

## **26<sup>th</sup> Annual International Submerged Lands Management Conference**

### **Remediation of Contaminated Sediments in the Elizabeth River**

**Speaker:** Joe Rieger

**Abstract:** Most of the highly industrialized harbors of the world exhibit elevated concentrations of sediment contamination. These contaminants have adverse impacts on benthic communities in addition to other aquatic organisms. The industrialized Elizabeth River in Southeastern Virginia contains high levels of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) from former creosoting facilities in the watershed. Two large remediation efforts are currently underway in the Southern Branch of the river to remediate these contaminated sediments. One is a community lead remediation project and the other is a federally lead project. Both projects strive to remediate the contaminated sediments using different remedial approaches.

**Speaker Information:** Joe Rieger received his Bachelors of Science from Ohio University in 1998 and received a Masters degree in Aquatic Ecology from Old Dominion University in 2002. In 2002, Joe began working for the non-profit Elizabeth River Project as a staff scientist. The types of projects that he oversees include wetland, oyster, and sediment restoration. His position allows him to work directly with the citizens of Hampton Roads, waterfront industries, federal and state governments, and universities to restore the environment.