

# National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior



## Interior Region 2

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### Darrell Echols – Superintendent Gulf Islands National Seashore

Darrell Echols accepted the position as the current Superintendent for Gulf Islands National Seashore in July 18, 2022. He has 33 years of federal experience mostly with the National Park Service.

A native of Corpus Christi, Texas, Darrell began his federal career in 1989 while working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service studying seagrasses of the Laguna Madre. In 1990, he transferred to the National Park Service and began working in the Resources Management Division at Padre Island National Seashore.

For 18 years, Darrell managed projects and programs involving park resources and programs such as shorebirds, marine mammals, sea turtles, marine debris, wetlands, wildland fire, oil and gas development, beach nourishment, and more.

In 2008, Darrell accepted a position as the Deputy Superintendent of the Outer Banks Group in North Carolina, which included Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Wright Brothers National Memorial, and Fort Raleigh National Historic Site. As the Deputy Superintendent, he was responsible for the overall management and direction of the three parks, which included leading staff, implementing projects and partnerships, addressing controversial issues, and protecting park resources.

In 2014, Darrell was selected to serve as the Region Regional Chief of Science and Natural Resources Management for the National Park Service Southeast Region 2 in Atlanta. In this role, he and his staff provided scientific expertise, technical assistance, and policy guidance to 73 parks in the nine states and two territories. During his tenure in the regional office, Darrell also served as an Acting Deputy Regional Director, Acting Superintendent of Virgin Islands National Park, and Adaptive Recovery Team Program Manager for the Region's COVID19 response.

Darrell holds a Bachelor of Science degree in marine biology from Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi. He has been married to his best friend and wife Nancy for 25 years. They have a daughter Hailey who is studying biology at the University of North Georgia and a son who is studying engineering at Kennesaw State University in Georgia. Together they enjoy fishing, surfing, gardening, and traveling.