

2010 Bathing Beaches Water Quality Survey Results

July 2, 2010

Ministry of the Environment announced that 855 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 2010 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 855 beaches all over Japan was categorized according to the water quality criterion for bathing beaches. It was categorized and rated AA, A, B or C. The water quality of 700 bathing beaches, or 82% of the total, was found to be in appropriate condition and was rated AA or A. There is no bathing beaches inappropriate and it has maintained the previous year's level (700 beaches or 82% of the total) as shown in Table 1.

Table 1; Water Quality of primary Bathing Beaches for FY 2010

| Category of water quality | | fiscal 2010 | | fiscal 2009 | |
|---------------------------|----|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| | | counts of beaches | % | counts of beaches | % |
| appropriate | AA | 529 | 61.9 | 542 | 63.8 |
| | A | 171 | 20.0 | 158 | 18.6 |
| | | 700 | 81.9 | 700 | 82.4 |
| fair | B | 151 | 17.7 | 145 | 17.1 |
| | C | 4 | 0.5 | 5 | 0.6 |
| | | 155 | 18.2 | 150 | 17.7 |
| inappropriate | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| total | | 855 | 100 | 850 | 100 |