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for information

Interim report on Marine and Inland Water Quality in Hong Kong in 1995

Introduction

In February this year we reported on Hong Kong's marine and river water quality in 1994. Members were concerned about the time lag between the date of the report and the end of the year reported on. We undertook to see what could be done to bring the information to members earlier. We have concluded that it is possible to provide information on selected water quality parameters at selected sites considered to be broadly representative of each water control zone and major water course. This information, which is attached, provides a "snapshot" of water quality in 1995. We are not, however, able to provide information on reductions in pollution loads in this time frame and are not in a position to provide an analysis of the observations now reported.

River water quality

2. Figure 1 shows the trend in the water quality index since 1987, incorporating the data for 1995. The momentum of gradual improvement in river water quality was maintained in 1995.

3. Figure 3 shows the trend in water quality index of each major river, measured at the most downstream monitoring station. The marked improvements made in Mui Wo River, Tuen Mun River and Ho Chung River continued in 1995. Progress was also made in the River Indus although it remains severely polluted, as do other major rivers in the Deep Bay catchment.

Marine water quality

4. Figure 4 shows the frequency of occurrences of red tides in Hong Kong waters since 1980. In 1995 there were no dramatic changes compared with 1994.

5. Figures 6-15 show trends in key water quality parameters for the station located approximately in the geographical centre of each water control zone. It is clear from the variability in the data that it would not be advisable to attempt to explain variation in these parameters by comparing one year with that immediately preceding. This is not surprising, as changes in the marine environment are only detectable as broad trends which become clear over a time frame of several years.

Conclusion

6. The trend of improving river water quality was maintained in 1995. The marine water quality data do not show any obvious sudden shifts in water quality compared with earlier years.

Environmental Protection Department
June 1996

A Summary Report
on the
Marine and Inland Water Quality in Hong Kong for 1995

Environmental Protection Department

May 1996

Category of Water Quality Index

(By percentage of monitoring stations)

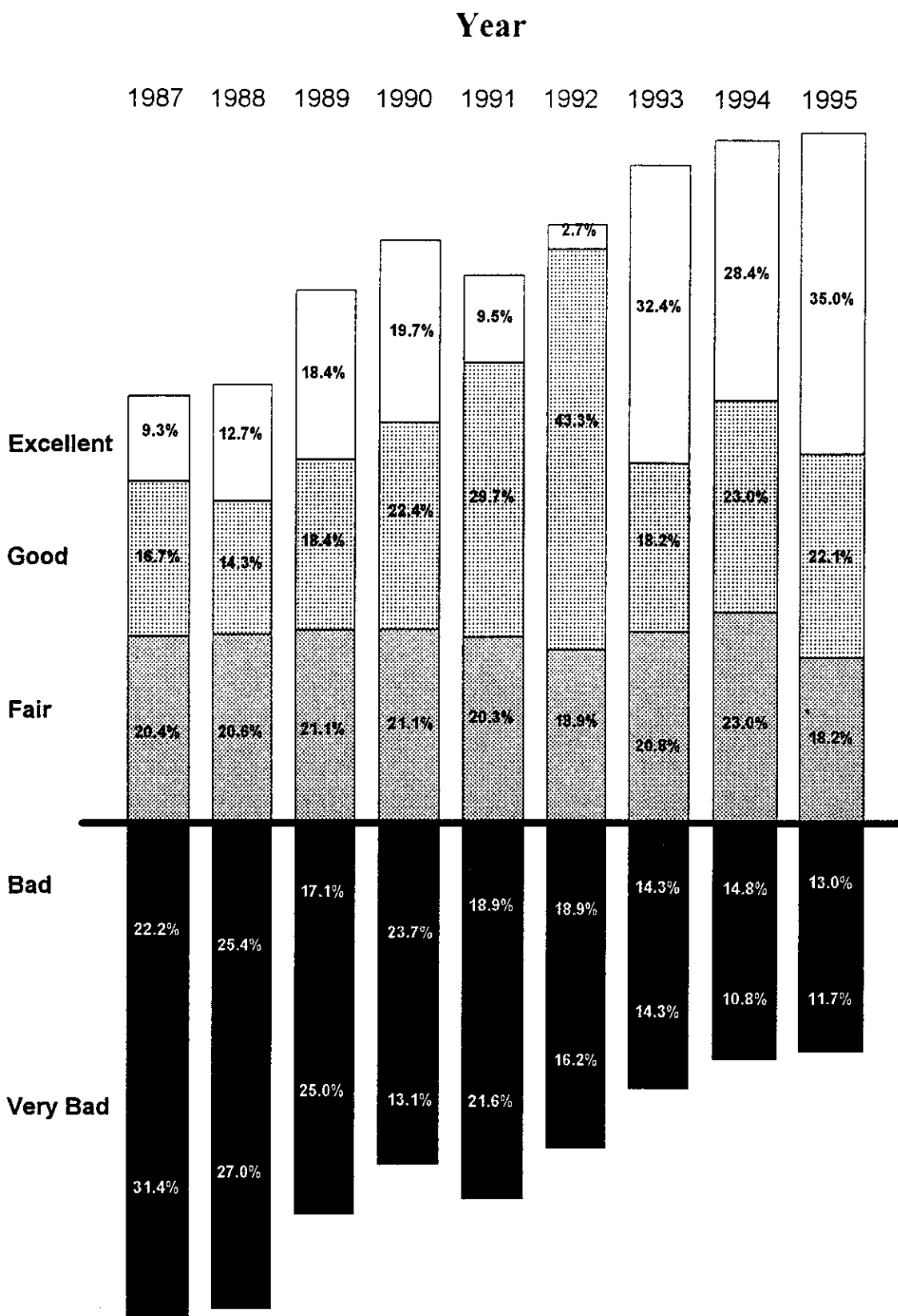


Figure 1: Improving trend of water quality in watercourses of Hong Kong from 1987 to 1995

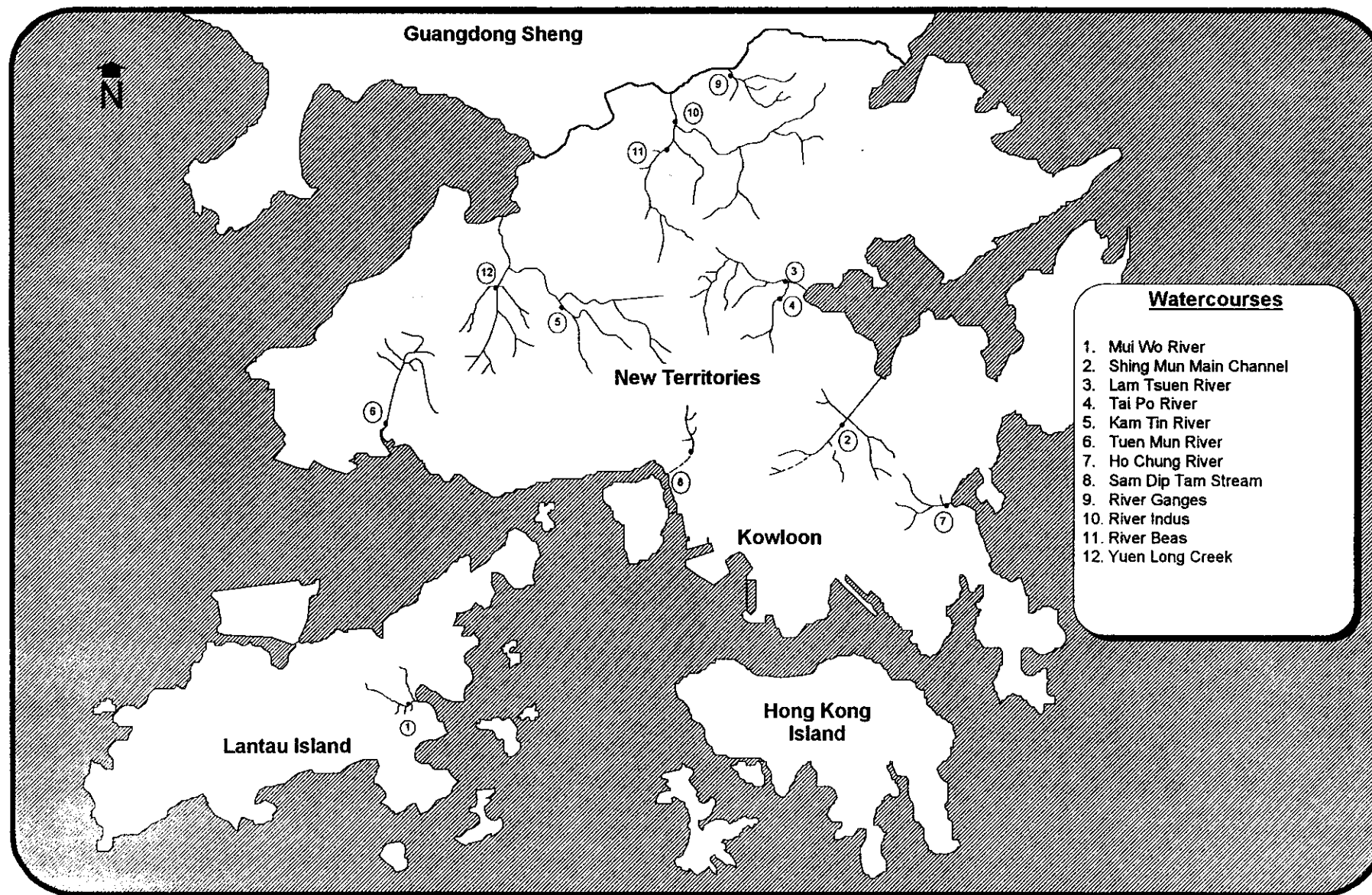


Figure 2: The most downstream monitoring locations for the twelve major watercourses in Hong Kong

Figure 3: Water quality in the most downstream monitoring station of each major river in Hong Kong

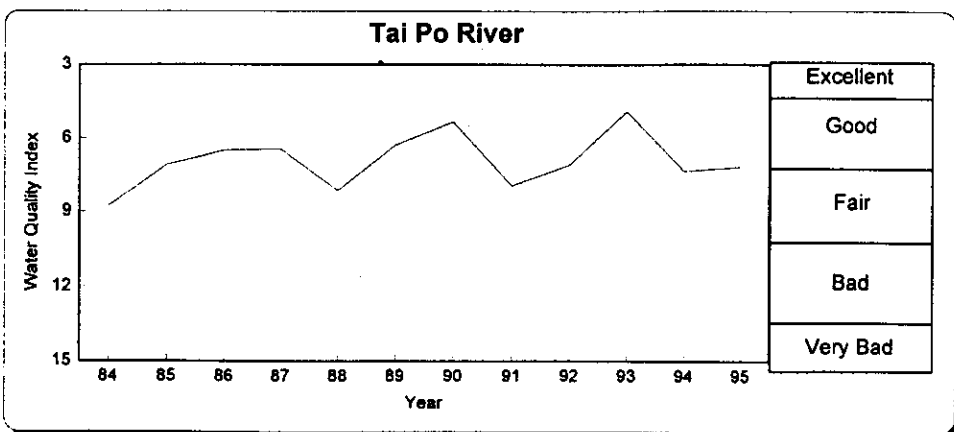
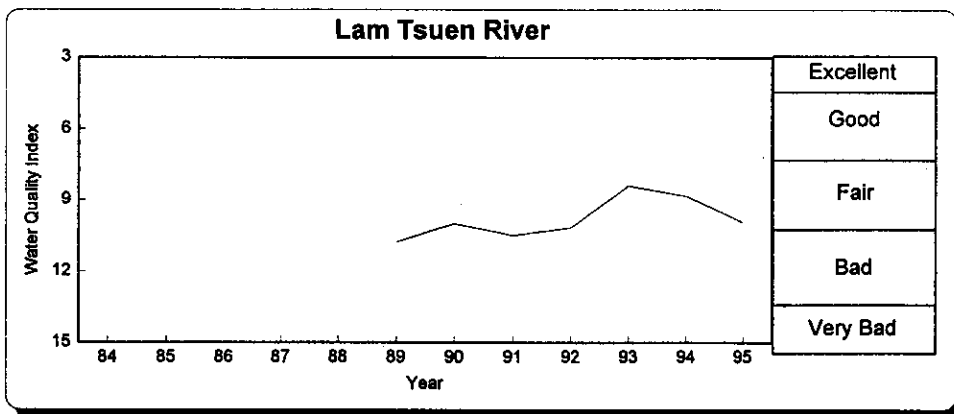
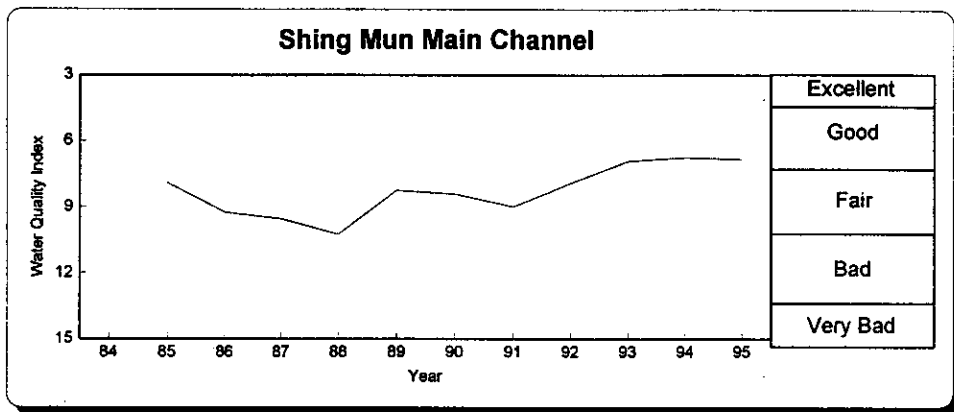
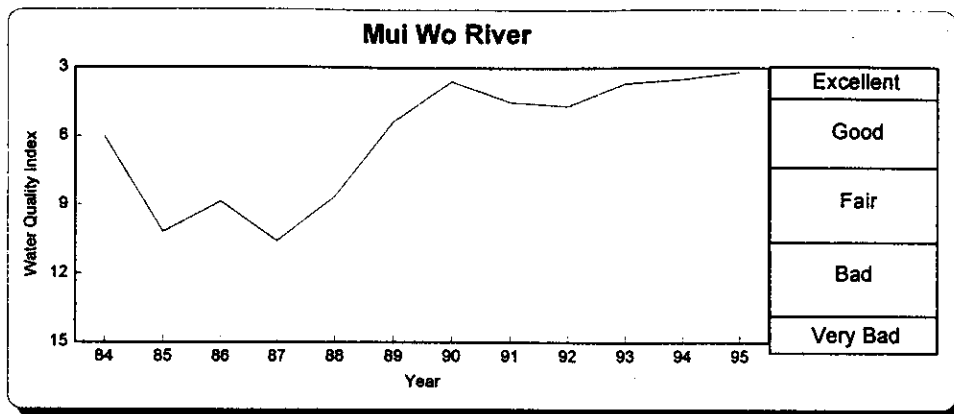


Figure 3 (continued): Water quality in the most downstream monitoring station of each major river in Hong Kong

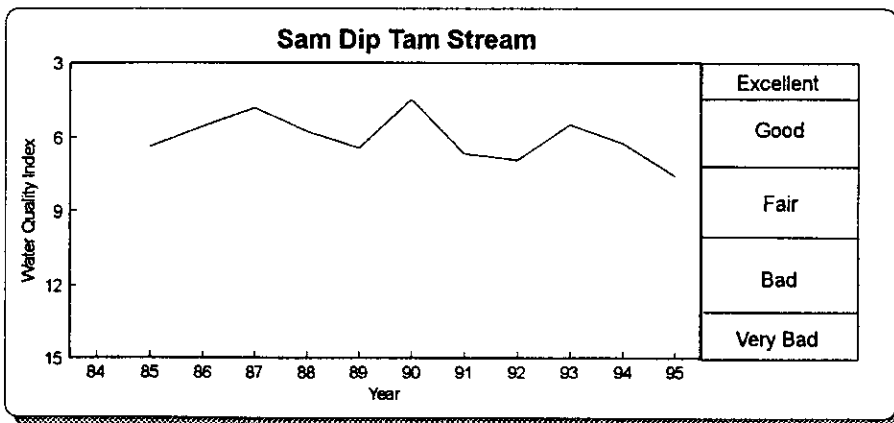
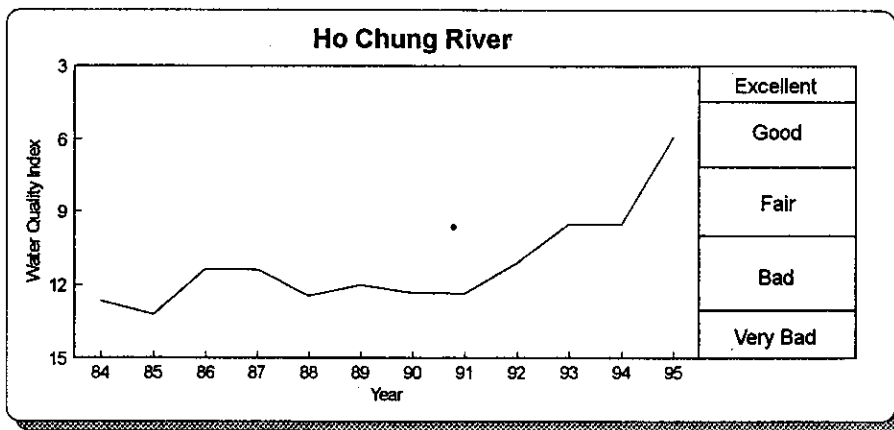
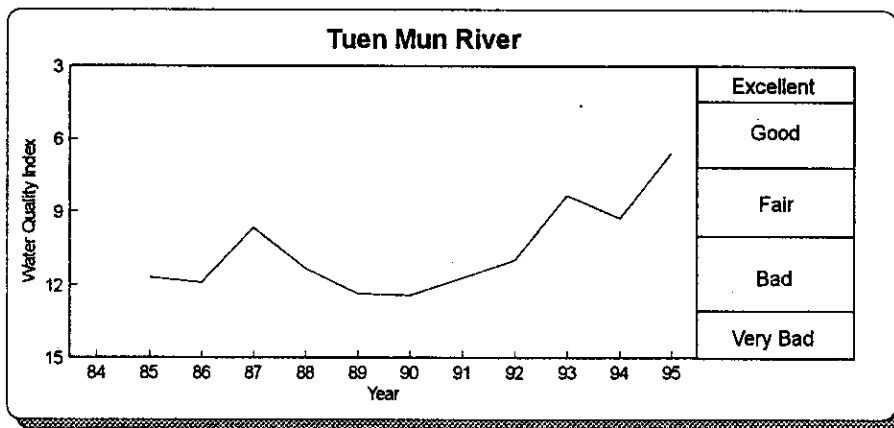
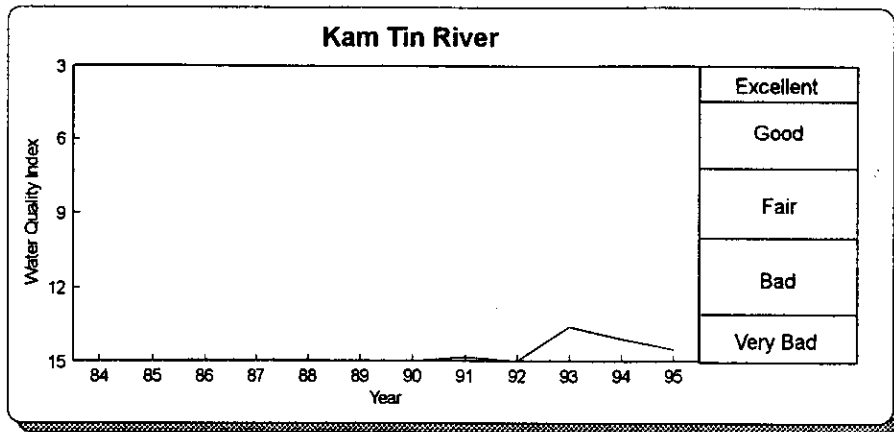
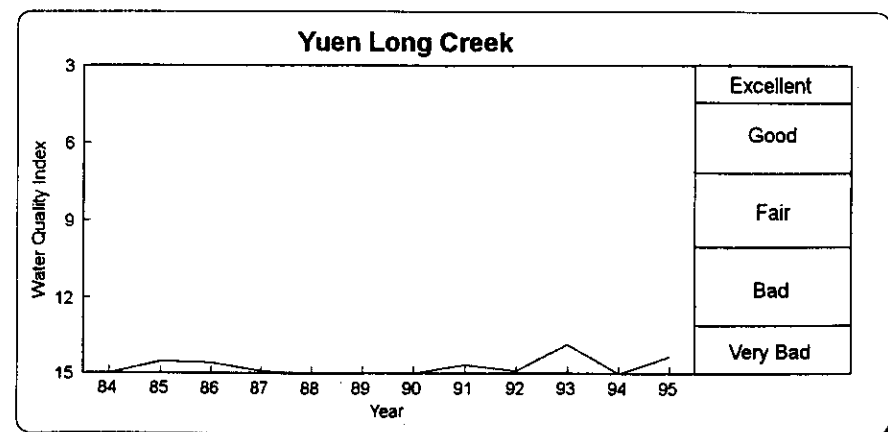
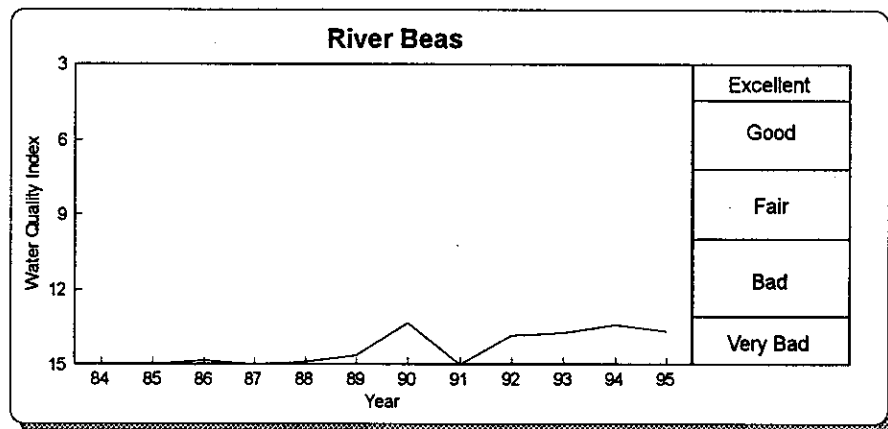
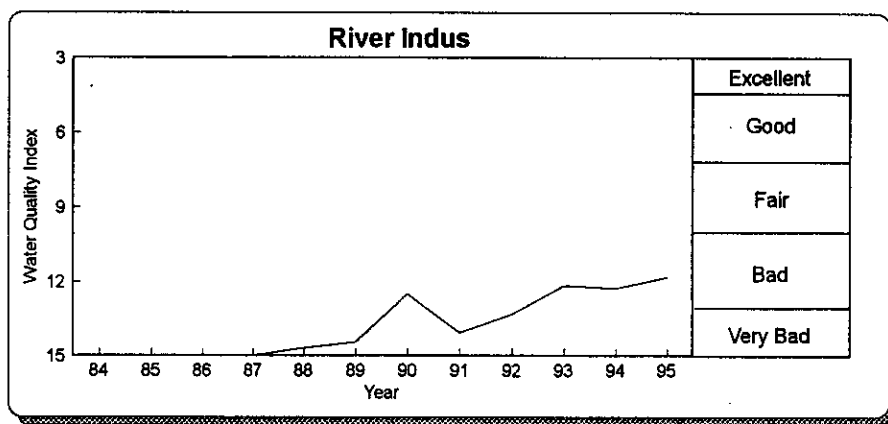
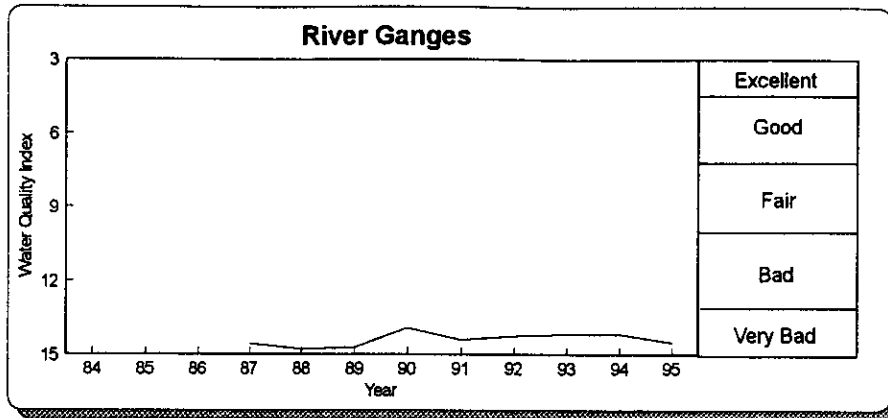


Figure 3 (continued): Water quality in the most downstream monitoring station of each major river in Hong Kong



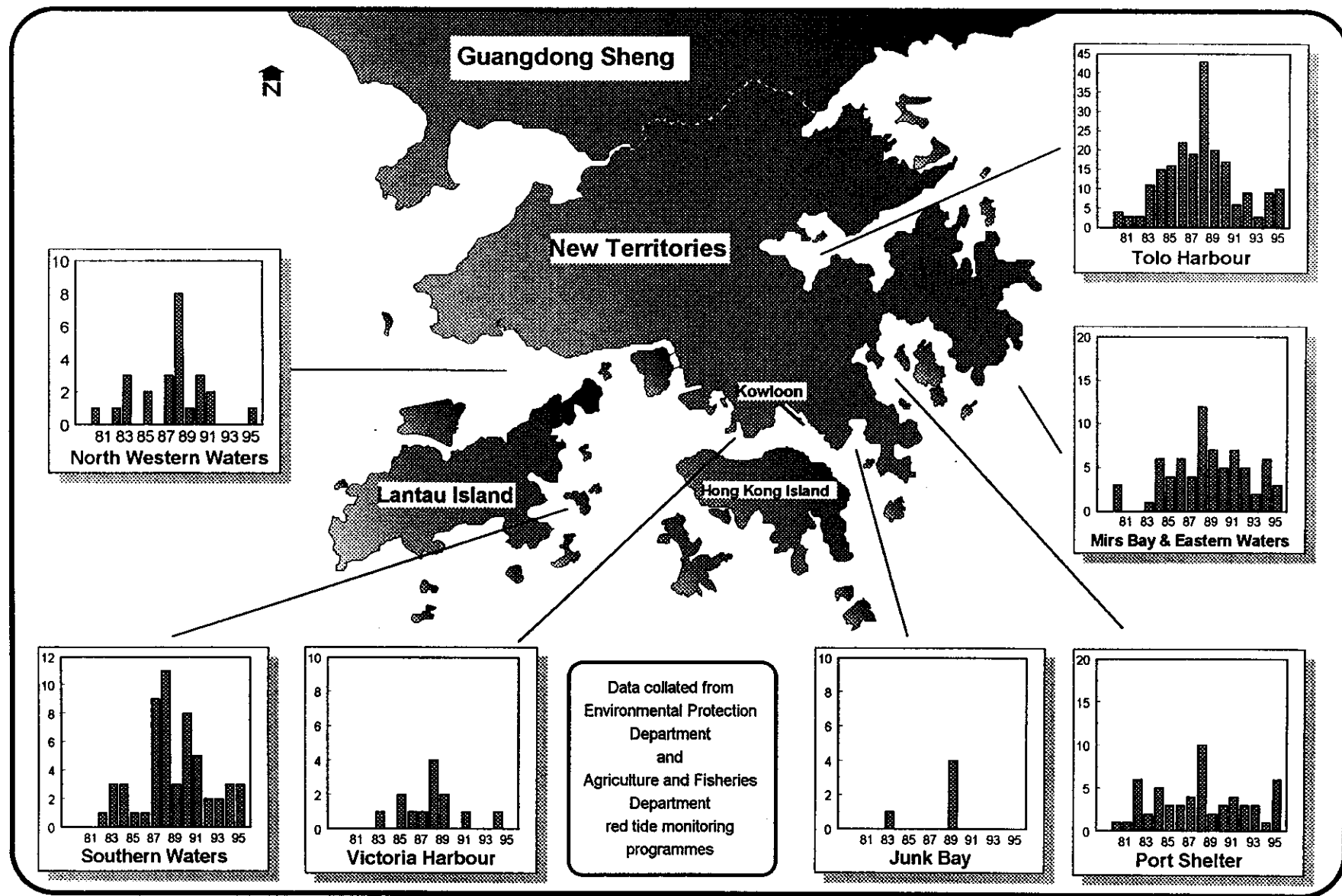


Figure 4 : Frequency of red tides from 1980 to 1995

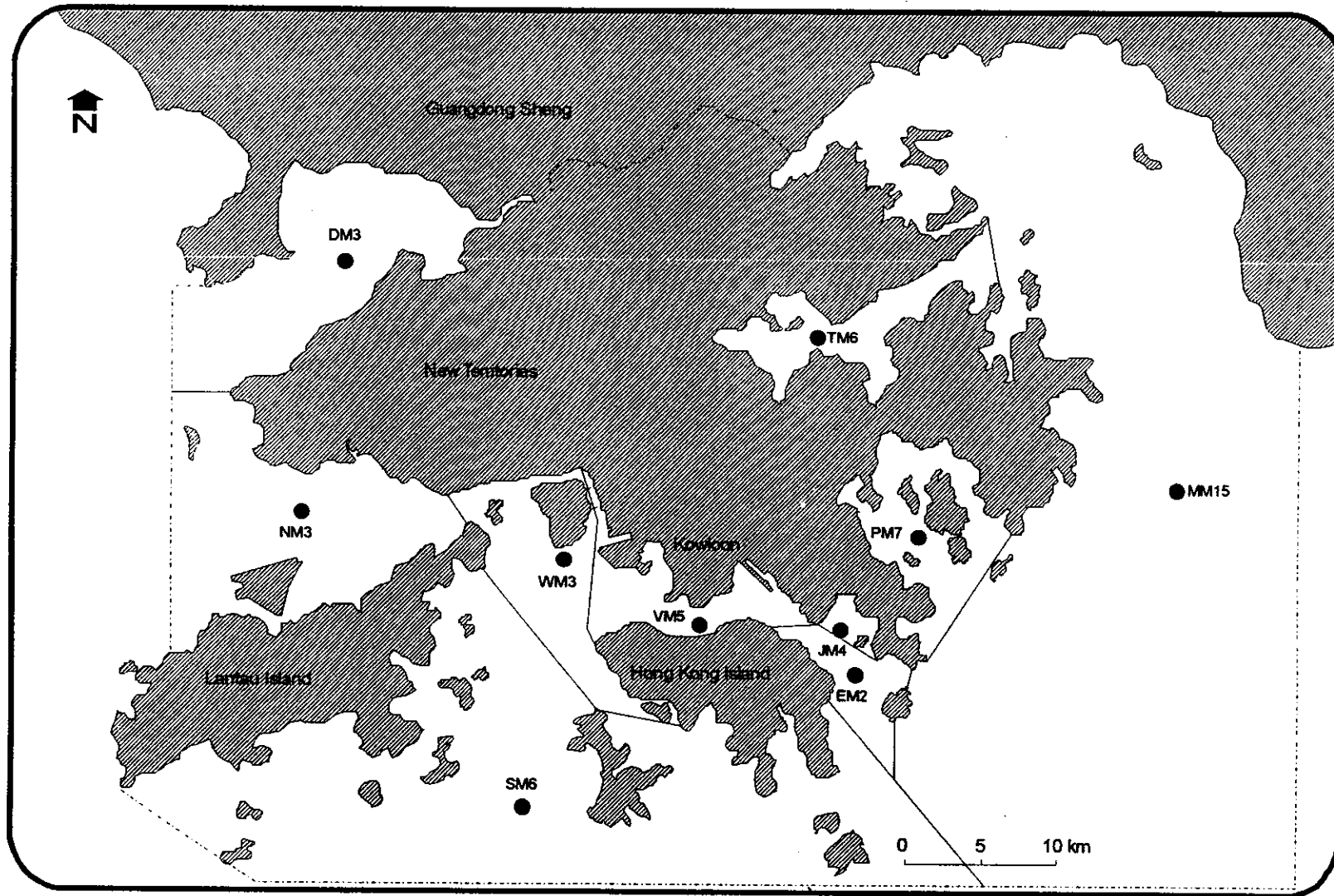


Figure 5 : Representative marine water quality sampling locations in the 10 Water Control Zones

Figure 6 : Trends in depth-averaged *E. coli*, total Kjeldahl nitrogen and dissolved oxygen at the monitoring station DM3

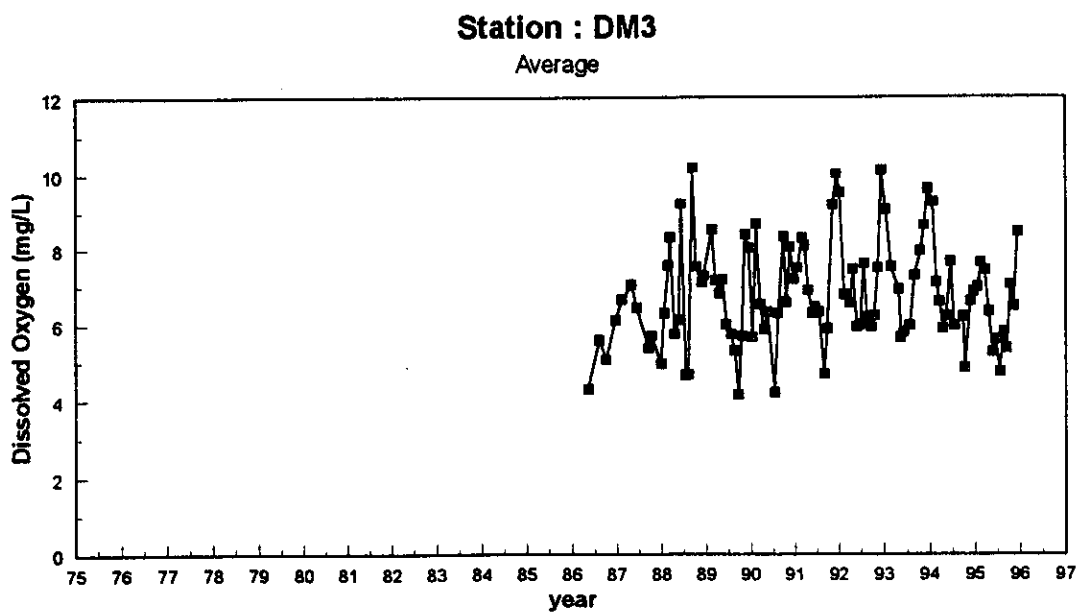
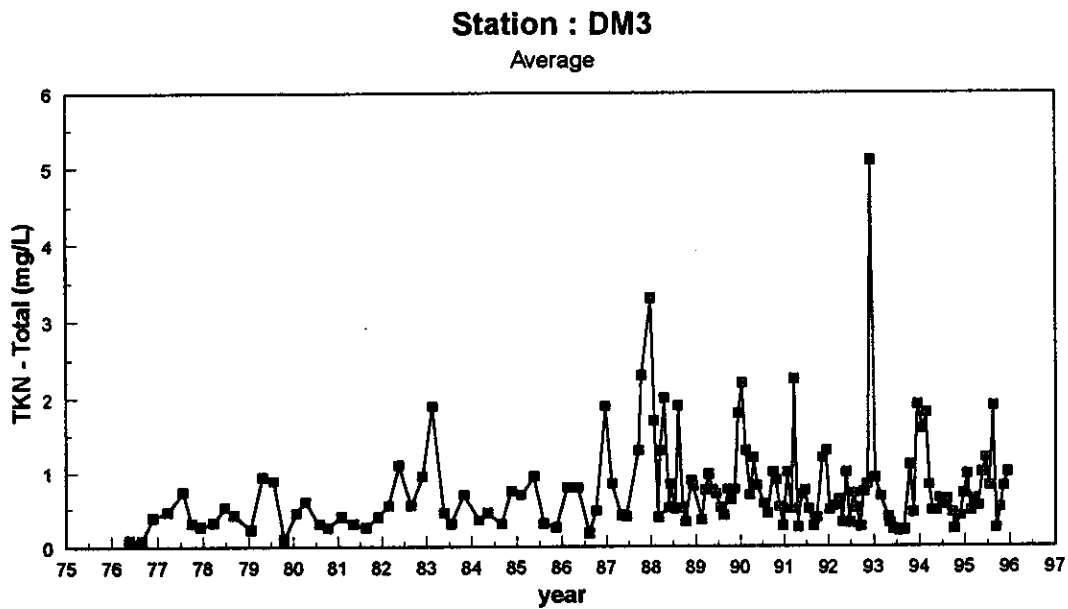
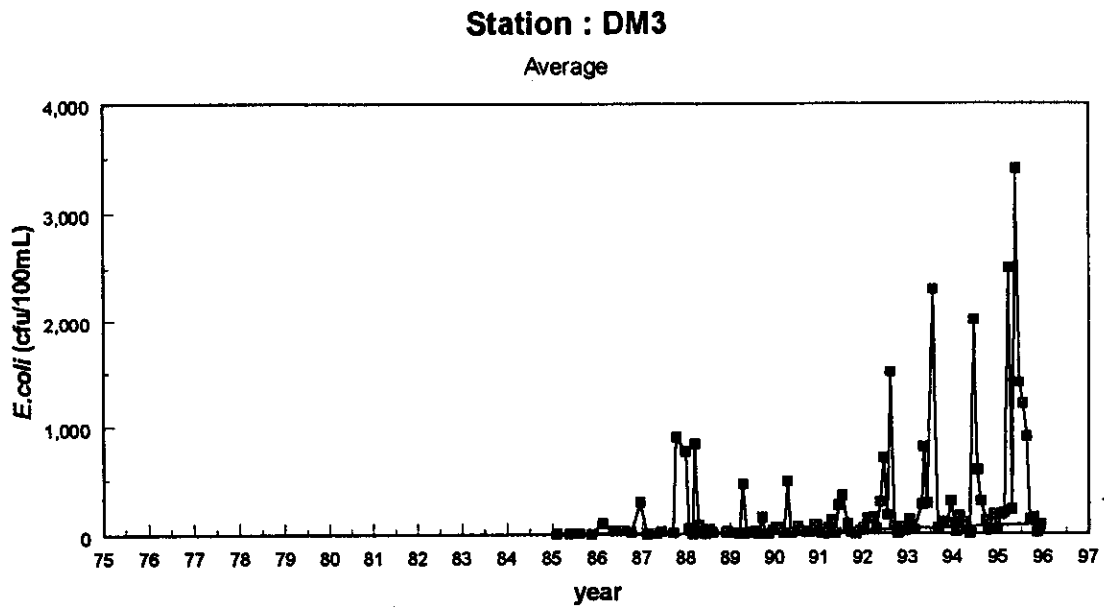


Figure 7 : Trends in depth-averaged *E. coli*, total Kjeldahl nitrogen and dissolved oxygen at the monitoring station NM3

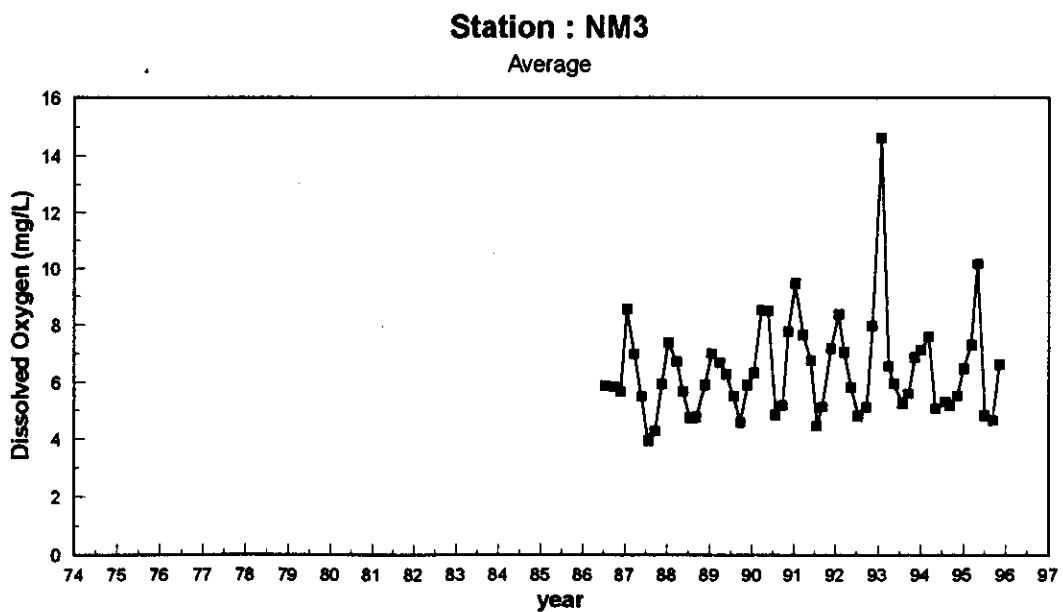
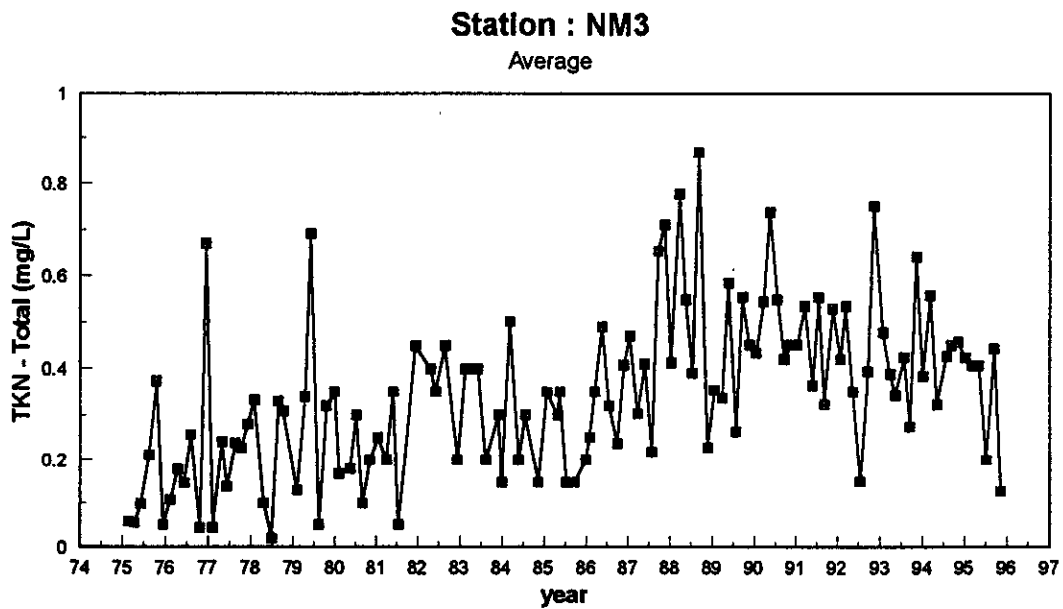
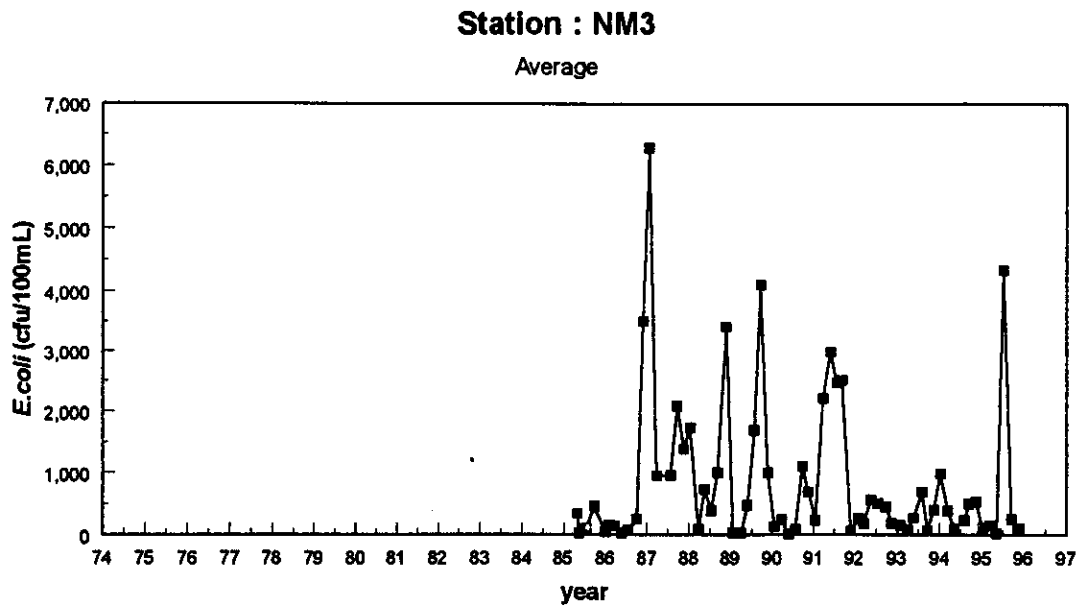


Figure 8 : Trends in depth-averaged *E. coli*, total Kjeldahl nitrogen and dissolved oxygen at the monitoring station SM6

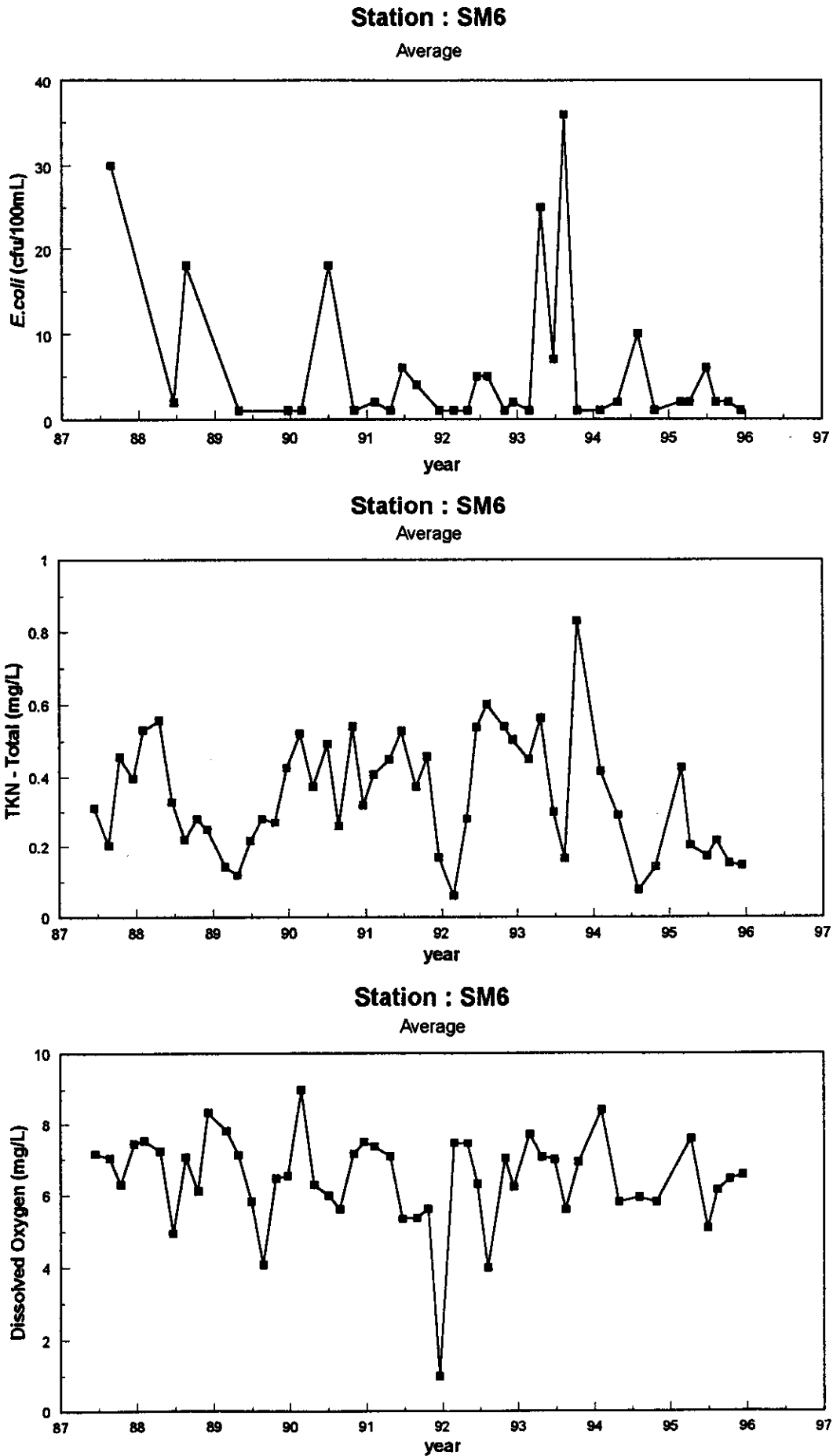


Figure 9 : Trends in depth-averaged *E.coli*, total Kjeldahl nitrogen and dissolved oxygen at the monitoring station WM3

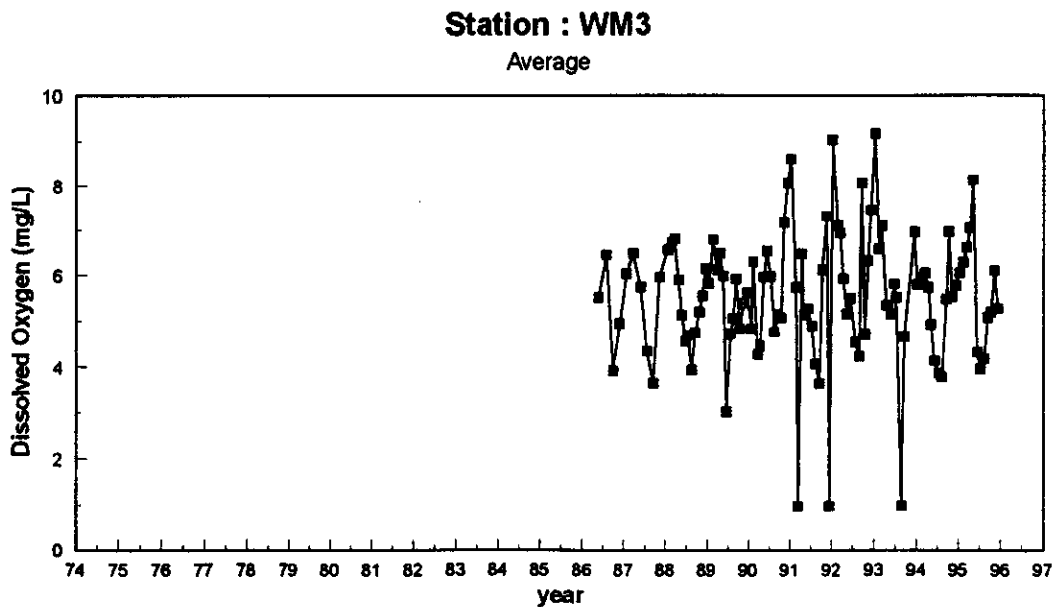
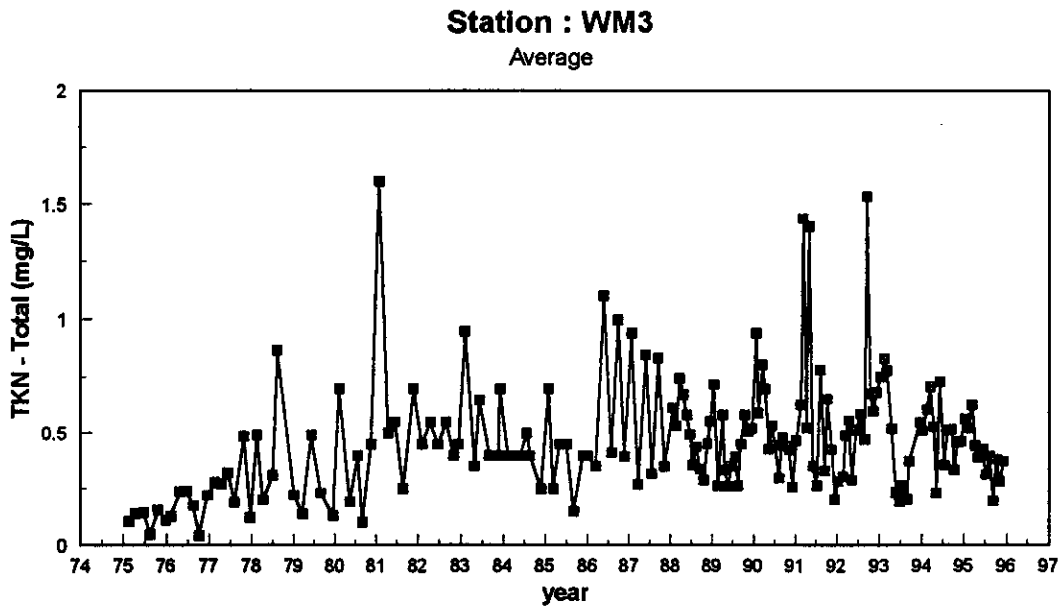
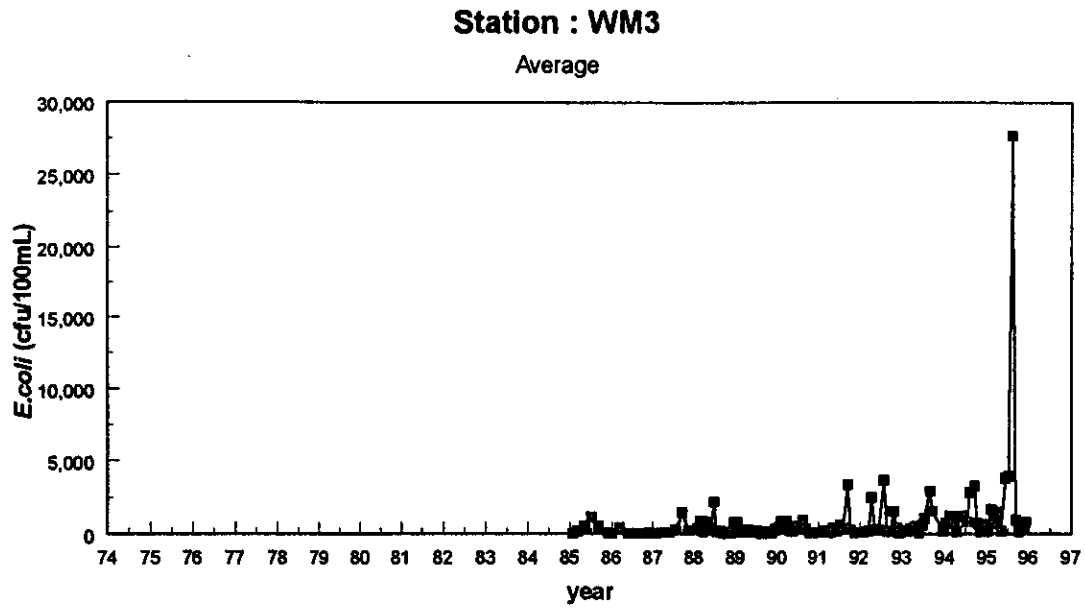


Figure 10 : Trends in depth-averaged *E.coli*, total Kjeldahl nitrogen and dissolved oxygen at the monitoring station VM5

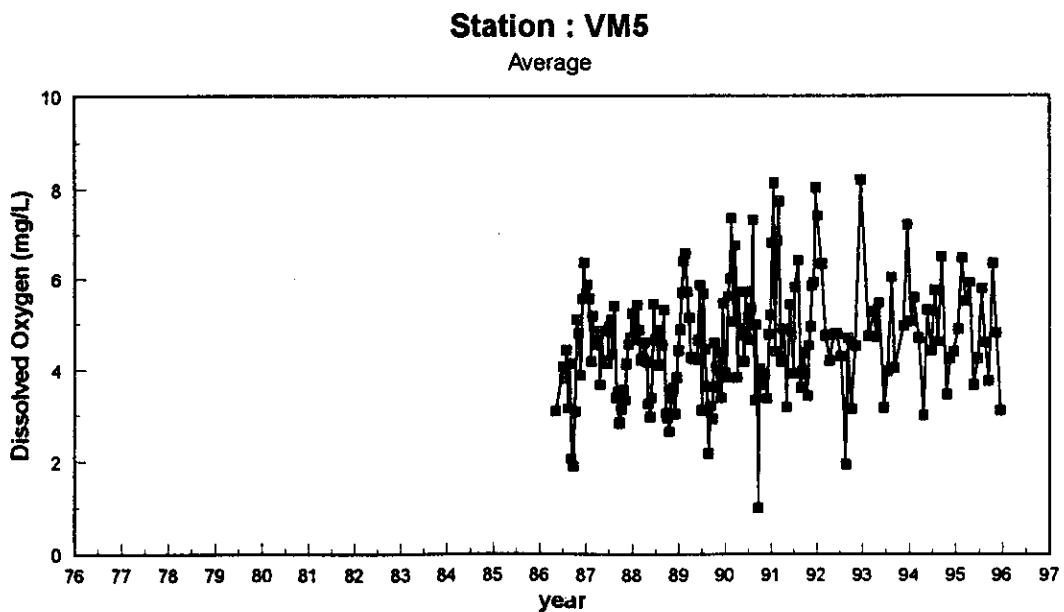
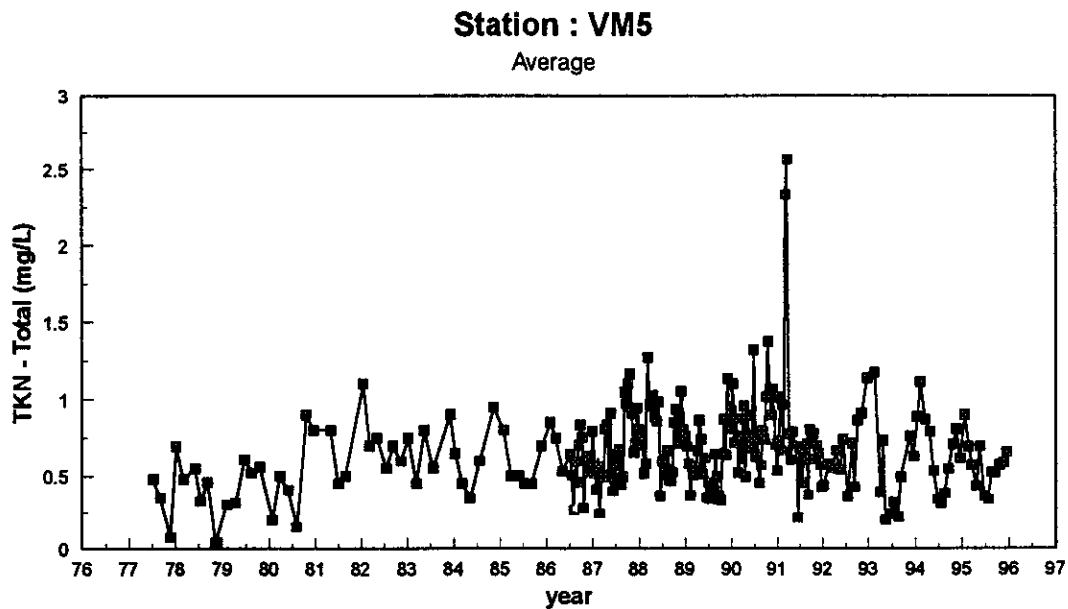
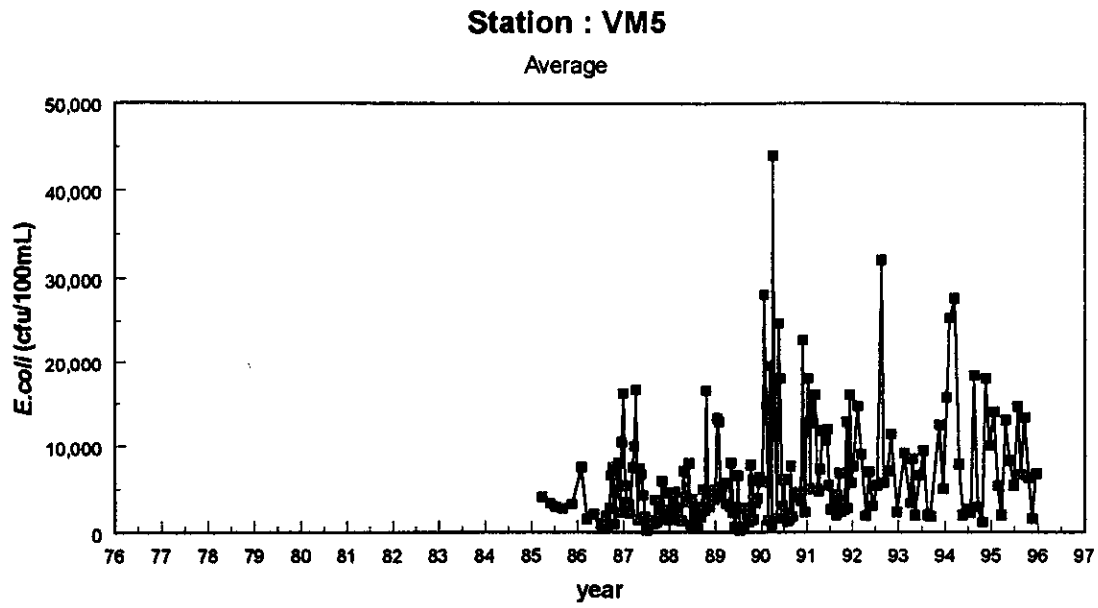


Figure 11 : Trends in depth-averaged *E. coli*, total Kjeldahl nitrogen and dissolved oxygen at the monitoring station JM4

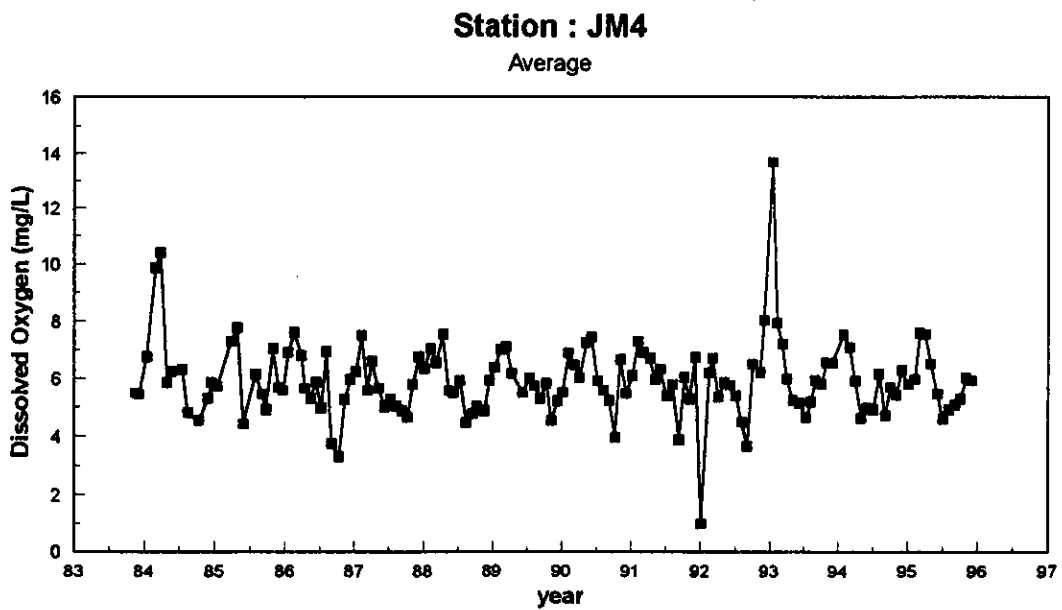
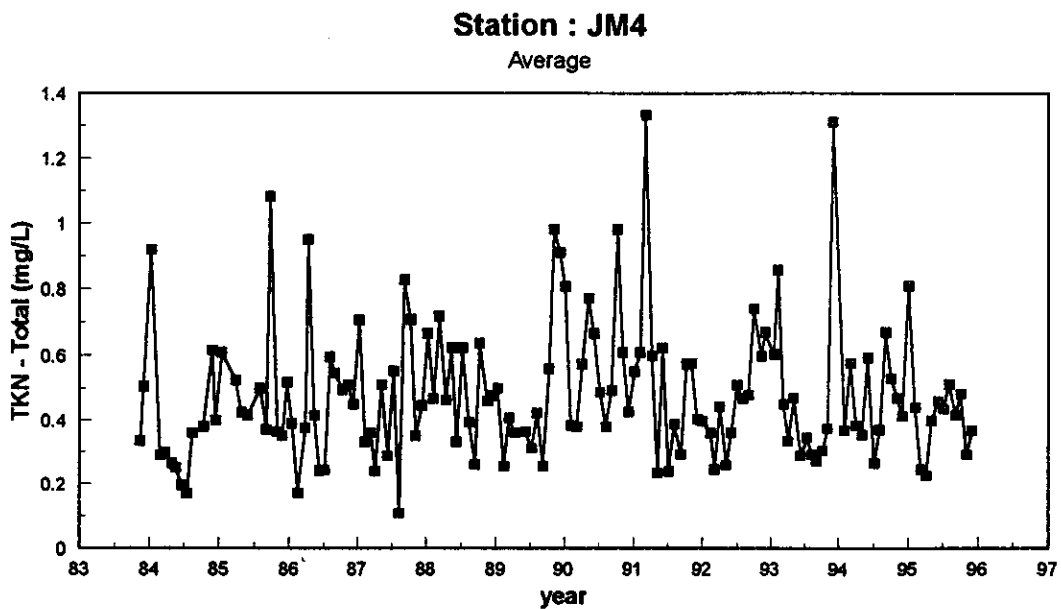
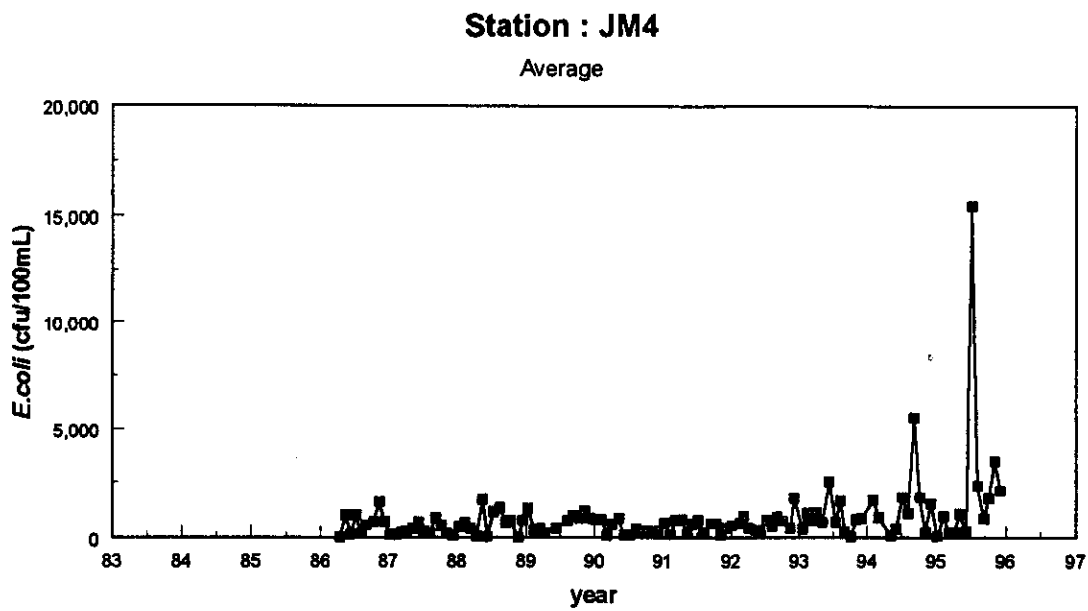


Figure 12 : Trends in depth-averaged *E. coli*, total Kjeldahl nitrogen and dissolved oxygen at the monitoring station EM2

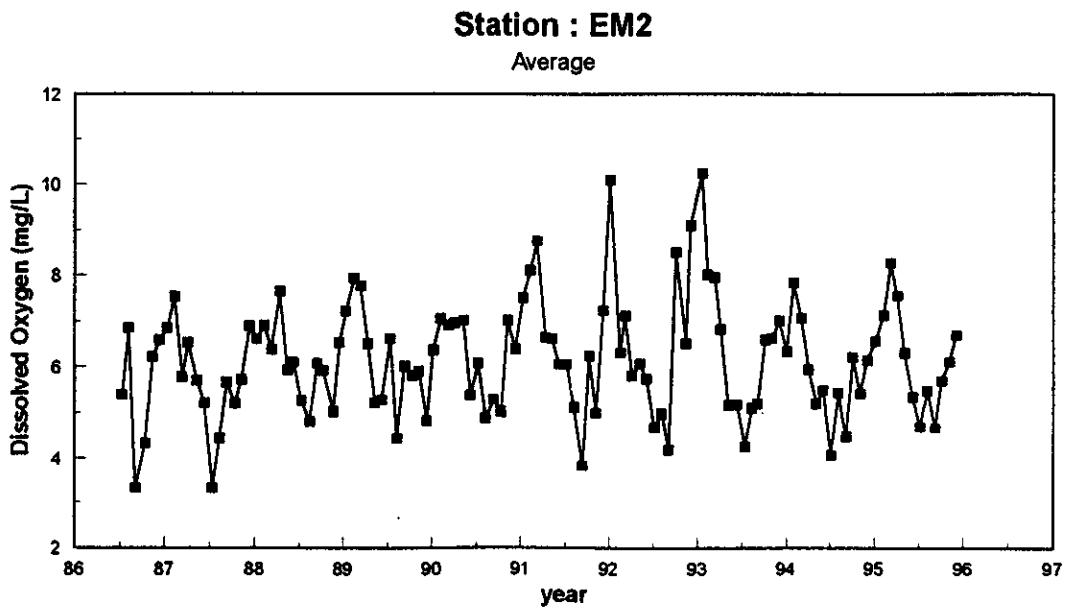
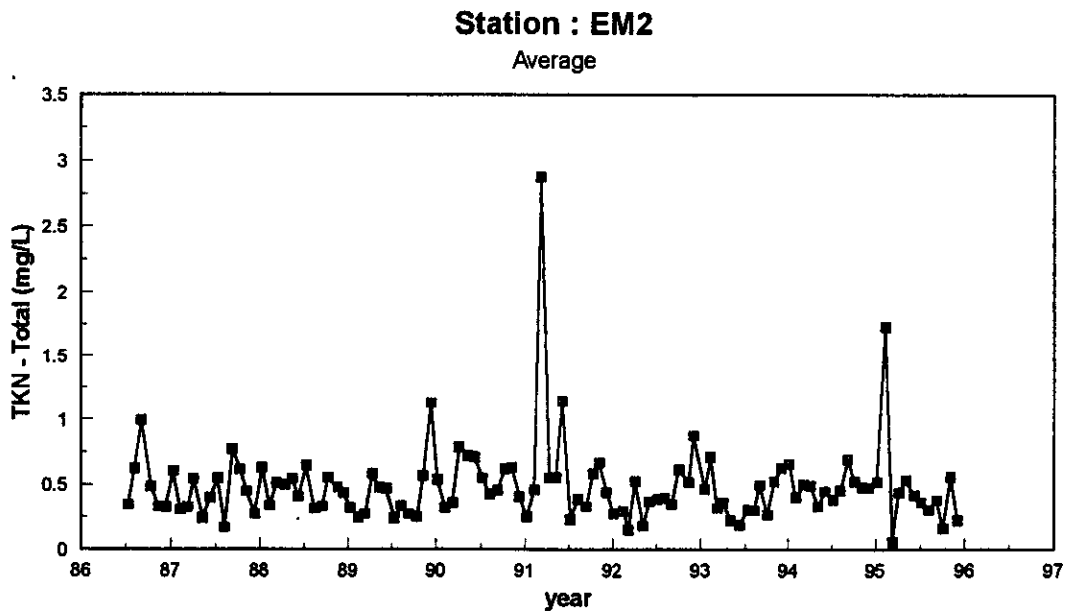
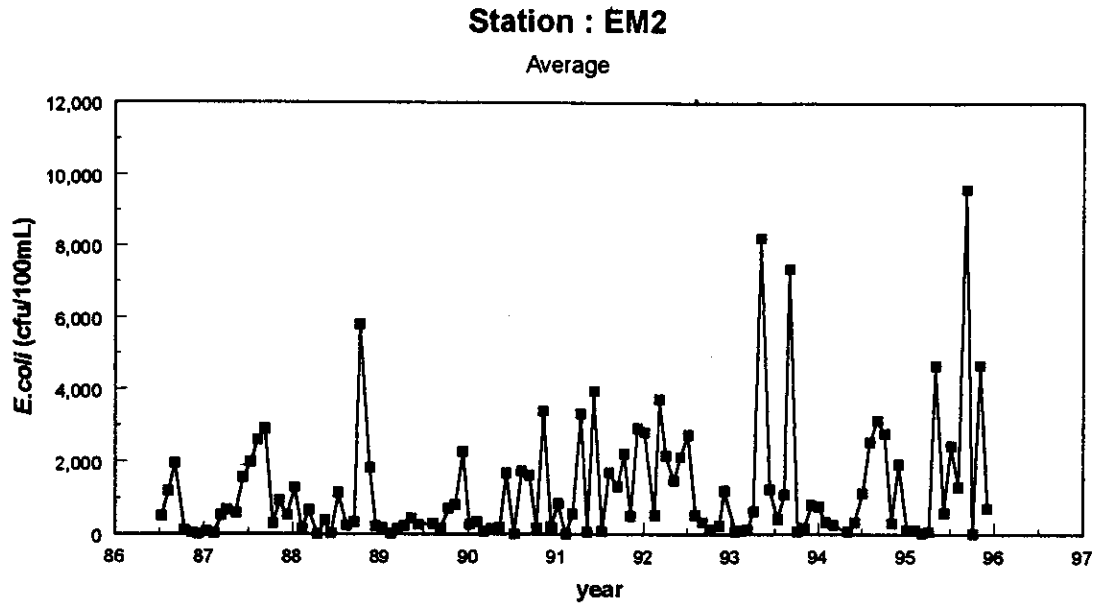


Figure 13 : Trends in depth-averaged *E. coli*, total Kjeldahl nitrogen and dissolved oxygen at the monitoring station TM6

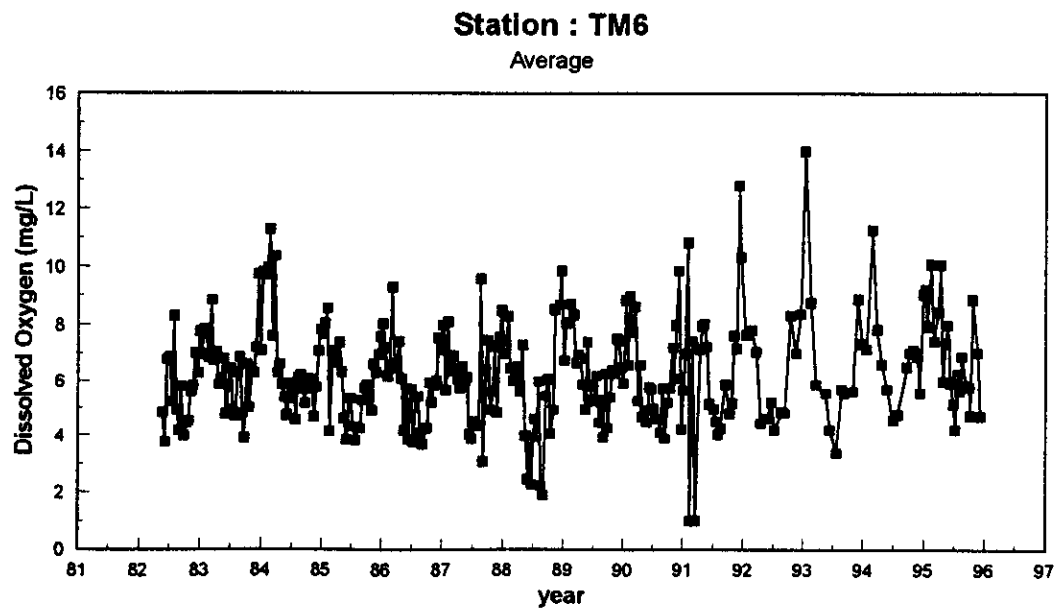
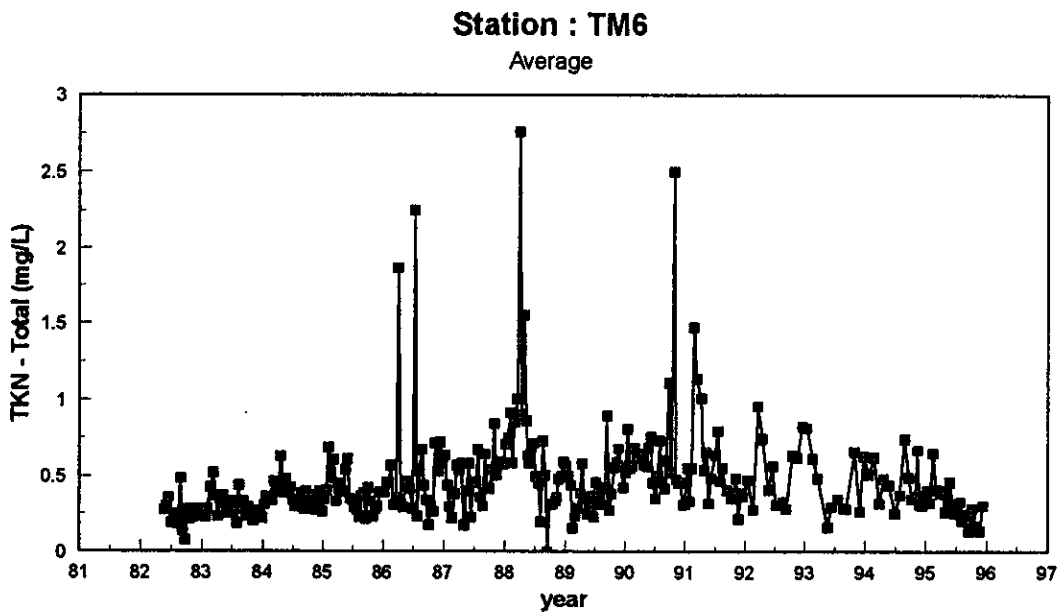
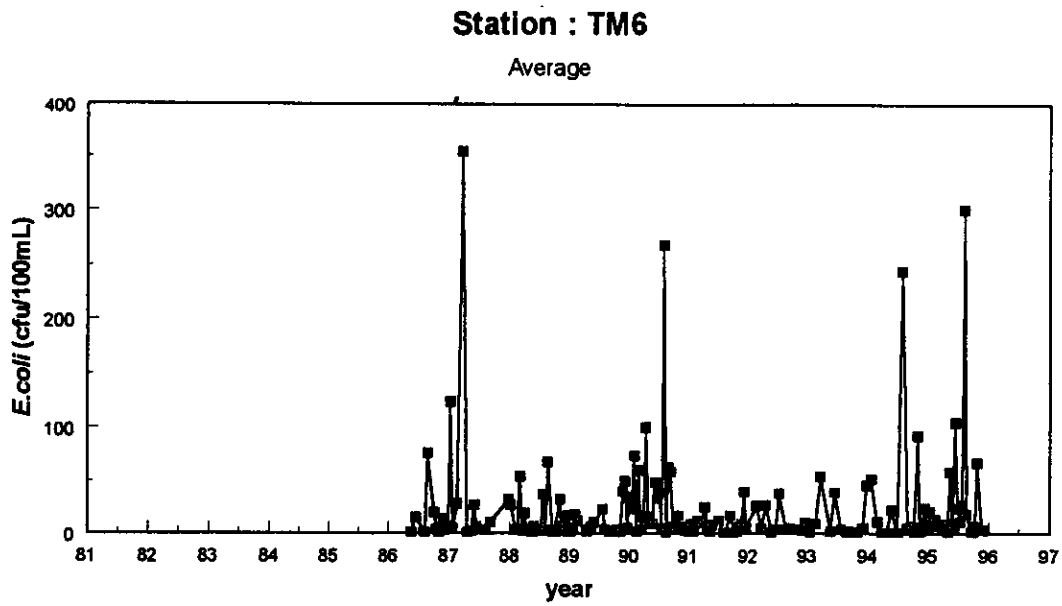


Figure 14 : Trends in depth-averaged *E. coli*, total Kjeldahl nitrogen and dissolved oxygen at the monitoring station PM7

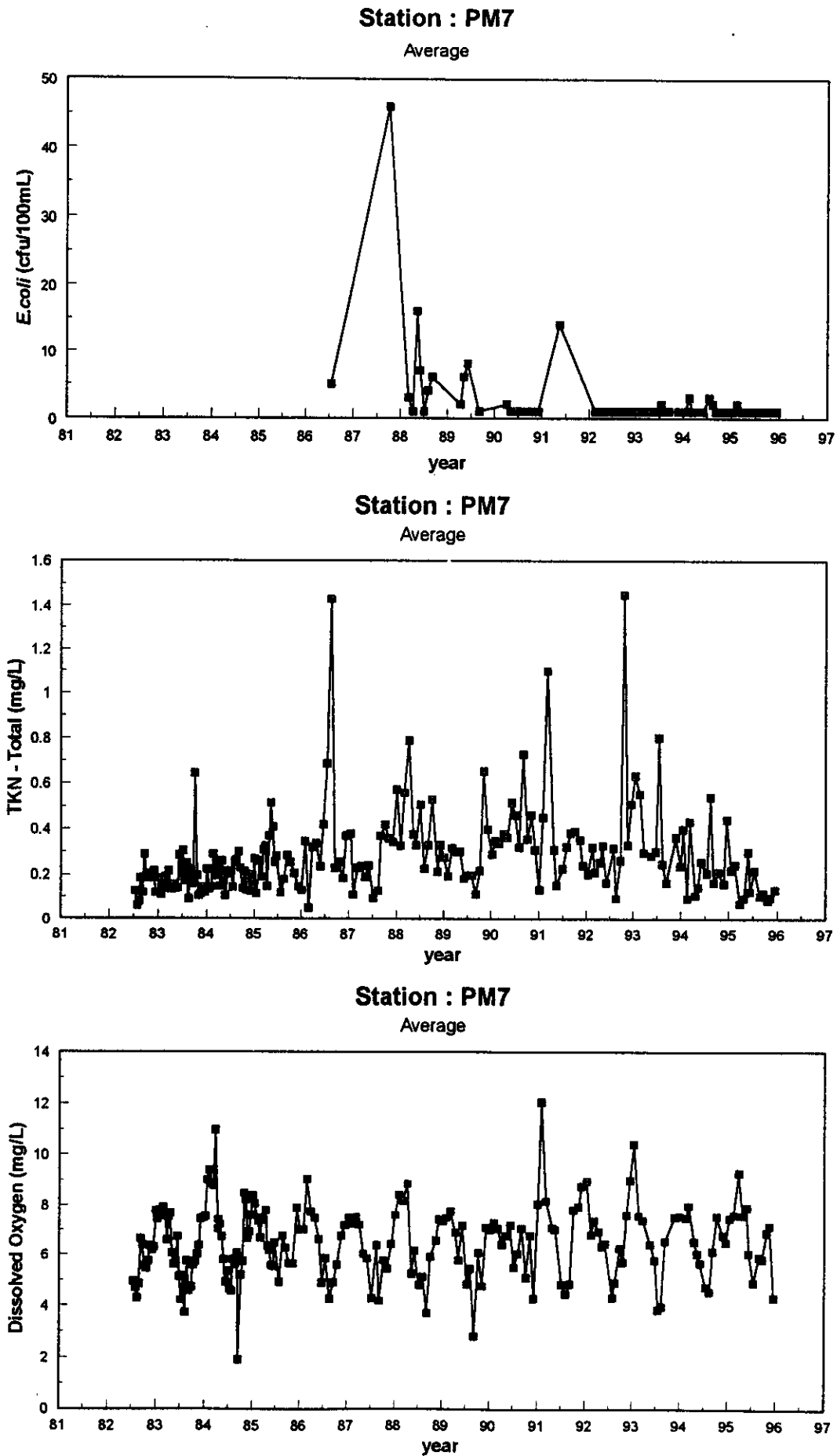


Figure 15 : Trends in depth-averaged *E. coli*, total Kjeldahl nitrogen and dissolved oxygen at the monitoring station MM15

