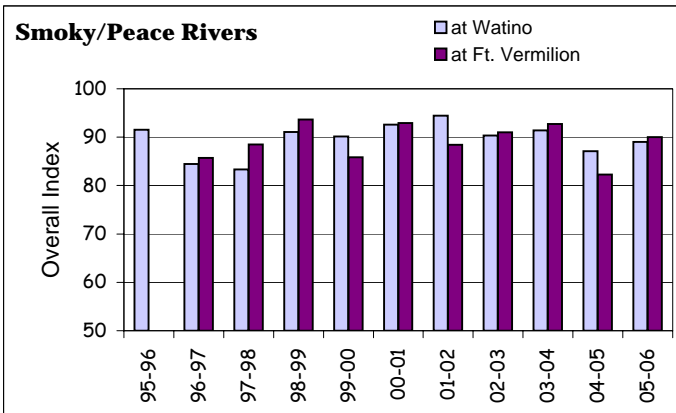
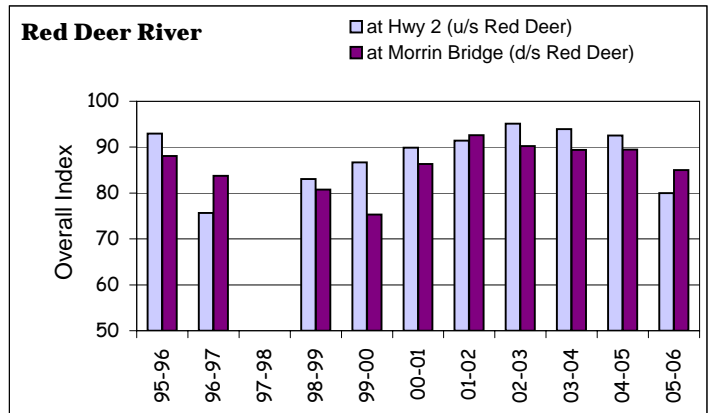


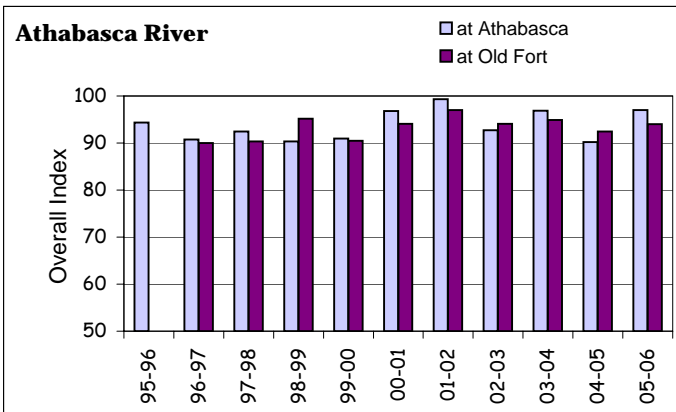
## Alberta River Water Quality Index, April 1995 - March 2006



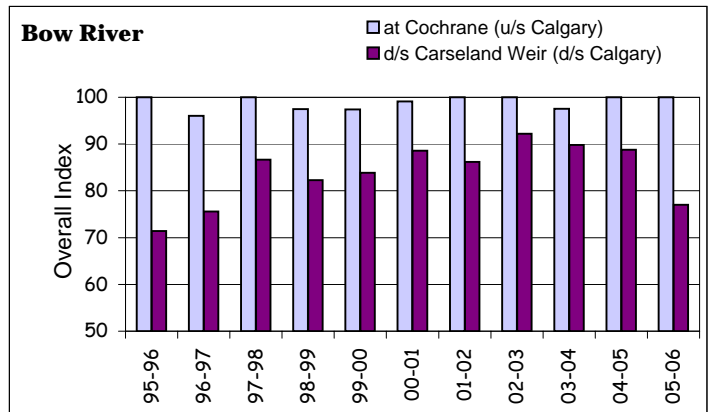
Overall index values increased at both the Watino and Fort Vermilion sites, suggesting improved water quality during the present reporting period. At Watino, this was largely due to reduced nutrient concentrations over the previous period and an absence of pesticide detections. At Fort Vermilion, the notably higher index value, relative to the preceding period, was due to lower metal, nutrient, and bacteria concentrations.



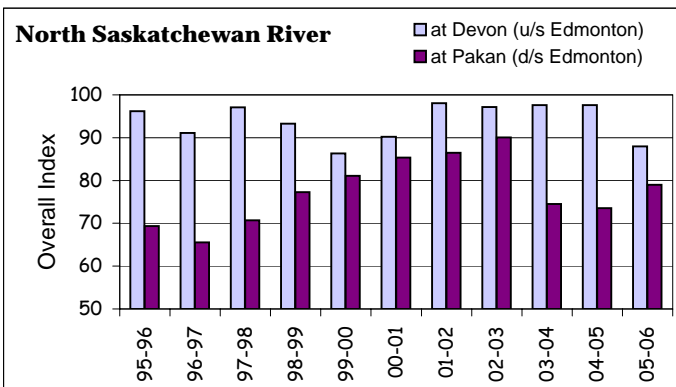
Typically, water quality is slightly better upstream of Red Deer, relative to the downstream site. However, upgraded wastewater treatment (99-00) has resulted in generally improved downstream conditions in recent years. In the current reporting period, higher river flows during June and August likely contributed to elevated bacteria and nutrient concentrations which led to a decline in index values at both sites.



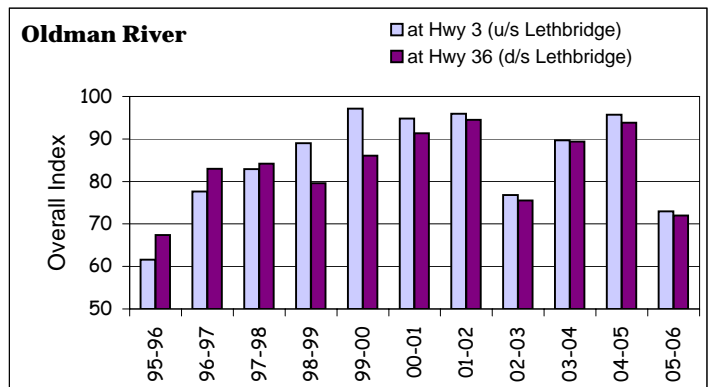
Pesticide and bacteria levels have consistently remained very low at the Athabasca and Old Fort sites. Overall index values have increased in this period due to reduced concentrations of both metals and nutrients compared to the previous reporting period.



This period, index values at Cochrane are very similar to those in recent years, reflecting generally better water quality upstream of Calgary than downstream. Although upgraded municipal wastewater treatment (1997) has generally resulted in improved conditions downstream, very high river flows in late June 2005 contributed to elevated bacteria and nutrient concentrations at the downstream site. As in the past, pesticide detections tended to be higher at the downstream location.



A decrease in the upstream index value during the current reporting period is due to elevated nutrients and bacteria during high river flows in fall. In general, downstream conditions improved subsequent to upgraded wastewater treatment (1998), which reduced nutrient and bacteria levels in the river. A lower downstream index during recent periods, primarily due to increased bacterial counts and, to a lesser degree, nutrient and pesticide concentrations, improved slightly during the current period. This was largely due to lower pesticide and nutrient concentrations.



Upgraded municipal wastewater treatment (1999) has generally helped improve conditions downstream of Lethbridge. This period, however, index values indicate similar decreases in water quality at both the upstream and downstream sites. The decline is largely due to higher nutrient and bacteria values measured in early summer and early autumn during significantly elevated river flows. As in most years, pesticide detections were slightly higher at the downstream site.