**Appendix 1**. Summary of measured physicochemical and microbiological properties of ten coastal beaches water quality in Ghana.

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| **Parameters [units]**  **(Code)** | **Ranges (mean±standard deviation)**  **[Natural backgrounds]** | **Beaches based on ranges** |
| Temperature [°C]  (Temp) | 26.94-30.82 (28.67±1.19)  [27-33 ] | Aboadzi-Kpeshi |
| Electrical Conductivity [mS/cm]  (EC) | 23.43-52.60 (44.23±9.18)  [20-52.60] | Anyanui-Densu |
| Salinity[PSU Scale]  (Sal) | 14.01-76.67 (43.51±9.05)  [34-36] | Anyanui-Densu |
| pH | 8.03-9.05 (8.64±0.25)  [6-9] | Esiama-Domunli |
| Dissolved oxygen concentration [mg/l]  (DO) | 3.68-6.44 (4.84±1.13)  [7-10] | Amisa-Densu |
| Dissolved oxygen saturation [%]  (DOStat) | 52.0-109.60 (73.69±18.20)  [500-600] | Amisa-Densu |
| Redox potential [mV]  (Eh) | 61.8-265.0 (148.26±60.12) | Domunli-Kpeshi |
| Total dissolved solids [mg/l]  (TDS) | 11.71-31.60 (22.53±5.33) | Anyanui-Densu |
| Total suspended solids [mg/l]  (TSS) | 4.0-76.33 (18.20±21.19) | Ghana-Côte d’Ivoire border (Gh-Côte)- Densu |
| Phosphate [mg/l]  (Phos) | 0.04-0.54 (0.18±0.16)  [0.001-0.020] | Domunli-Amisa |
| Nitrates [mg/l]  (Nit) | 1.63-3.57 (2.50±0.60) | Anyanui-Amisa |
| Chlorophyll-a [µg/l]  (Chl a) | 0.43-6.13 (2.49±1.49) | Muni-Ghana-Togo border (Gh-Togo) |
| *Total coliform* in water  [CFU/100 ml]  (TC\_w) | 36-11,160 (4061.6±4159.14) | Anyanui-(Kpeshi and Densu) |
| *Escherichia coli* in water[CFU/100 ml]  (E.coli\_w) | 1.0-5,580 (705.6±1718.58) | Anyanui-Kpeshi |
| *Enterococcus* spp. [CFU/100 ml]  (Ent.spp\_w) | 0-5,580 (615.6±1746.50) | Anyanui-Kpeshi |

**Appendix 2** Microbiological and epidemiological studies in seawater.

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| **Indicators examined** | **Pathogens examined** | **Indicator/pathogen correlating** | **Symptoms** |  | **Country** | **Source** |
| TC | *Salm* | TC/*Salm* | GI |  | UK | PHILS 1959 |
| *E*. *coli* | *Salm* | *E*. *coil*/*Salm* |  |  | Denmark | Grunnet 1969 |
| ent, *E*. *coli* | *-* | ent | Ear |  | USA | Cabelli (1982) |
| TC, *E*. *coli, ent*,TVC | *Salm*, *S*. *aur*, *Campobacteria Salm* | TC, *E*. *coli*, *ent*, TVC/*Salm*, FC, Cl, *perf*/*Salm* | - |  | Greece | Papadakis 1988 |
| TC,FC, FS | *Salm* | TC,FC,FS/*Salm* | - |  | Spain | Polo 1996 |
| TC, ent, *E*. *coli* | *V*.*vuln* | TC, ent/*V*. *vul* | - |  | Denmark | Hoi 1998 |
| FC, *E*. *coli,* ent,staph, coliph | *-* | - | - |  | South Africa | Von Schirnding (1993) |
| *E*. col, staph |  | *E*. *coli***/** staph | S/GI |  | Hong Kong | Chenug (1990) |
| ent, *E*. *coli* | *-* | Ent/*E*. *coli* | GI |  | Egypt | El Sharkawi and Hassan (1982) |
| Tcol\_w, *E*. *coli\_w*, *Entspp\_w.* | - | *Tcol\_w/Ecoli\_w,*  *E*. *coli\_w*/*Entspp\_w.* |  |  | Ghana | **This study** |
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TC=*total coliforms*, FC=*faecal coliforms*, FS=*Faecal streptococci*, ent=enteroccocci,Ecoli=*Escherichiacoli*, *Salm*=*Salmonella* spp.,*Cl*.*perf*=*Clostridium perfrigens*, *V*.*vuln*.=*Vibriovulnificus*.staph=staphylococci, coliph=coliphages, Tcol\_w=*total coliforms* in seawater, *E*. *coli*\_w=*Escherichiacoli*in seawater, Entspp\_w=*Enterococcus*spp. in seawater.

GI=gastrointestinal, Ear=Ear, S=Skin (Modified Godfree et al. 1997, Efsratiou 2001).