

FACT SHEET

CONTACT: WINDELL CUROLE

TEL: (985)632-7554 CELL NO. 696-2084

10 REASONS WHY THE NATION SHOULD NOT IGNORE THE GREATEST NATURAL DISASTER OCCURRING IN THE UNITED STATES

1. What region is the leading producer of oysters in the United States?
a. Chesapeake Bay b. Florida c. Coastal Louisiana
2. Over 50% of the shrimp harvested in the lower 48 states originates in what coastal state?
a. Georgia b. Florida c. Louisiana d. Texas
3. What area is the largest port by tonnage in the world?
a. Rotterdam b. New York c. Baton Rouge-New Orleans
4. What estuary has served as the incubator of one of the most unique cultures and the best cuisine in the world?
a. Long Island Sound b. The Everglades
c. San Francisco Bay d. Barataria-Terrebonne, Louisiana
5. What area has 30% of the coastal wetlands in the United States?
a. Everglades b. Chesapeake c. San Francisco d. Coastal Louisiana
6. Which state has 90% of the Coastal Wetlands loss?
a. Florida b. North Carolina c. California d. Coastal Louisiana
7. Which area in the United States plays a strategic role in 25% of our nation's oil and gas supply?
a. Coastal Florida b. Coastal Georgia c. Coastal California d. Coastal Louisiana
8. Which of the nation's most biologically productive areas receives the least amount of Federal Funds for restoration?
a. Chesapeake Bay b. Florida Everglades
c. Coastal Louisiana d. Coastal California
9. Which state produces 75% of the alligators harvested in the U.S.?
a. Florida b. Texas c. Louisiana
10. Which is the only part of the United States that has the potential to lose hundreds of thousands of acres of coastal wetlands over the next 10 years due to inaction?
a. The Everglades and Coastal Florida b. Chesapeake Bay
c. Coastal Louisiana d. Coastal California

The correct answers are underlined.

The answers to these 10 questions would shock the average American. We have to ask, “Why don’t we know about the importance of coastal Louisiana?” Could it be because it is economically productive that we ignore its environmental importance? Coastal Louisiana is home to seafood, international trade, and energy on a world class basis. Its water is not clear, because its abundant productivity results in a soup of algae, fish eggs, and other larval aquatic species. It may be that a myth of no value has developed because the area does not command a large television and advertising market. It may be that its complexities, depth of productivity and land loss issues are more complicated than most people want to ponder. How can people understand ecological and geological Louisiana when most Americans think people of New Orleans and coastal Louisiana in terms of a cliché.

But the point is that we are losing something important to the United States and the World.

If San Francisco Bay, Chesapeake Bay, and the Everglades are important (AND THEY ARE!), then how can we not believe coastal Louisiana is at least equally important? (AND WE DON’T!) Failure will mean that we lose communities and businesses which help support all of America.

It may be that we believe the State of Louisiana is not committed to the fight. Whether that is the case or not, the nation should be aware of the problem. National awareness of the problem will help develop the political-will necessary to begin dealing with this coastal collapse on a scale that will deal with the problem.