ting Kau Beach, in the district.

[Photo: Ting Kau Beach by the Ting Kau Bridge]

Water Quality Trend

The significant long-term improvement over the past three decades, as well as the continuously good beach water quality, are the outcomes of continuous efforts of the Government and various stakeholders.

In 1980s, many beaches were either closed (e.g. Cafeteria Old Beach, Castle Peak Beach and Silver Mine Bay Beach) or on the verge of being closed (e.g. Middle Bay Beach and Repulse Bay Beach) due to poor water quality. The situation was aggravated by the population growth associated new town development during early and mid-1990s. The bacteriological WQO compliance rate of beaches further deteriorated from 74% (29 of 39 beaches) in 1986 to 63% (26 of 41 beaches) in 1997.

In the past two decades, the Government has put in continuous efforts and extensive resources to implement various pollution control and environmental improvement measures, resulting in a substantial and persistent improvement in beach water quality. These efforts and measures include the enforcement of the Water Pollution Control Ordinance and Livestock Waste Control Scheme, extension of the sewerage network to the

beach hinterlands, upgrading of the existing sewage treatment facilities, and provision of new treatment facilities. Among these measures, the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme is a core sewerage infrastructure project that has brought tremendous improvement to Hong Kong's marine and beach water quality.

Consequently, there has been a marked improvement in the overall beach water quality, and full compliance with the bacteriological WQO for all gazetted beaches in Hong Kong has been continuously maintained for 14 consecutive years since 2010. The major water quality improvement measures implemented by the Government are summarized in the table on page 12.

Comparison of annual beach ranking of gazetted beaches in 1986, 1997 and 2023

Year	WQO Compliant		WQO Non-compliant	
	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
1986	23.1% (9)	51.3% (20)	17.9% (7)	7.7% (3)
1997	24.4% (10)	39.0% (16)	29.3% (12)	7.3% (3)
2023	61.9% (26)	38.1% (16)	-	-

() No. of beaches

Note: Two beaches degazetted in 1995 were excluded from all the statistics above.

[Figure: Bacteriological WQO compliance rate of gazetted beaches (1997 – 2023)]

Major improvement measures for the beaches since the implementation of beach water quality monitoring programme in 1986	
1986 – 1990	Beaches with Water Quality Improvement
Implementation of the Livestock Waste Control Scheme under the Waste Disposal (Livestock Waste) Regulation.	Most beaches, particularly Silver Mine Bay Beach

Declaration of the Southern Water Control Zone (WCZ) under the Water Pollution Control Ordinance (WPCO) for legislative enforcement.	Beaches in Southern District
Interception and diversion of polluted storm drains at beaches in Southern District.	Beaches in Southern District
1991- 1995	
Implementation of chemical waste control.	All beaches in Hong Kong
Declaration of the North Western WCZ under the WPCO for legislative enforcement.	Beaches in Tuen Mun District
Diversion of polluted storm water drains away from Castle Peak Beach.	Castle Peak Beach
Provision of public sewers for So Kwun Wat and Sam Shing Estate.	Beaches in Tuen Mun District
Commissioning of Stanley Sewage Treatment Works (STW).	Stanley Main Beach
1996 - 2000	
Full implementation of the WPCO in all WCZs.	All beaches in Hong Kong
Commissioning of the Shek O Sewage Screening Plant and diversion of polluted storm water drains at Shek O Village.	Shek O Beach
Completion of all major works under Southern Sewerage Master Plan.	Beaches in Southern District
Commissioning of the new 2 km long Pillar Point sewage submarine outfall.	Beaches in Tuen Mun District
2001 - 2005	
Completion of Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 1.	Big Wave Bay, Shek O, Rocky Bay Beaches
Provision of public sewers in the Silverstrand area.	Silverstrand Beach
Full operation of the Sham Tseng STW.	Beaches along the Tsuen Wan coast
2006 - 2023	
Commissioning of the Advance Disinfection Facilities at Stonecutters Island STW.	All beaches in Tsuen Wan District
Extension of the public sewerage network to the beach hinterland along Castle Peak Road.	Beaches along the Tsuen Wan coast
Full commissioning of all facilities of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) Stage 2A.	Beaches along the Tsuen Wan coast

Graphs of historical water quality trends for individual gazetted beaches are given in Appendix C of this report. The public can also visit the EPD's "Beach Water Quality" website (<https://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/beach>) to obtain more details of the beach water quality monitoring programme, relevant information and data, as well as annual water quality reports published since 2000.

[Photos: Relaxing on beaches]

The Monitoring Programme

Beaches monitored by the EPD

Southern District	Sai Kung District	Tsuen Wan District	Tuen Mun District	Islands District	Tai Po District
Deep Water Bay	Kiu Tsui	Ma Wan Tung Wan	Butterfly	Silver Mine Bay	Tai Po Lung Mei
Repulse Bay	Hap Mun Bay	Anglers'	Castle Peak	Pui O	
Middle Bay	Trio	Gemini	Kadoorie	Lower Cheung Sha	
South Bay	Silverstrand	Hoi Mei Wan	Cafeteria Old	Upper Cheung Sha	
Chung Hom Kok	Clear Water Bay First	Casam	Cafeteria New	Tong Fuk	
St. Stephen's	Clear Water Bay Second	Lido	Golden	Cheung Chau Tung Wan	
Stanley Main	Kiu Tsui (New)**	Ting Kau		Kwun Yam	
Hairpin		Approach		Hung Shing Yeh	
Turtle Cove				Lo So Shing	
Shek O				Discovery Bay**	
Rocky Bay					
Big Wave Bay					

** Non-gazetted beaches

Beach monitoring frequency

Beach	Monitoring frequency per month	
	Bathing season *	Non-bathing season
Gazetted beaches open all year round	at least 3 times	at least 3 times
Other gazetted beaches	at least 3 times	once
Non-gazetted beaches	at least 3 times	once

* March to October

Overview of various stages of the Beach Monitoring Programme

[Image of overview of various stages of the Beach Monitoring Programme]

Hong Kong's annual beach ranking system

Rank	<i>E. coli</i> counts per 100 mL*	Minor illness rate** (Cases per 1,000 swimmers)	WQO Compliance
Good	≤24	Undetectable	Compliant
Fair	25-180	≤10	
Poor	181-610	11-15	Non-compliant
Very Poor	>610	>15	

* Geometric mean *E. coli* count calculated based on all data collected between March and October.

** Skin and gastrointestinal illnesses

Hong Kong's weekly beach grading system

Grade	Beach water quality	<i>E. coli</i> counts per 100 mL*	Minor illness rate ** (Cases per 1,000 swimmers)
1	Good	≤24	Undetectable
2	Fair	25-180	≤10
3	Poor	181-610	11-15
4	Very Poor	>610 or last reading >1,600	>15

* Unless otherwise indicated, the *E. coli* count represents the geometric mean of the 5 most recent sampling occasions.

** Skin and gastrointestinal illnesses

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2023 Annual ranking and bathing season geometric mean *E. coli* levels of Hong Kong's gazetted beaches

Annual Ranking	Beach	<i>E. coli</i> (counts/100ml)
Good	Hap Mun Bay	2
	Hung Shing Yeh	4
	Lo So Shing	4
	South Bay	4
	St. Stephen's	4
	Tong Fuk	5
	Trio	5
	Upper Cheung Sha	5
	Kiu Tsui	6
	Repulse Bay	6
	Chung Hom Kok	7
	Turtle Cove	7
	Shek O	8
	Tai Po Lung Mei Beach	8
	Cheung Chau Tung Wan	9
	Hairpin	11
	Kwun Yam	12
	Stanley Main	12
	Pui O	14
	Cafeteria New	16
	Middle Bay	17
	Clear Water Bay First	19
	Clear Water Bay Second	19
Rocky Bay	19	
Cafeteria Old	20	
Golden	23	
Fair	Deep Water Bay	29
	Kadoorie	29
	Butterfly	30
	Big Wave Bay	31
	Lower Cheung Sha	34
	Silverstrand	48
	Lido	56
	Casam	59
	Hoi Mei Wan	85
	Approach	92
	Silver Mine Bay	100
	Gemini	107
	Ting Kau	113
	Ma Wan Tung Wan	133
	Castle Peak	149
	Anglers'	162

*Beaches not open for swimming (no lifeguard service)

Annual ranking of gazetted beaches at a glance in 2023

District	Beach	Annual Ranking
Southern	Big Wave Bay	Fair
	Chung Hom Kok	Good
	Deep Water Bay	Fair
	Hairpin*	Good
	Middle Bay	Good
	Repulse Bay	Good
	Rocky Bay*	Good
	Shek O	Good
	South Bay	Good
	St. Stephen's	Good
	Stanley Main	Good
	Turtle Cove	Good
Sai Kung	Clear Water Bay First	Good
	Clear Water Bay Second	Good
	Hap Mun Bay	Good
	Kiu Tsui	Good
	Silverstrand	Good
	Trio	Good
Tai Po	Tai Po Lung Mei	Good
Tsuen Wan	Anglers'	Fair
	Approach	Fair
	Casam	Fair
	Gemini*	Fair
	Hoi Mei Wan	Fair
	Lido	Fair
	Ting Kau	Fair
	Ma Wan Tung Wan	Fair
Tuen Mun	Butterfly	Fair
	Cafeteria New	Good
	Cafeteria Old	Good
	Castle Peak	Fair
	Golden	Good
	Kadoorie	Fair
Islands	Cheung Chau Tung Wan	Good
	Hung Shing Yeh	Good
	Kwun Yam	Good
	Lo So Shing	Good
	Lower Cheung Sha	Fair
	Pui O	Good
	Silver Mine Bay	Fair
	Tong Fuk	Good
	Upper Cheung Sha	Good

*Beaches not open for swimming (no lifeguard service)

Weekly beach grading summary of open gazetted beaches by district in 2023

District	Percentage of Weekly Gradings				Total no. of Grading Occasions
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	
Southern	81.7%	17.2%	0.3%	0.9%	338
Sai Kung	73.5%	23.7%	2.4%	0.5%	211
Tai Po	94.1%	5.9%	0.0%	0.0%	34
Tsuen Wan	7.7%	71.1%	16.3%	4.9%	246
Tuen Mun	41.0%	52.7%	4.3%	2.1%	188
Islands	76.8%	18.9%	3.0%	1.3%	302

Figures may not add up to 100% due to roundings

Annual ranking and weekly grading summary - Southern District beaches

Beach	Annual Ranking	Percentage of Weekly Gradings			
		Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Big Wave Bay	Fair	44%	56%	0%	0%
Chung Hom Kok	Good	100%	0%	0%	0%
Deep Water Bay	Fair	56%	36%	3%	6%
Hairpin *	Good	76%	21%	0%	3%
Middle Bay	Good	73%	27%	0%	0%
Repulse Bay	Good	85%	15%	0%	0%
Rocky Bay *	Good	68%	32%	0%	0%
Shek O	Good	97%	3%	0%	0%
South Bay	Good	100%	0%	0%	0%
St. Stephen's	Good	100%	0%	0%	0%
Stanley Main	Good	71%	26%	0%	3%
Turtle Cove	Good	94%	6%	0%	0%

Note: Figures may not add up to 100% due to roundings

* Beaches not open for swimming (no lifeguard service)

Annual ranking and weekly grading summary - Sai Kung District beaches

Beach	Annual Ranking	Percentage of Weekly Gradings			
		Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Clear Water Bay First	Good	49%	51%	0%	0%
Clear Water Bay Second	Good	63%	37%	0%	0%
Hap Mun Bay	Good	100%	0%	0%	0%
Kiu Tsui	Good	97%	3%	0%	0%
Silverstrand	Good	42%	42%	14%	3%
Trio	Good	91%	9%	0%	0%

Note: Figures may not add up to 100% due to roundings

Annual ranking and weekly grading summary - Tsuen Wan District beaches

Beach	Annual Ranking	Percentage of Weekly Gradings			
		Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Anglers'	Fair	0%	68%	29%	3%
Approach	Fair	5%	73%	11%	11%
Casam	Fair	11%	75%	8%	6%
Gemini *	Fair	0%	85%	12%	3%
Hoi Mei Wan	Fair	6%	81%	8%	6%
Lido	Fair	14%	72%	8%	6%
Ting Kau	Fair	9%	79%	12%	0%
Ma Wan Tung Wan	Fair	9%	48%	39%	3%

Note: Figures may not add up to 100% due to roundings

* Beaches not open for swimming (no lifeguard service)

Annual ranking and weekly grading summary - Tuen Mun District beaches

Beach	Annual Ranking	Percentage of Weekly Gradings			
		Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Butterfly	Fair	35%	65%	0%	0%
Cafeteria New	Good	55%	45%	0%	0%
Cafeteria Old	Good	71%	29%	0%	0%
Castle Peak	Fair	0%	64%	24%	12%
Golden	Good	55%	45%	0%	0%
Kadoorie	Fair	32%	68%	0%	0%

Note: Figures may not add up to 100% due to roundings

Annual ranking and weekly grading summary - Islands District beaches

Beach	Annual Ranking	Percentage of Weekly Gradings			
		Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Cheung Chau Tung Wan	Good	100%	0%	0%	0%
Hung Shing Yeh	Good	100%	0%	0%	0%
Kwun Yam	Good	85%	15%	0%	0%
Lo So Shing	Good	97%	3%	0%	0%
Lower Cheung Sha	Fair	29%	68%	0%	3%
Pui O	Good	71%	26%	0%	3%
Silver Mine Bay	Fair	18%	53%	26%	3%
Tong Fuk	Good	100%	0%	0%	0%
Upper Cheung Sha	Good	94%	3%	0%	3%

Note: Figures may not add up to 100% due to roundings

Annual ranking and weekly grading summary - Tai Po District beaches

Beach	Annual Ranking	Percentage of Weekly Gradings			
		Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Tai Po Lung Mei	Good	94%	6%	0%	0%

Note: Figures may not add up to 100% due to roundings

Annual beach rankings of gazetted beaches from 1986 to 2023

Year	Number of Beaches in Each Rank				Total
	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	
1986	9	20	7	3	39
1987	5	21	9	5	40
1988	7	19	7	7	40
1989	13	18	7	2	40
1990	14	19	5	2	40
1991	17	14	7	2	40
1992	16	14	7	3	40
1993	15	12	10	3	40
1994	13	14	11	2	40
1995	14	10	13	4	41
1996	13	14	10	4	41
1997	10	16	12	3	41
1998	16	16	8	1	41
1999	22	13	6	0	41
2000	21	14	6	0	41
2001	21	13	5	2	41
2002	23	10	2	6	41
2003	23	11	1	6	41
2004	25	9	5	2	41
2005	23	11	1	6	41
2006	22	12	5	2	41
2007	25	9	7	0	41
2008	24	10	7	0	41
2009	23	15	3	0	41
2010	23	18	0	0	41
2011	31	10	0	0	41
2012	23	18	0	0	41
2013	24	17	0	0	41
2014	23	18	0	0	41
2015	25	16	0	0	41
2016	18	23	0	0	41
2017	23	18	0	0	41
2018	26	15	0	0	41
2019	21	20	0	0	41
2020	24	17	0	0	41
2021	30	12	0	0	42
2022	27	15	0	0	42
2023	26	16	0	0	42

Note: Two beaches degazetted in 1995 were excluded from all the statistics above

Comparison of annual beach ranking of gazetted beaches in 1986 and 2023

Year	WQO Compliant		WQO Non-compliant	
	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
1986	23.1% (9)	51.3% (20)	17.9% (7)	7.7% (3)
2023	61.9%(26)	38.1%(16)	0% (0)	0% (0)

() No. of beaches

Note: Two beaches degazetted in 1995 were excluded from all the statistics above

Annual geometric mean *E. coli* levels of gazetted beaches by district, 1997 - 2023

Year	Southern	Sai Kung	Tsuen Wan	Tuen Mun	Islands	Tai Po
1997	55	26	562	326	24	-
1998	34	17	321	125	12	-
1999	16	9	231	59	7	-
2000	16	11	219	57	8	-
2001	18	13	321	101	12	-
2002	10	12	666	70	7	-
2003	11	14	566	85	8	-
2004	9	10	405	64	5	-
2005	14	14	576	77	8	-
2006	13	11	447	122	11	-
2007	9	8	294	77	9	-
2008	11	13	247	56	12	-
2009	11	13	163	43	10	-
2010	14	10	90	39	8	-
2011	7	5	25	34	7	-
2012	11	10	50	47	8	-
2013	12	15	85	54	11	-
2014	12	13	76	44	12	-
2015	14	8	70	45	10	-
2016	17	18	57	66	16	-
2017	9	11	51	46	12	-
2018	8	10	97	31	8	-
2019	12	12	81	63	11	-
2020	8	11	93	65	8	-
2021	8	7	92	31	9	12
2022	10	8	97	41	10	9
2023	11	10	94	32	11	8

Note: Annual geometric mean *E. coli* levels calculated based on all the data collected between March and October

Annual geometric mean *E. coli* levels (1997 - 2023)

Beach	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Southern District																												
Big Wave Bay	179	114	77	98	106	23	33	26	101	50	17	31	46	149	17	31	21	40	21	78	36	34	103	37	28	27	31	
Chung Hom Kok	22	40	14	8	15	13	14	9	13	10	9	13	14	9	5	5	8	13	13	6	6	4	6	9	5	18	7	
Deep Water Bay	55	46	14	16	18	9	9	7	8	7	7	9	12	9	6	9	11	14	19	24	14	11	19	13	13	11	29	
Hairpin	44	72	17	18	10	6	7	7	13*	11*	19*	10*	12*	33*	6*	9*	14*	12*	8*	17*	5*	8*	7*	5*	6*	5*	11*	
Middle Bay	40	16	11	11	8	9	14	12	20	18	9	11	12	12	6	15	14	13	13	20	14	9	18	11	16	24	17	
Repulse Bay	23	11	8	9	13	9	12	4	8	12	7	14	11	7	6	7	10	11	14	10	5	4	4	5	5	6	6	
Rocky Bay	399*	223*	72*	80*	118*	43*	28*	19*	30*	33*	17*	15*	13*	50*	23*	30*	22*	16*	35*	47*	18*	29*	47*	10*	24*	15*	19*	
Shek O	102	70	32	29	31	13	11	16	19	24	18	22	11	19	11	16	15	18	29	26	16	19	25	7	8	23	8	
South Bay	17	6	4	7	5	5	11	9	7	7	5	5	4	4	4	5	4	5	9	5	3	2	4	3	4	4	4	
St. Stephen's	40	26	11	6	7	5	9	4	12	11	6	9	6	4	4	4	10	5	6	7	4	4	5	6	3	3	4	
Stanley Main	72	24	13	12	9	8	6	5	7	10	9	10	13	20	6	34	19	9	20	23	8	11	7	6	9	7	12	
Turtle Cove	40	14	12	11	15	8	4	5	8	7	5	5	5	8	4	6	6	8	5	11	5	3	9	8	6	7	7	
Sai Kung District																												
Clear Water Bay First	62	41	11	16	28	28	17	9	16	20	14	11	15	10	7	8	24	15	14	31	20	19	23	19	8	18	19	
Clear Water Bay Second	66	44	12	26	22	14	21	10	19	13	9	19	27	13	5	18	15	18	17	32	16	13	17	14	9	9	19	
Hap Mun Bay	3	2	2	2	1	2	4	3	4	4	3	5	3	3	2	7	4	2	4	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	
Kiu Tsui	5	4	4	5	5	4	5	17	14	11	6	13	16	13	9	10	13	11	6	10	5	8	8	11	7	7	6	
Silverstrand	148	99	32	61	100	133	97	74	67	30	33	35	51	28	18	30	39	40	18	63	56	24	40	28	18	19	48	
Trio	30	21	17	10	12	6	10	2	6	5	2	12	5	6	2	9	8	10	4	13	7	7	9	6	4	6	5	
Tsuen Wan District																												
Anglers'	691*	502*	442*	326*	621*	1169*	693*	619*	895*	772*	496*	510*	276*	134*	27*	69*	133	130	77	76	45	143	88	105	135	142	162	
Approach	1009*	435*	387*	316*	411*	696*	762*	470*	663*	599*	352*	251*	208*	124*	59	470	83	106	121	143	78	114	92	97	133	71	84	92
Casam	609	239	231	209	233	741	702*	594*	716*	426*	305*	289*	144*	102*	21	50	71	63	52	42	43	94	79	84	74	109	59	
Gemini	458	399	350	258	323	1155	875*	1102*	1042*	853*	566*	481*	410*	137*	19*	40*	135*	110*	56*	40*	39*	120*	79*	101*	127*	139*	107*	
Hoi Mei Wan	471	280	109	177	199	547	442*	287*	641*	308*	286*	271*	130*	87*	23	51	86	58	90	65	63	92	112	84	76	75	85	
Lido	600	262	231	181	269	683	734*	523*	782*	459*	280*	296*	178*	87*	21	32	53	57	52	39	34	76	65	66	98	111	56	
Ma Wan Tung Wan	110	92	51	39	133	201	159	101	132	171	78	53	60	17	10	24	41	31	20	32	29	74	46	84	93	54	133	
Ting Kau	1583*	1045*	515*	593*	739*	742*	831*	412*	512*	469*	405*	258*	145*	141*	58*	88*	107*	89	151	140	75	101	102	93	85	96	113	
Tuen Mun District																												
Butterfly	259	121	44	61	74	60	74	55	55	94	84	56	49	30	41	42	71	38	98	131	81	39	91	129	57	50	30	
Cafeteria New	309	100	60	51	104	62	80	54	70	120	68	48	38	31	27	47	50	31	30	38	31	18	40	37	17	20	16	
Cafeteria Old	435	138	58	57	125	74	76	61	81	150	67	45	46	34	29	48	39	45	41	70	50	30	64	53	23	34	20	
Castle Peak	332*	199*	57*	58*	105*	58*	64*	80*	90	139	64	47	35	63	49	48	78	91	71	106	65	70	128	112	103	162	149	
Golden Beach	352	98	44	50	87	66	84	46	62	117	87	63	42	37	26	62	45	39	31	45	37	22	41	45	19	24	23	
Kadoorie	290	130	109	68	120	114	160	98	117	118	101	87	48	45	37	40	52	37	29	48	31	28	52	55	19	31	29	
Islands District																												
Cheung Chau Tung Wan	24	19	11	12	16	17	11	12	14	37	21	15	17	12	6	13	10	14	19	9	18	9	8	11	10	12	9	
Hung Shing Yeh	5	3	3	5	6	2	5	4	4	4	6	4	6	4	3	4	4	5	4	6	5	4	4	5	3	4	4	
Kwun Yam	32	21	6	10	11	9	7	5	10	13	9	10	9	8	5	9	8	12	12	9	8	7	8	15	11	12		
Lo So Shing	3	2	4	2	5	2	3	2	3	4	3	5	7	3	3	4	5	5	4	6	6	4	3	4	2	3	4	
Lower Cheung Sha	85	23	10	12	22	10	14	7	12	11	12	20	13	11	9	10	17	21	17	47	19	9	25	10	20	31	34	
Pui O	36	16	10	10	17	10	15	9	10	16	30	24	12	14	13	22	51	60	24	29	34	19	22	21	22	15	14	
Silver Mine Bay	481	123	39	50	67	42	50	14	34	52	22	43	45	31	28	38	39	51	59	119	141*	36	106	37	56	51	100	
Tong Fuk	14	10	4	5	6	4	3	4	5	5	4	10	5	5	4	4	7	4	4	9	3	4	5	4	5	6	5	
Upper Cheung Sha	8	3	2	3	5	3	3	3	3	4	4	7	5	4	3	4	4	5	3	7	3	4	7	4	4	4	5	
Tai Po District																												
Tai Po Lung Mei																												

Note:

* Beach not open for swimming that year

Physicochemical water quality data for gazetted beaches, 2023

Beach Name	pH	Salinity (psu) ¹	Turbidity (NTU) ²	Temperature (°C)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	(% Saturation)
Southern District						
Big Wave Bay Beach	8.24 (7.99 - 8.52)	30.6 (18.8 - 33.6)	3.06 (1.36 - 8.12)	26.2 (19.5 - 31.3)	6.7 (5.6 - 9.8)	96 (81 - 124)
Chung Hom Kok Beach	8.25 (8.11 - 8.51)	30.8 (22.4 - 33.6)	4.02 (1.42 - 13.70)	26.6 (19.7 - 31.2)	6.7 (5.3 - 10.0)	96 (78 - 130)
Deep Water Bay Beach	8.19 (7.94 - 8.48)	29.7 (21.2 - 33.6)	6.76 (2.03 - 15.80)	27.2 (19.8 - 31.6)	6.4 (4.0 - 9.7)	92 (62 - 130)
Hairpin Beach *	8.26 (8.05 - 8.59)	30.4 (22.8 - 33.7)	2.63 (0.74 - 12.70)	27.3 (19.2 - 30.9)	6.7 (5.3 - 9.2)	97 (81 - 127)
Middle Bay Beach	8.24 (8.01 - 8.49)	30.3 (23.1 - 33.7)	5.37 (1.98 - 29.20)	26.6 (19.4 - 31.1)	6.7 (5.0 - 10.0)	96 (75 - 133)
Repulse Bay Beach	8.24 (8.04 - 8.49)	31.1 (24.3 - 33.6)	4.30 (1.50 - 9.26)	26.7 (19.3 - 31.6)	6.6 (4.9 - 10.0)	95 (75 - 130)
Rocky Bay Beach *	8.20 (7.94 - 8.48)	31.0 (20.6 - 33.6)	3.72 (1.27 - 12.10)	26.1 (19.7 - 30.3)	6.5 (4.6 - 10.0)	93 (68 - 127)
Shek O Beach	8.24 (8.03 - 8.50)	31.5 (26.0 - 33.8)	3.66 (1.06 - 7.62)	26.5 (19.9 - 31.4)	6.5 (5.4 - 9.4)	93 (80 - 121)
South Bay Beach	8.26 (8.09 - 8.44)	31.0 (24.6 - 33.7)	3.22 (0.90 - 9.11)	26.7 (19.6 - 31.2)	6.5 (4.8 - 10.0)	96 (73 - 141)
St. Stephen's Beach	8.21 (7.94 - 8.43)	30.9 (22.2 - 33.7)	3.09 (1.01 - 7.28)	26.7 (19.9 - 30.9)	6.4 (5.1 - 9.6)	93 (77 - 130)
Stanley Main Beach	8.26 (8.06 - 8.56)	29.8 (20.8 - 33.5)	4.02 (1.13 - 13.70)	27.4 (19.8 - 31.3)	6.7 (5.1 - 9.2)	97 (76 - 124)
Turtle Cove Beach	8.26 (8.03 - 8.50)	30.4 (22.7 - 33.6)	6.58 (1.02 - 32.20)	27.4 (20.4 - 31.4)	6.4 (4.9 - 9.2)	95 (75 - 120)

Sai Kung District

Clear Water Bay First Beach	8.23 (7.95 - 8.46)	31.2 (22.8 - 33.7)	4.03 (1.19 - 9.54)	27.1 (20.1 - 32.1)	6.5 (5.2 - 9.8)	94 (79 - 128)
Clear Water Bay Second Beach	8.20 (7.89 - 8.44)	31.6 (23.4 - 33.8)	7.11 (1.69 - 59.70)	27.2 (20.2 - 32.2)	6.3 (5.2 - 9.9)	93 (80 - 127)
Hap Mun Bay Beach	8.23 (8.08 - 8.39)	31.6 (24.2 - 33.5)	2.14 (0.66 - 5.46)	27.3 (19.6 - 31.7)	6.5 (5.2 - 10.0)	94 (78 - 139)
Kiu Tsui Beach	8.22 (8.03 - 8.41)	31.2 (23.3 - 33.5)	2.06 (0.51 - 8.25)	27.3 (19.6 - 31.5)	6.4 (4.8 - 8.1)	95 (75 - 117)
Silverstrand Beach	8.21 (8.01 - 8.43)	29.7 (11.0 - 33.1)	4.98 (0.91 - 16.30)	26.9 (19.8 - 31.4)	6.6 (5.3 - 10.0)	96 (80 - 130)
Trio Beach	8.19 (7.96 - 8.41)	29.9 (11.9 - 33.4)	2.79 (1.03 - 7.62)	27.8 (20.2 - 32.4)	6.4 (4.8 - 9.9)	94 (74 - 130)

Tsuen Wan District

Anglers' Beach	8.14 (7.94 - 8.42)	28.6 (16.1 - 32.6)	4.57 (1.39 - 13.40)	26.6 (20.4 - 30.5)	6.1 (4.6 - 7.4)	85 (33 - 105)
Approach Beach	8.17 (7.97 - 8.49)	27.8 (20.3 - 32.2)	4.33 (1.46 - 20.60)	26.7 (19.9 - 30.3)	6.3 (4.5 - 9.0)	89 (37 - 116)
Casam Beach	8.18 (7.99 - 8.46)	28.2 (21.9 - 32.2)	3.34 (1.04 - 14.10)	26.8 (20.3 - 30.3)	6.3 (4.6 - 9.7)	90 (30 - 130)
Gemini Beaches *	8.13 (7.92 - 8.43)	28.6 (18.2 - 32.7)	3.08 (1.16 - 7.46)	26.6 (20.3 - 29.8)	6.0 (4.5 - 9.9)	85 (31 - 130)
Hoi Mei Wan Beach	8.14 (7.96 - 8.43)	28.0 (21.6 - 32.2)	2.96 (1.07 - 6.75)	27.0 (20.3 - 30.4)	6.2 (4.5 - 8.8)	88 (30 - 130)
Lido Beach	8.17 (7.99 - 8.44)	28.2 (21.6 - 32.2)	3.61 (1.13 - 8.75)	26.8 (20.3 - 30.1)	6.2 (4.2 - 7.9)	88 (31 - 112)
Ma Wan Tung Wan Beach	8.13 (7.93 - 8.40)	29.3 (23.9 - 32.2)	6.40 (2.51 - 37.20)	26.5 (20.0 - 30.8)	6.1 (4.9 - 8.5)	89 (72 - 122)
Ting Kau Beach	8.19 (8.00 - 8.47)	27.7 (20.9 - 32.1)	3.74 (1.14 - 14.30)	26.8 (20.0 - 31.1)	6.3 (4.6 - 10.0)	90 (35 - 130)

Tuen Mun District

Butterfly Beach	8.15 (7.97 - 8.55)	25.9 (15.4 - 31.0)	7.31 (2.02 - 32.40)	27.2 (20.2 - 31.2)	6.4 (4.5 - 8.2)	92 (70 - 122)
Cafeteria New Beach	8.16 (8.03 - 8.59)	25.9 (13.3 - 31.2)	5.73 (1.56 - 24.10)	27.1 (20.3 - 31.0)	6.3 (5.0 - 7.9)	90 (72 - 113)
Cafeteria Old Beach	8.14 (7.82 - 8.48)	25.5 (13.5 - 31.1)	5.39 (1.28 - 11.10)	27.1 (20.3 - 31.2)	6.3 (5.0 - 9.7)	90 (72 - 130)
Castle Peak Beach	8.13 (7.82 - 8.65)	24.9 (13.8 - 30.9)	4.25 (1.59 - 28.40)	27.3 (20.3 - 31.5)	6.5 (4.5 - 9.4)	93 (70 - 129)
Golden Beach	8.17 (8.00 - 8.55)	25.9 (13.5 - 31.3)	4.72 (1.26 - 11.20)	27.0 (20.3 - 30.7)	6.2 (5.0 - 8.6)	89 (69 - 123)
Kadoorie Beach	8.16 (7.90 - 8.65)	25.6 (14.2 - 31.2)	4.67 (1.76 - 13.10)	27.3 (20.2 - 30.9)	6.5 (4.7 - 9.4)	92 (72 - 130)

Islands District

Cheung Chau Tung Wan Beach	8.18 (7.89 - 8.46)	29.9 (24.6 - 32.8)	2.88 (1.07 - 5.87)	26.6 (19.1 - 30.7)	6.5 (3.8 - 8.0)	93 (60 - 125)
Hung Shing Yeh Beach	8.18 (7.99 - 8.53)	30.3 (21.3 - 33.6)	7.22 (1.34 - 37.20)	26.7 (19.9 - 31.6)	6.8 (5.2 - 11.4)	97 (78 - 153)
Kwun Yam Beach	8.16 (7.89 - 8.44)	29.5 (24.3 - 32.8)	2.81 (1.14 - 8.27)	26.5 (19.5 - 30.6)	6.5 (4.7 - 8.7)	95 (73 - 130)
Lo So Shing Beach	8.20 (7.99 - 8.55)	30.8 (21.5 - 33.7)	4.04 (1.52 - 16.40)	26.8 (20.1 - 32.3)	6.7 (5.0 - 8.6)	96 (78 - 130)
Lower Cheung Sha Beach	8.32 (7.97 - 8.64)	27.6 (12.5 - 33.1)	8.04 (2.61 - 16.90)	27.3 (20.5 - 31.8)	6.4 (4.9 - 9.3)	92 (74 - 120)
Pui O Beach	8.28 (7.80 - 8.51)	29.5 (23.9 - 33.1)	10.14 (3.91 - 42.50)	28.4 (21.4 - 34.8)	5.9 (4.8 - 7.9)	88 (76 - 108)
Silver Mine Bay Beach	8.23 (7.91 - 8.55)	24.9 (9.2 - 32.6)	13.75 (3.82 - 72.40)	28.3 (20.7 - 34.6)	6.4 (4.7 - 9.9)	95 (71 - 130)
Tong Fuk Beach	8.31 (8.03 - 8.60)	29.6 (23.1 - 33.2)	6.69 (1.79 - 26.90)	27.8 (20.9 - 33.8)	6.2 (4.9 - 8.2)	90 (78 - 113)
Upper Cheung Sha Beach	8.31 (7.91 - 8.61)	29.7 (24.2 - 33.1)	6.43 (1.98 - 24.90)	27.6 (20.9 - 33.2)	6.4 (5.0 - 8.9)	92 (81 - 119)

Tai Po District

Tai Po Lung Mei Beach	8.23 (7.82 - 8.58)	28.2 (9.2 - 32.5)	1.84 (0.71 - 7.45)	28.0 (21.0 - 33.8)	6.4 (4.7 - 9.8)	94 (62 - 130)
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Note: Data presented are arithmetic means; figures in brackets are ranges.

Footnote:

1. Practical Salinity Unit
2. Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

*Beaches not open for swimming (no lifeguard service)