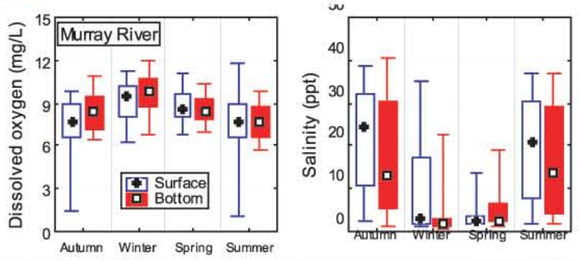
Other Issues

Nutrients, algal blooms and fish kills are closely inter-connected issues.

Other key issues for the waterways include:

- Loss of fringing vegetation;
- Deterioration in vegetation health;
- Changes to catchment hydrology;
- Stratification and deoxygenation events;
- Loss of catchment wetlands;
- Acid Sulfate Soil drainage;
- Loss of aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity; and,
- Managing human access and use.



Seasonal dissolved oxygen (mg/L) and salinity (ppt) in the Murray River between 1995 and 2003.

In the early 1980s, the estuary was on the verge of collapse.

To save the system, in 1989 the State Government endorsed three management strategies:

- Dawesville Channel – constructed to increase the flushing of nutrients to the sea and raise salinity levels within the estuary beyond the tolerance of *Nodularia*;
- Weed Harvesting – ongoing weed harvesting removes nuisance macro algae until management measures reduce its occurrence; and,
- Catchment Management – aiming to reduce the flow of phosphorous from both agricultural and urban landuse.

To further catchment management actions, in 2003 the State and Commonwealth Governments announced the Coastal Catchments Initiative to reduce phosphorous discharge from the catchment. Seven funded projects aim to improve our knowledge of phosphorus movement in the catchment and predict the impacts of land use and management changes.

Results from these projects will guide the development of a Water Quality Improvement Plan for the Peel Harvey. Implementation of the plan is expected through the regional delivery of the Natural Heritage Trust.

The Peel Waterways Centre will play a pivotal role in coordinating efforts and assisting the community to address these long-term problems affecting the Peel Waterways.

These display boards will be used to chart our progress.