



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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April 24, 2004

Mr. S. Bartkowski, President
Coastal Restoration, Inc.
6536 East Bay Boulevard
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563

Re: Bay Environmental Study Team
West Bay Sea Grass Pilot Project
St. Andrew Bay, Bay County, FL

Dear Mr. Bartkowski:

As you are aware, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bay Environmental Study Team completed the transplanting of sea grasses from the northern edge of West Bay down to the western site of the Pilot Project Area in October 2003. Two tests sites were established, the first where Coastal Restoration, Inc., had placed its 82 coastal breakwater units and the other, unprotected test area, 400 feet away on the same 3.5-foot water depth contour.

32 total transplanted shoal grass plots were placed in identical conditions and configurations, all covered with cages to protect them from marine life. (16 plots in the protected area and 16 plots unprotected) Over the past six months, every test patch in the unprotected area has been lost due to the winter wave and wind activity. Fortunately, we have a 100% success rate for all the transplanted sea-grasses planted in the test area of the Coastal Havens. It is obvious that your units were designed very effectively and do an outstanding job of attenuating the wave energy that was so efficient in destroying the unprotected test site.

We will continue to monitor the site as we watch for the sea-grasses to get re-established and flourish. We are very hopeful that with the coming season, oyster spat will make the coastal wave attenuation devices their home and contribute to improving water quality. Because of the turbidity of the water in that area, we will also be watching to see how much of the growth rate is affected due to reduced light access to the shoalgrasses.

This past season of heavy winds and wave action in the West Bay, Panama City area has given the units designed by your Company the chance to really prove their effectiveness at attenuating wave energy. That fact that all our sea grass plantings remain intact in the protected test site, while the unprotected area lost all of the transplanted grasses, is testament to their effectiveness. As we move ahead, we look forward to using more of your units in restoring the whole of West Bay in the coming years.

Sincerely yours,

Michael S. Brim, Coordinator
Florida Gulf Coastal Program