

26th Annual International Submerged Lands Management Conference

Using Green Infrastructure to Protect Water Quality

Presenter: Jeannie Butler

Description: Green Infrastructure is an interconnected network of natural areas and other open spaces that conserves natural ecosystem functions and values, sustains clean air and water, and provides a wide array of benefits to people and wildlife. Managers of submerged lands are increasingly aware that policies and decisions relating to growth and development of coastal areas are impacting designated and existing uses of tidal lands. Broad landscape planning tools representing an integrated coastal management (ICM) approach are available to protect submerged lands. Green infrastructure, an invaluable ICM tool, is a process that promotes systematic and strategic approaches to land protection. Georgia's coast is rapidly developing and green infrastructure ICM planning is a critical strategy for the protection of coastal and ocean resources. A clam mariculture case study will be highlighted.

Speaker Information: After receiving her BA in 1987 from the University of Virginia, Jeannie Butler worked as an analyst for a coastal consulting firm and the US Geological Survey. Jeannie then began her career with the Virginia Coastal Program in 1990 and worked on more than 400 environmental projects in her 11 years with DEQ, including many with the Marine Resources Commission and VIMS. Jeannie then went on to manage Georgia's Tidal Wetlands and Beach Permitting Program for 4 years, and is currently Georgia's Coastal Nonpoint Source Coordinator, focused on innovative protections for Georgia's rapidly developing coast