



## It's Time to Shell-A-Brate!

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana is celebrating our Oyster Shell Recycling Program and all of the spectacular restaurant partners that make it a success! Our two-week Shell-A-Bration kicks off of February 20th, and features each of our restaurant partners at special restaurant event happy hours, bar crawls, brunches, and dinners. Attendees will collect commemorative oyster doubloons at each event, which can be exchanged for raffle tickets at our culminating Shell-A-Bration Finale held at the Urban South Brewery on March 8th. The finale will



feature appetizers from our partner restaurants, fresh oysters, live music and performances, a raffle, and beer and crawfish available for sale, with a portion of the proceeds donated to CRCL. Everyone's invited to help us celebrate our first reef, and the many more to come – please feel free to like and share the Shell-A-Bration events on social media, using the hashtag #Shell-A-Bration, and tag us @CRCL1988 on Twitter and Instagram. Yelp! Is helping out with our promotion on their community calendar, blog, and newsletter – check out their blog post about the Shell-A-Bration!

The Shell-A-Bration also serves as the release of our exciting new Oyster Shell Recycling Restaurant Guide. The guide and it's corresponding Yelp! Bookmark Collection showcase each restaurant partner and the collective contribution we're making to coastal restoration. Each of you have received several copies of the guide, please contact us at [christa.russell@crcl.org](mailto:christa.russell@crcl.org) if you need more!

# The Half Shell

## It's Alive! CRCL's Biloxi Marsh Reef is Growing Oysters!

Our monitoring crew braved the wind, water, and mud this December to check up on our first recycled oyster shell reef in Biloxi Marsh, and we're thrilled to say it's doing even better than expected! At just a year old, the reef has at least two distinct size classes of live oysters, indicating not just the reef's ability to provide a good place for new oyster settlement, but also sufficient habitat that the vulnerable juvenile oysters survive and grow. Some of our oldest baby oysters, which probably settled in the winter of 2016, are already over three inches long, official harvesting size in Louisiana!



In addition to sampling the reef for oyster recruitment and growth, we're also monitoring the shoreline that the reef protects for erosion and marsh vegetation, to give us a clear picture of how our reef is impacting the surrounding marsh. Analysis of the Biloxi reef monitoring data is underway, and will be presented at the State of the Coast Conference in May – stay tuned for updates!



## CRCL's Oyster Shell Recycling program reaches over 3,000 tons of shell

It's been a busy and productive year for our Oyster Shell Recycling Program! Over the last year, with your help, we've collected over 500 tons of oyster shell destined for landfills, and recycled it for use in shoreline protection and reef restoration projects across the coast. As of December, we've collected a staggering 3,300 tons over the life of the recycling program; Over the last year, we've engaged over 240 volunteers at 12 shell bagging events at our shell curing and bagging site in Buras, LA, including students all the way from Bowdoin College in Maine and the lovely ladies of the Sirens dance Krewe. Their hard work has helped us to prepare 148 tons (that's over 6,000 bags) of recycled shell, destined for living shoreline projects in Barataria Basin and Terrebonne parish.

We're always looking for more help at our volunteer shell bagging events – if you'd like to get your staff involved in another integral part of restoring our coast, please contact us at [christa.russell@crcl.org](mailto:christa.russell@crcl.org).



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.

