

2007 Bathing Beaches Water Quality Survey Results

June 29, 2007

The Ministry of the Environment announced that 789 bathing beaches in Japan have maintained the water quality required for bathing. The results come from the water quality survey for bathing beaches conducted between the beginning of April and the beginning of June 2007 by prefectural governments and municipal governments that were delegated the authority to do so under the Water Pollution Control Law.

The 789 bathing beaches surveyed include those by the sea with more than 10,000 visitors and those by lakes, reservoirs, and rivers with more than 5000 visitors in 2006. The items surveyed were colon bacillus count, oil slicks, chemical oxygen demand (COD), and transparency. Hydrogen ion concentration (pH) and Escherichia coliform bacillus "O-157" were also monitored as reference items.

<Summary of the Survey Result>

The water quality of 789 beaches all over Japan was categorized according to the water quality criterion for bathing beaches. It was categorized and rated AA, A or B. The water quality of 647 bathing beaches, or 82% of the total, was found to be in excellent condition and was rated AA or A. This showed some improvement from the previous year's level (652 beaches or 86% of the total) as shown in Table 1.

Table 1; Water Quality of primary Bathing Beaches for FY 2007

Category of water quality		fiscal 2007		fiscal 2006	
		counts of beaches	%	counts of beaches	%
excellent	AA	481	61	399	53
	A	166	21	253	33
		647	82	652	86
average	B	140	18	106	14
	C	2	0	0	0
		142	18	106	14
below average		0	0	0	0
total		789	100	758	100