

# WATER QUALITY SUMMIT



Mark Alderson is the executive director of the Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program. With more than 23 years of developing and implementing high profile environmental programs, he is responsible for managing the comprehensive plans to restore and protect Sarasota Bay. Since joining the program in 1989, he led the program to many accomplishments, including: publishing the most comprehensive technical analysis on any estuarine system in Florida (Sarasota Bay: Framework for Action and Reclaiming Paradise, 1993); serving as an international model and training site through US AID; receiving the award of habitat restoration grants from U.S. Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; creating the

Heritage Trail for Sarasota and Manatee counties, which linked the area's environmental, historical and cultural treasures; and release of Sarasota Bay 2000 – A Decade of Progress and Gulf Coast Chronicles, which documented Sarasota Bay improvements.

Prior to joining the Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program, Mr. Alderson served with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for 10 years, where he developed and participated in implementing environmental and water resource management programs throughout the United States. He also has worked for the State of Maryland as its natural resource manager.