

"Why the coastal wetlands in Louisiana - a region known as America's WETLAND - are a national treasure."

By: Tanner Hofer

I am a recent transplant to Louisiana. I was born in Colorado, but have lived in Texas, Washington, Missouri, and Oregon.

I was a little worried about moving to Louisiana. People teased me about the humidity and the alligators. What they forgot to tell me about was the amazing fishing and the awesome seafood.

The coastal wetlands are so important for many different reasons, but the things I think about are the changes of everyday life.

The crawfish season which brings in tourists would be partially lost due to less crawfish. Also, what about the oysters, the crabs, and the shrimp? Those would be affected by the loss of wetlands. That is a lot of delicious food that would be dwindling away.

Many would say that the fishing here in Louisiana is a national treasure. Large amounts of money are brought in to the state due to the enjoyment the water brings to so many people.

I have been fishing several times with my dad and have caught redfish, flounder, speckled trout and ling. Catching those fish was exciting and made me determined to fish even more.

I have seen several alligators up close and have even tried to take pictures of them. It would be sad to lose so many of the interesting animals that live here because of disappearing wetlands.

I have enjoyed the food, fishing, and animals here in Louisiana and hope that we can all help to save the wetlands.