

Supporting the Blue Economy - SECOORA Annual Meeting

Hyatt House Charleston/Historic District, 560 King Street, Charleston, SC 29403

May 22-24, 2018 | [Website](#) | *Speaker Biography*

Mark Messersmith



Mark Messersmith
*South Carolina Ports
Authority*

Mark Messersmith has been the Permitting Manager for the South Carolina Ports Authority (SCPA) since 2017. In this capacity he is responsible for environmental compliance and permitting requirements for SCPA projects. Mr. Messersmith is responsible for overseeing the dredging program for the SCPA, including obtaining and circulating hydrographic surveys to stakeholders, effectively managing maintenance dredging efforts and management of dredged material placement areas. Mr. Messersmith is responsible for managing and amending existing permits and applying for new permits as needed. He also leads efforts in identifying, drafting, submitting, and implementing grant proposals. In roughly 9 months of service with the SCPA, he has successfully managed over \$4M in projects ranging from mitigation planning, to site investigations, to air emission monitoring and inventories, to dredging contracts.

Prior to his experience with the SCPA, Mr. Messersmith spent 9 years working for the US Army Corps of Engineers Charleston District. During his time with the Corps, he was involved in the planning of large civil works projects including coastal storm risk management, emergency streambank protection, ecosystem restoration, navigation studies, and water quality studies. Most notably, Mr. Messersmith was the lead biologist on the Charleston Harbor Deepening Project (Post-45 Project).

Mr. Messersmith earned a B.S. in Biology from Old Dominion University in 2001, and a M.S. in Environmental Studies from the College of Charleston in 2007, where his graduate research focused on quantifying the pollutant removal capability of stormwater ponds in coastal SC.