

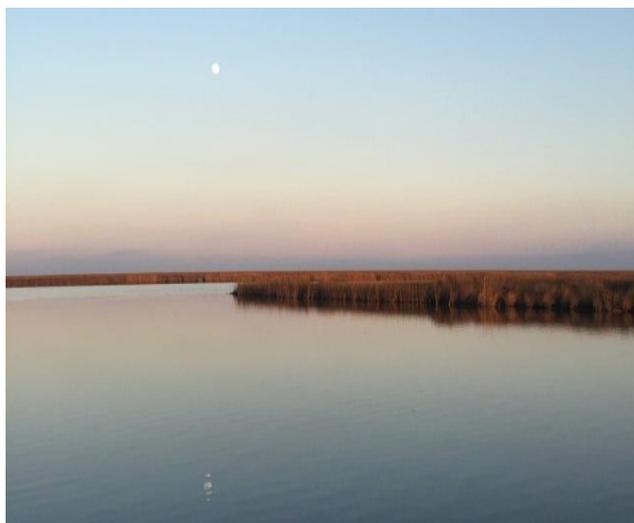


## Monitoring Shows Oyster Growth and Erosion Reduction in Biloxi Marsh

Our monitoring team has been hard at work this spring preparing a report on the successes of our Biloxi marsh reef! The project was designed with two main goals – to create a living shoreline that develops into a living oyster reef, and to provide protection to the surrounding marsh. 2018 marks a full year of monitoring for our first shoreline protection project, and data analysis is well underway.

From the data we've captured, the reef has attracted at least two distinct "spat sets" – groups of larval oysters that have settled on the structure and begun to grow into adults. The reef contains young oysters from spat (under 1 inch) to sack size (over 3 inches). This range in size demonstrates both the reef's ability to provide a good place for new oyster settlement, and sufficient habitat that allows the vulnerable juvenile oysters to survive and grow into healthy adults. This settlement and survival is vitally important to the long-term sustainability of the reef.

The Biloxi project isn't just creating oyster reef habitat - it's also helping to protect the fragile shoreline of the surrounding marsh! Based on measurements over the last year, our reef has reduced the erosion rate of the marsh edge by nearly 3 feet per year, compared to the nearby unprotected shoreline. Analysis is ongoing for other measures of reef and marsh development, including our time-lapse camera imagery – stay tuned for a video coming this summer! We'll return to the Biloxi Marsh this winter to check up on the reef.



# The Half Shell

## The Sirens of New Orleans and Two Girls One Shuck Set New Shell Bagging Records

Since 2015, the Coalition has engaged nearly 700 volunteers in our shell bagging events in Buras, LA. These volunteers have dedicated their time and hard work to helping us prepare over 400 tons of recycled shell for their final homes in living shoreline projects across Louisiana's coast.

Dozens of volunteers have joined our Ton Club over the years by bagging a full ton or more, but this year, two teams of volunteers went above and beyond to become our newest shell bagging champions! The mollusk-moving mavens of the Sirens of New Orleans defended the title, bagging 24 tons with their 34-person group of mermaids and sailors, setting the new all-time record for number of tons bagged at a single event. This replaces their previous record of 20.5 tons in 2016. Coming in at a close second, the shell-shoveling superwomen of Two Girls One Shuck managed to bag 22 tons with their 30-person team.



We're all incredibly proud of the volunteers who've joined us in Buras over the years. A very special thank you to all of these folks for putting in the muscle and grit to support a pearl of a program!



## Elysian Seafood Brings Oyster Shell Recycling to the Auction House Market

This Spring we welcomed our newest addition to our group of shell-recycling partners! Elysian Seafood, previously located exclusively at the Saint Roch Market, has opened two additional locations, one at the St. Roch Market Miami, and a second New Orleans location in the Warehouse District at the Auction House Market! With a brand-new oyster bar taking center stage at Auction House, the folks at Elysian are continuing their dedication to sustainable seafood by capturing their half-shell and chargrilled oyster shells for recycling. Congratulations to Brandon and Jennifer on their newest ventures!

## Shell Collection Breakdown

To help you track your contribution to restoring our coast, shell collection information is included for the first quarter of 2018. Please see the included attachment for your monthly shell collection metrics for January to March. You can also access your most current shell collection total on our interactive StoryMap.

Thinking of adding additional bins with the tiered discount? Please contact us at [christa.russell@crcl.org](mailto:christa.russell@crcl.org) for metrics from previous years.



Support for the Oyster Shell Recycling Program Provided By:



*Thank You*  
for your support!

Please let us know if we can help you educate your staff about this important project.

