

2009 Bathing Beaches Water Quality Survey Results

July 3, 2009

The Ministry of the Environment announced that 850 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 2009 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 850 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 700 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 (702 beaches or 83% of the total) as shown in Table 1.

Table 1; Water Quality of primary Bathing Beaches for FY 2009

Category of water quality		fiscal 2009		fiscal 2008	
		counts of beaches	%	countsof beaches	%
excellent	AA	542	64	515	61
	A	158	18	187	22
		700	82	702	83
average	B	145	17	131	16
	C	5	1	8	1
		150	18	139	17
below average		0	0	0	0
total		850	100	841	100