



## **Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana**

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### **Court Clears Way For Coastal Restoration**

(Baton Rouge, 10/20/04) Reversing a series of lower court and appellate court decisions that threatened to derail the state's coastal restoration effort, the Louisiana Supreme Court struck down a \$1.3 billion judgment for oystermen claiming that a coastal restoration project ruined their oyster leases. The decisive judgment represents a significant step forward in the restoration process aimed at halting coastal land loss in south Louisiana.

Mark Davis, executive director for the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana believes that the Court's decision clears the way for the State to proceed with a truly meaningful restoration effort. "This decision just further proves that Louisiana and her citizens understand how vitally important it is to get down to the business of saving our coast," Davis said.

Joel Waltzer, an attorney with Waltzer and Associates, who represented the Coalition before the Supreme Court stated, "The court recognized coastal restoration as an overriding public trust legal imperative. This decision properly shifts policy making from an adversarial proceeding to a consensus building exercise where all interests will be recognized, including those of our oyster fishermen."

## COURT CLEARS WAY FOR COASTAL RESTORATION

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The decision is the most recent victory for the state in what has become a an ongoing balancing act aimed at ensuring that coastal restoration activities produce effective results while also attempting to minimize the disruption to existing communities.

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