



Coalition To Restore Coastal Louisiana

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana Builds Second Living Shoreline from Recycled Oyster Shells

New Reef Will Buffer Pointe-au-Chien Indian Tribe Site from Erosion and Sea Level Rise

(Pointe-aux-Chenes, Louisiana — April 17, 2019) The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana's (CRCL) Oyster Shell Recycling Program finished construction of its second oyster reef made from recycled oyster shells. **The 200-ton living shoreline will assist the Pointe-au-Chien Indian Tribe** with protecting a culturally significant mound complex from erosion and sea level rise.

"We have collected a mountain of oyster shell from New Orleans restaurants that would have ended up in landfills to build our second reef," said CRCL Executive Director Kimberly Reyher. "This is important because oyster reefs act as speed bumps for storms – they provide an important line of defense for our coastal communities."

It took 10 truckloads to ship the approximately 400,000 pounds of recycled oyster from CRCL's shell pile in Buras, LA. Over the course of two days, over 100 volunteers working out of the Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area helped deploy the shell alongside members of the Pointe-au-Chien Indian Tribe community. Community members provided boats to transport the shell to the mound complex where members of the Indian Tribe and volunteers built the reef.

"Our ancestors made these mounds, so we won't just stand by while they are washed away", said Donald Dardar of the Pointe-au-Chien Indian Tribe. "The original boundary line they [the property owners] dug was only 2 or 3 feet wide at first, but now it keeps getting wider and wider."

Theresa Dardar – tribe member and Donald Dardar's wife included, "We like that the oyster bed will be good for other fish, too, since we're mostly commercial fishermen here."

CRCL's Oyster Shell Recycling Program began in 2014 and has collected more than 4,115 tons of oyster shells from restaurants in the Greater New Orleans area. CRCL constructed its [first oyster reef using recycled shell in the fall of 2016](#). It is a half-mile long reef located in St. Bernard Parish's Biloxi Marsh. This project is made possible by sponsorship from the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, a program of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and with additional support from Lafourche Parish Government, Terrebonne Parish Government, the Pointe-au-Chien Indian Tribe, and Shell.

"Reefs like this are the reason that Superior Seafood is involved with CRCL's Oyster Recycling Program," said John Michael Rowland, General Manager of Superior Seafood restaurant. "Every oyster shell in a landfill is wasted. We are proud to know that our effort will help baby oysters thrive while helping to form a protective buffer for the Pointe-au-Chien Tribe. It is my hope that every restaurant across New Orleans will join us in making efforts to restore our coast and invest in our future."

Our Coast, Our Future

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About CRCL: *CRCL is a non-partisan, non-profit organization driving bold, science-based action to restore coastal Louisiana through outreach, restoration, and advocacy. CRCL was founded in 1988 and is the state's oldest and most comprehensive coastal restoration organization. Visit crcl.org.*

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