

Results of the FY2009 Water Quality Survey of Public Water Areas

November 26th, 2010

Ministry of the Environment has compiled results of the nationwide water quality survey of public water areas implemented by the national government in FY2009, pursuant to the measurement planning which was prepared by prefectural governors on the basis of the Water Pollution Control Law.

The outline is as follows.

1. Health Items

Most of the monitoring points have achieved Environmental Quality Standards (EQSs) for the 27 human health items with EQS compliance rate reaching 99.1%, which increased by 0.1% compared to the previous year.

2. Living Environment Items

- (1) In terms of the compliance with EQSs for BOD and COD, typical water quality index of organic pollution, the overall compliance rate was 87.6%, which increased by 0.2% compared to the previous year (92.3% for rivers (unchanged), 50.0% for lakes and reservoirs (down 3.0%) and 79.2% for sea and coastal areas (up 2.8%)).

The compliance rate of rivers maintains the same high level as in the previous year as a result of improvement efforts, while that of lakes and reservoirs remains low. As for sea and coastal areas, it generally continues to be flat.

- (2) EQS compliance rate for total nitrogen and total phosphorus in lakes and reservoirs was 52.2%, which increased by 2.2% compared to the previous year. It still remains low. As for sea and coastal areas, EQS compliance rate for total nitrogen and phosphorus was 81.3%, which decreased by 3.4% compared to the previous year.