

86-56
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, more than 120 million cubic yards of material are in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean at Florida's northern border; and

WHEREAS, the Army Corps of Engineers, acting on behalf of the United States Navy, is planning to dredge a wide and deep channel through the offshore bar at the St. Marys River; and

WHEREAS, this channel will add significantly to the defense of the United States by providing a covered entrance and exit for Trident submarines, a major part of America's peacekeeping forces of deterrent; and

WHEREAS, some five million cubic yards of the material to be dredged is compatible with beaches of adjacent Amelia Island which are suffering severe erosion; and

WHEREAS, the Corps of Engineers is scheduled to place 1.4 million cubic yards of beach-compatible sand on the northern end of Amelia Island and up to four million cubic yards offshore of the center part of Amelia Island at depths of 18 to 36 feet; and

WHEREAS, the offshore placement of sand will be less beneficial to eroded beaches and may be harmful to the environment, including shrimp production; and

WHEREAS, the sand available for the littoral drift on all of Florida's East Coast is reduced by at least 250,000 cubic yards by the protective jetties at the St. Marys entrance channel and the maintenance dredging of the channel; and

WHEREAS, residents of Amelia Island should not have to stand alone in paying for sand lost by a defense project beneficial to all the Free World; and

WHEREAS, three million cubic yards of sand could be added directly to the beaches of south Amelia Island at a cost of some nine million dollars.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF NASSAU COUNTY does urge Congress and the Secretary of the Navy to authorize and fund placement of three million cubic yards of beach-compatible material on the beaches of south Amelia Island.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF NASSAU COUNTY requests the Congress and Corps of Engineers and requests the Department of Natural Resources and Department of Environmental Regulation to develop a separate long-term plan to provide for the maintenance of beaches on Amelia Island and Florida's East Coast to the south by developing a system of bypass or mitigation of the sand which is lost by the jetty system and maintenance dredging at the St. Marys inlet.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, Secretary of the Navy, Chief of the Army Corps of Engineers and all members of Florida's Congressional Delegation.

ADOPTED this 12 day of August, 1986.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 
As Chairman of the Board

Attest:


Ex-Officio Clerk