policy which essentially prohibits the construction of armoring in the coastal zone. NPS recognizes the three concerns noted above and also recognizes the uncertainties associated with the construction of a substantial jetty system and a sand transfer system on an unprecedented scale. NPS has sought alternatives to the jetty plan on the grounds that: (1) it is contrary to NPS and State policy, and (2) the performance is uncertain and once constructed, the system is there essentially forever. Although not within NPS purview, it is not clear that the jetties are the most cost effective approach.

An approach has been sought by NPS that would be consistent with state and NPS policies and yet accomplish common objectives. A recommendation has been made for a two-year Demonstration Project to evaluate the effectiveness of a "dredge only" option. In this option, flexibility would be provided to place the sand where needed as indicated by beach monitoring. This option appears to have a number of advantages, including:

(1) If not effective, this option could be discontinued without any lasting impact as would be the case with the jetty option.
(2) Much could be learned about the physical system through a concerted monitoring program during the two year demonstration project. This information would serve to guide alternate designs or fine tune the "dredge-only" option.
(3) Through the flexibility of sand placement, the option could address immediately areas threatened by erosion.
(4) Through a multi-year dredging contract, the latest in dredging equipment and technology could be brought to bear on the project, and the performance of the contractor could be assessed on a several year basis and changes made, if desired.
(5) Although detailed cost estimates have not been carried out, it appears that this method is competitive. In particular the interest on the initial investment of approximately $100 million plus the estimated annual jetty maintenance and operating costs of the sand bypassing facility of $7 to $8 million appear to be of the same magnitude as if not greater than the annual cost of the dredging only option.