

2008 Bathing Beaches Water Quality

Survey Results

July 4, 2008

The Ministry of the Environment announced that 841 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 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 841 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 702 bathing beaches, or 83% 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 (647 beaches or 82% of the total) as shown in Table 1.

Table 1; Water Quality of primary Bathing Beaches for FY 2008

Category of water quality		fiscal 2008		fiscal 2007	
		counts of beaches	%	counts of beaches	%
excellent	AA	515	61	481	61
	A	187	22	166	21
		702	83	647	82
average	B	131	16	140	18
	C	8	1	2	0
		139	17	142	18
below average		0	0	0	0
total		841	100	789	100