

**From:** Laura Cantral - Coastal Conservation League <action@scccl.org>  
**To:** Kevin L. BryantKevinBryant@scstatehouse.gov  
**Date:** 12/31/2018 3:57:33 PM  
**Subject:** Crab Bank will be restored in 2019

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Senator Bryant,

We can now say, with confidence and joy, that Crab Bank will be restored in 2019.

For more than a year, the Conservation League has worked with Audubon South Carolina, Coastal Expeditions, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, and the South Carolina Wildlife Federation to raise the money needed to rebuild the nesting island using sand dredged from the Charleston Harbor deepening project.

Together, our community helped raise more than a million dollars—and then Crab Bank won the lottery.

Late last week, we learned that Crab Bank has been chosen as one of 10 projects nationwide to receive funding through the federal Water Resources Development Act. This money will likely cover the costs of construction related to the dredging and dumping of compatible sand on the shrinking island.

When SCDNR nominated Crab Bank for federal funding last spring, we knew it was a long shot. The total amount of funding and the timeline were uncertain, so we marched forward with a community-driven, grassroots campaign.

Now, because of you and many others, we believe we can rebuild Crab Bank *and* do more. Money raised by the community, corporate donors, and conservation partners will help make its restoration even better and more significant by funding marsh plantings, additional monitoring, and more activities to stabilize the island.

This work will extend Crab Bank's lifetime and increase its resilience to extreme storms, erosion, and rising waves. Every dollar given will ensure brown pelicans,

American oystercatchers, royal terns, and other threatened and migratory birds can safely nest there year after year.

A few unknowns remain, including when federal funds will be available and the final cost of restoration. But we will keep you posted as we learn more and push forward with continued optimism and teamwork.

This New Year's Eve, I am filled with hope and resolve for the year ahead. I know this community of partners and supporters can come together to tackle complex problems and advance conservation against all odds. We can embrace our responsibility to take care of South Carolina's coast in the wake of climate change, now and always.

Restoring Crab Bank is well within our reach. Here's to achieving more incredible things together in 2019.

Happy New Year,

Laura

Laura Cantral

Executive Director

Coastal Conservation League

**P.S. We're nearing our year-end fundraising deadline and still need your help to receive a generous \$15,000 match. If you haven't yet given, please consider supporting our work to protect special places like Crab Bank.**

Coastal Conservation League

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