



**2 Animation Scripts Presentation Round 1**  
*U.S. Beach Nourishment Needs Now and in the Future*  
Aug 2025

Prepared by:

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## **Concept Description for Script 1: “Out of Sand... Out of Time”**

### *90 second script*

This animated short uses a strong visual metaphor—an hourglass—to convey the urgency of disappearing coastlines and rising restoration costs. It begins with familiar scenes of beach life and quickly transitions to the growing challenges faced by coastal communities: stronger storms, shrinking shorelines, and escalating expenses. The story introduces a proven solution already in use across Europe—faster, more efficient, and often less expensive—but reveals that outdated U.S. law blocks access to that help. A 1906 statute prevents foreign dredgers, even from allied nations, from contributing to U.S. beach restoration efforts.

The piece is designed to resonate with state and local leaders, fiscally minded stakeholders, and those concerned with efficient, commonsense solutions. Without assigning blame, it highlights the cost of inaction and frames the issue as a fixable problem—if laws can evolve as quickly as the tides. The message is clear: the tools exist, the help is ready, but time—and sand—are running out.



## :90 “Out of Sand... Out of Time”

### **NARRATOR:**

**Ah, beach day. Fun in the sun. Small businesses. Tourists.**

Wide-shot beach full of umbrellas, a set of businesses, and a sloping beach toward the water.

**Beaches do more than bring people in—they hold the line against rising seas.**

The single umbrella goes up. CLOSE: A PERSON relaxes in his chair.

**But beaches themselves? They’re disappearing. Storms, costs, shrinking shorelines—rebuilding is harder and more expensive.**

Slowly he starts to sink...He gets worried and then we see sand and other things on the beach sinking into a hole – suddenly he’s sinking and gets sucked into the hole.

**We’re not out of options—just out of time.**

ZOOM OUT to reveal that it’s an HOURGLASS and the beach is falling below.

**Every year, we lose more sand. And it costs more to put it back. Towns are paying out of pocket—or waiting for help that’s not coming. It’s not partisan. Both sides see the problem.**

The man below pops up while some more sand falls, a couple of crabs and fish. Behind him ruins of the pleasant scene above. He opens his wallet and moths fly out. Then he pulls out some binoculars and looks offscreen. *Transition: SWISH PAN.*

**Over there, it’s already happening. In places like Europe... they have the know-how. Beach restoration is faster, more efficient—sometimes at half the cost.**

Full Beach– big FLAG: EUROPE; A DREDGING MACHINE pumping SAND onto the beach as it passes... then TOURISTS, BUSINESS pop up behind. *SOUND FX: CHAAA-CHING!*

**U.S. companies are expanding—just not fast enough.**

*BACK TO OUR GUY:* Binoculars down... looks to CAMERA with magnified eyes.

## **:90 “Out of Sand... Out of Time”**

**NARRATOR (cont’d):**

**We’re trying to protect thousands of miles of coastline with just a handful of ships.**

*SWISH PAN* to US map with coastal areas highlighted.

**If they can do it faster and cheaper...**

Back to *OUR GUY*... He looks to Europe then... gestures them “Come over” arm wave.

**Why can’t we work with them? Seems like a good idea, but...**

*CUT TO: EUROPEAN DREDGING* vessels on the sea, then:

**BLOCKED! Blocked by law.**

*GIANT LAW SCROLL* unfurls from the sky. *TEXT: “46 U.S. Code § 55109 prohibits foreign dredgers”* *BIG RED STAMP* slams down: *BLOCKED BY LAW!* *A GAVEL* smashes into the ocean with a big splash, *TRANSITION TO:*

**A 1906 law blocks foreign dredgers from working in U.S. waters— even when they use American crews. No waivers. No exceptions. It was meant to protect national security.**

*AN OLD LAW BOOK OPENS UP;* on the page is a *DATE: 1906...* *A MODEL T & STEAM DREDGER* steam across the sea. From the ocean *A PERISCOPE* rises from the sea. *TRANSITION WITH A HUGE WAVE*

**But today, the real threat is coming from the ocean itself.**

**We know how to fix the problem. Our allies are ready to lend a hand— But they’re just out of reach.**

*BACK ON BEACH:* Feet in the water, *PAN* up to our guy reaching up for help ... hands just out of reach.

**The tide is rising. The law hasn’t changed. And coastal budgets? They’re already underwater.**

*WATER IS RISING...* *ZOOM OUT TO HOURGLASS IMAGE WITH SAND FALLING SLOWLY THOUGH.*

**Let’s act now — before time runs out.**

FINAL Call to Action



**Ah, beach day. Fun in the sun.  
Small businesses. Tourists.**

Wide-shot beach full of umbrellas, a set of businesses, and a sloping beach toward the water.



**Beaches do more than bring people in –**

The single umbrella goes up.



**...They hold the line against rising seas.**

CLOSE: A PERSON relaxes in his chair.



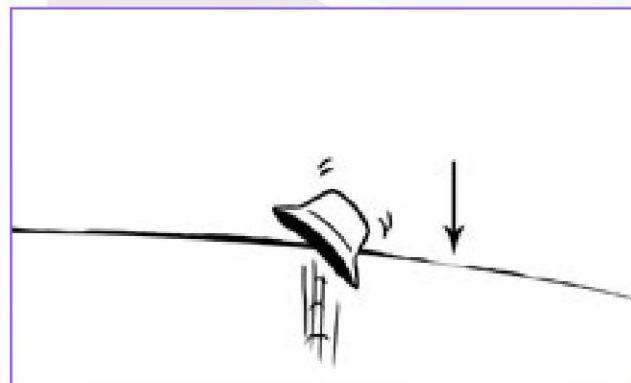
**But beaches themselves? They're disappearing.**

We see sand and other things on the beach sinking into a hole



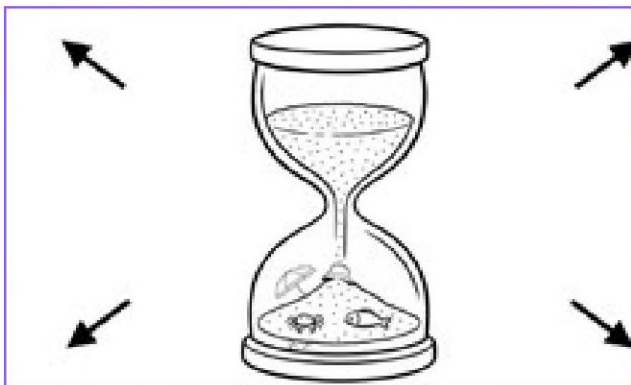
**Storms, costs, shrinking shorelines—rebuilding is harder and...**

Slowly he starts to sink...



**...More expensive. (Sound FX: Whoosh!)**

Suddenly he's sinking and gets sucked into the hole



**We're not out of options—just out of time.**

ZOOM OUT to reveal that it's an HOURGLASS and the beach is falling below



**Every year, we lose more sand. And it costs more to put it back.**

The man below pops up while some more sand falls, a couple of crabs and fish. Behind him ruins of the pleasant scene above.



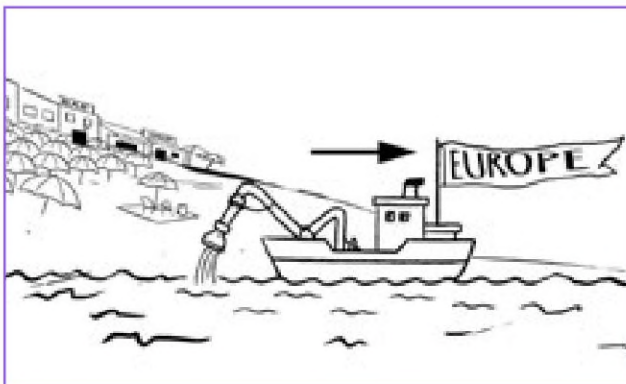
**Towns are paying out of pocket—or waiting for help that's not coming. It's not partisan. Both sides see the problem.**

He opens his wallet and moths fly out.



**Over there, it's already happening.**

Then he pulls out some binoculars and looks offscreen. SWISH PAN TO:



**In places like Europe... they have the know-how. Beach restoration is faster, more efficient...**

Full Beach – big FLAG: EUROPE; A DREDGING MACHINE pumping SAND onto the beach as it passes... then TOURISTS, BUSINESS pop up behind.



**...sometimes at half the cost. (SOUND FX: CHA-CHING!)**

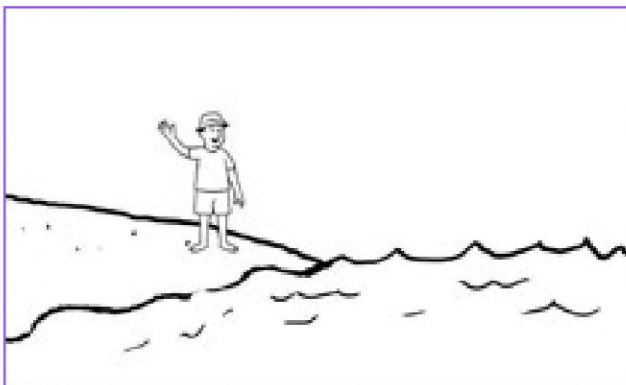
TOWARD CAMERA: Big EYES and Big SMILE.

TRANSITION – BINOCULAR WIPE TO:



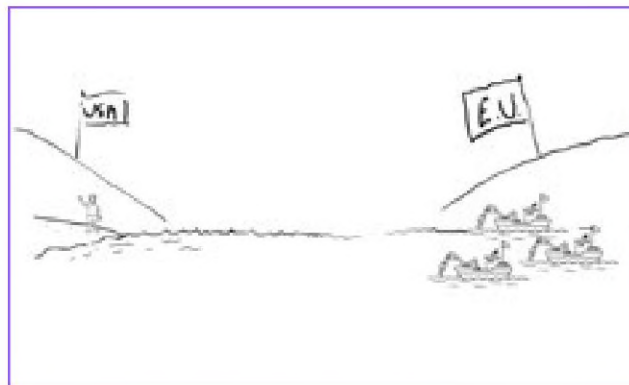
U.S. companies are expanding—just not fast enough. We're trying to protect thousands of miles of coastline with just a handful of ships

MAP WITH PROBLEM AREAS



If they can do it faster and cheaper...

Back to CHAR.. HE LOOKS TO EUROPE AND then.. gestures them "Come OVER" arm wave.



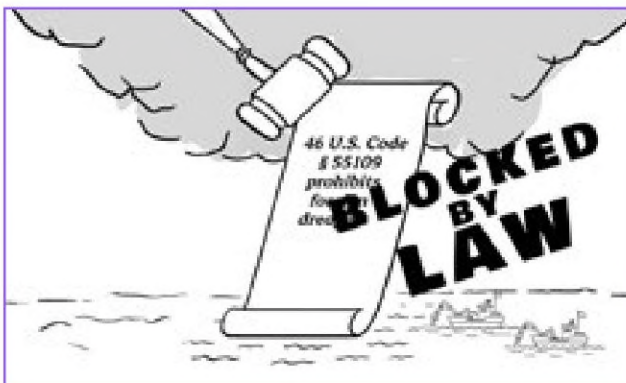
Why can't we work with them? Seems like a good idea, but...

EUROPEAN DREDGING VESSELS ON THEIR WAY OVER



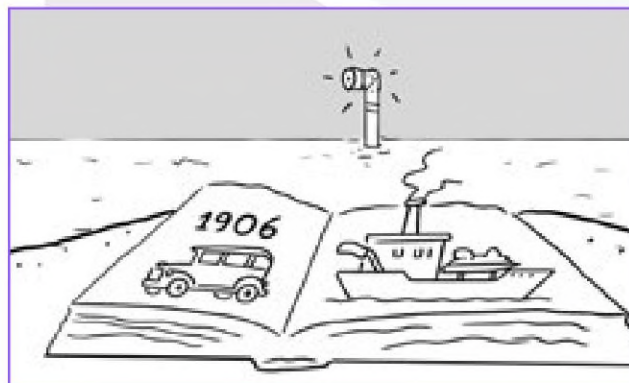
**BLOCKED!**

GIANT LAW SCROLL SPILLS DOWN FROM THE SKIES. TEXT: "46 U.S. Code § 55109 prohibits foreign dredgers"



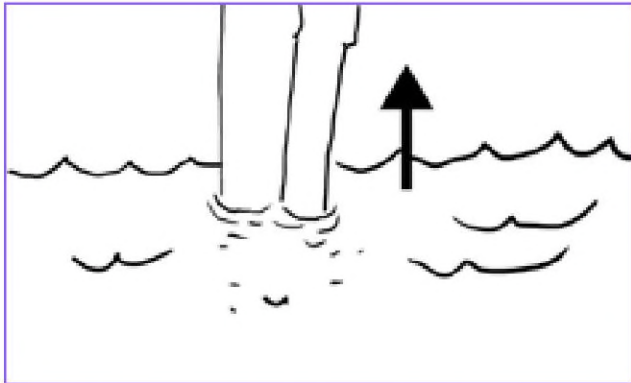
**Blocked by law. A 1906 law blocks foreign dredgers from working in U.S. waters—**

**BIG RED STAMP COMES DOWN: BLOCKED BY LAW! A GAVEL SMASHES AND SPLASHES THE OCEAN: TRANSITION TO:**



**...even when they use American crews. No waivers. No exceptions. It was meant to protect national security.**

**AN OLD LAW BOOK OPENS UP; DATE 1906... A MODEL T & STEAM ENGINE DREDGER SMOKE ACROSS THE SCREEN. A PERISCOPE rises from the sea. TRANSITION: A HUGE WAVE**



But today, the real threat is coming from the ocean itself.  
We know how to fix the problem.  
BACK ON BEACH: OUR GUY'S FEET ARE IN THE WATER, pan up to our guy reaching...



Our allies are ready to lend a hand... But they're just out of reach. The tide is rising. The law hasn't changed. And coastal budgets? They're already underwater.  
...EU hands just out of reach. WATER IS RISING...ZOOM OUT:



Let's act now – before time runs out.  
HOURGLASS IMAGE WITH SAND FALLING SLOWLY THOUGH. FINAL CTA APPEARS.

## Concept Description for Script 2: “Nature’s Window”

### *90 second script*

This animated short centers on a powerful, accessible metaphor: the narrow windows of time that nature provides. Birds migrate, turtles nest, fish spawn—each on a schedule that doesn’t wait for human delays. When storms damage coastlines, restoration work must happen within these seasonal windows to avoid further ecological disruption. But in the U.S., that timing often slips. Permitting backlogs, equipment shortages, and limited dredging capacity stretch project timelines beyond those critical moments.

The video contrasts this with Europe’s approach, where restoration work moves faster and more efficiently—better aligned with nature’s rhythm. It then reveals the catch: U.S. law blocks access to that kind of help. A statute written in 1906 forbids foreign dredgers from assisting, even when the work is cheaper, faster, and still led by American crews.

“Nature’s Window” is aimed at environmental advocates, labor stakeholders, and community planners. It highlights how outdated laws disrupt both environmental recovery and job creation—and how small changes in policy could open the window to smarter, more responsive solutions.



## :90 “Out of Sand... Out of Time”

### **NARRATOR:**

**Out here, nature runs on time. Migration, nesting, spawning—each season opens a brief window, right on schedule.**

*A WINDOW FRAME:* Curtains hang, outside *A BEACH SCENE, NATURE MOVES THROUGH SEASONS* – Geese fly in a V, Turtles come up on the beach, Birds fly in Nest.

**And the coastline? It’s supposed to hold steady. But storms are stronger. Shorelines, thinner.**

On The wall next to the window a calendar: *MIGRATION SEASON, SPAWNING SEASON, NESTING SEASON – HURRICANE SEASON;*

**When damage hits, American crews scramble to respond.**

*FLASH* – Beach damaged; *CONSTRUCTION TRUCKS BEEPING*, Dredging... on the wall a *CALENDAR FLIPS TO REPAIR SCHEDULE.*

**But with today’s delays and rising costs, the plan - goes out the window— And nature doesn’t wait.**

Wind picks up...curtains blow, *CALENDAR BLOWS OUT THE WINDOW; ZOOM THROUGH WINDOW: HORIZON changes to:*

**She moves fast. There’s no time to fall behind.**

*NATURE’S TIMELINE.* We see a gentle line, with *WINDOWS OPEN AND CLOSE BETWEEN SECTIONS*, Birds land in a nest, a turtle climbs out of the water onto the line... Fish jump out of the timeline and splash in.

**In Europe, they work with that rhythm. Projects move faster—fitting the season, minimizing disruption.**

*A SECOND TIMELINE APPEARS; EUROPEANS.* Timeline (color coded) a bit longer than the Nature timeline... *ADJUSTS WITH COLORS MATCHING TO THE NATURE TIMELINE* – Dredging ships and construction build beaches and dredge sand.

**But U.S. timelines lag. Permits stall. Equipment waits. By the time we start, the window’s already closed.**

*AMERICAN TIMELINE APPEARS*, long, with two labels *START AND END.* It *JAMS ITSELF ONTO THE NATURE TIMELINE...* The fish leap out of the way, trucks back up, etc.

**And yet—**

*TRANSITION: LARGE WINDOW SLAMS SHUT, SHADE PULLS DOWN* – on the shade:

## :90 "Out of Sand... Out of Time"

**NARRATOR (Cont'd.):**

**The answers are right in front of us.**

*TEXT: WHY CAN'T THEY HELP US OUT?* Shade flips up revealing, a *EUROPEAN WINDOW*

**Our allies have the gear—and the record to prove it. But even when they're ready to help—**

The European is waving, holding a Shovel- little *SOUNDS of him saying "Allo"*

*CUT TO: SIDE VIEW OF TWO WINDOWS: US AND EU:* Two hands waving.. US gestures, 'come over'. They reach out.

**We're blocked.**

*A LARGE LAW BOOK FALLS DOWN "TEXT:"46 U.S. Code § 55109 prohibits foreign dredgers"*

**A century-old law forbids it. No waivers. No exceptions. Not when the job is urgent. Not when the coast is slipping away. Not even when American jobs are on the line. It was meant to protect national security.**

*LAW BOOK OPENS UP;* on the page is a *DATE: 1906... A MODEL T & STEAM DREDGER* steam across the sea. From the ocean

*A PERISCOPE* rises from the sea.

**But today, the real threat is coming from the ocean itself.**

The water starts to rise, a storm brews... a big wave transitions to:

**American coastlines should be tended by Americans. But we need better tools—modern, fuel-efficient, ready now. Our European partners have them: faster ships, cleaner methods, proven results. We'll steer the ship—they'll lend a hand.**

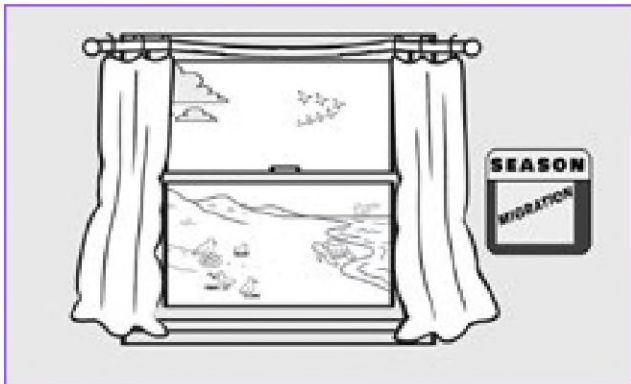
*COASTLINE: A SHIP* pulls into the Foreground, we See *AMERICAN FLAG ON TOP/EU FLAG BELOW... Above GEESE FLY BY.*

**Nature doesn't wait. And she doesn't check party lines.**

*SAME VIEW COASTAL VIEW FROM THE OPEN, A DREDGING SHIP ON THE HORIZON; ZOOM OUT TO REVEAL THE SAME BEACH, PULL BACK TO REVEAL THE SAME WINDOW...*

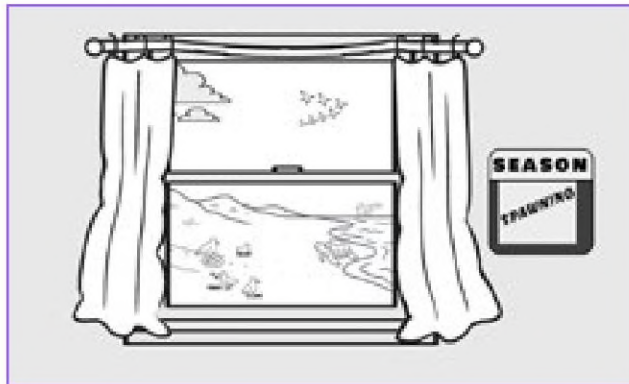
**Let's act now—before our window of opportunity closes.**

*THE WINDOW & FINAL CTA APPEARS*



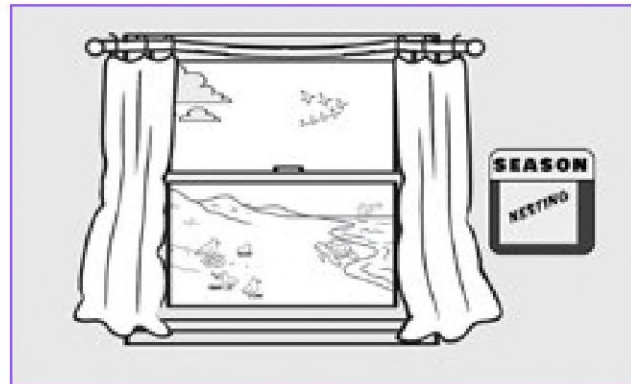
Out here, nature runs on time. Migration, nesting, spawning—each season opens a brief window, right on schedule.

A WINDOW FRAME: Curtains hang, outside A BEACH SCENE, NATURE MOVES THROUGH SEASONS.



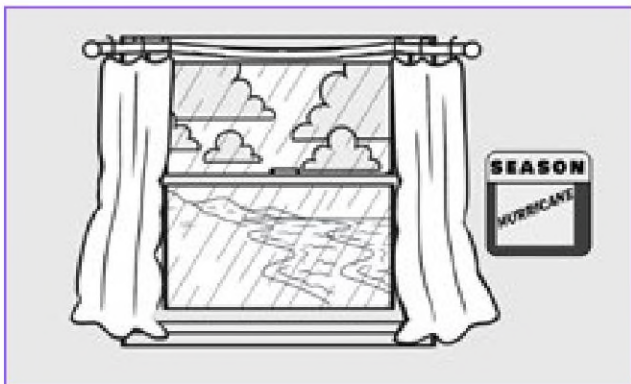
Migration, nesting, spawning – each season opens a brief window,

Geese fly in a V, Turtles come up on the beach, Birds fly in Nest.



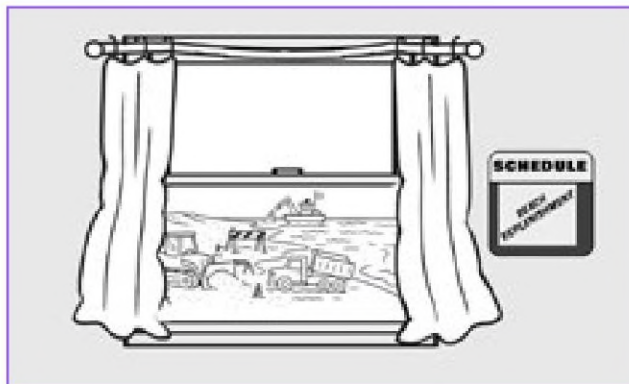
And the coastline? It's supposed to hold steady.

On The wall next to the window a calendar: MIGRATION SEASON, SPAWNING SEASON, NESTING SEASON – HURRICANE SEASON;



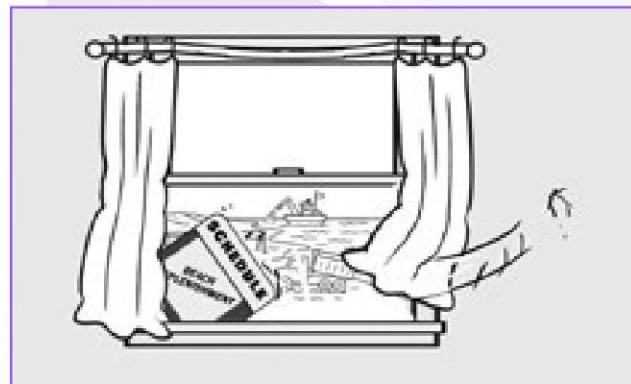
But storms are stronger. Shorelines, thinner.

FLASH – BEACH IS DAMAGED...



When damage hits... American crews scramble to respond.

CONSTRUCTION TRUCKS BEEPING, DIGGING... on the wall a CALENDAR FLIPS TO REPAIR SCHEDULE.



But with today's delays and rising costs, the plan - goes out the window—

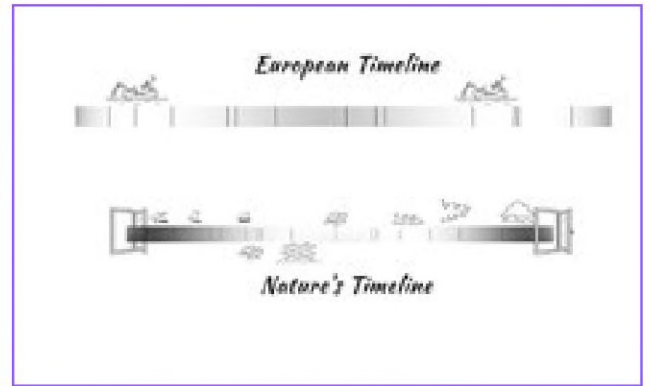
Wind picks up... curtains blow. CALENDAR BLOWS OUT THE WINDOW



**And nature doesn't wait.**  
ZOOM THROUGH WINDOW: HORIZON changes to:



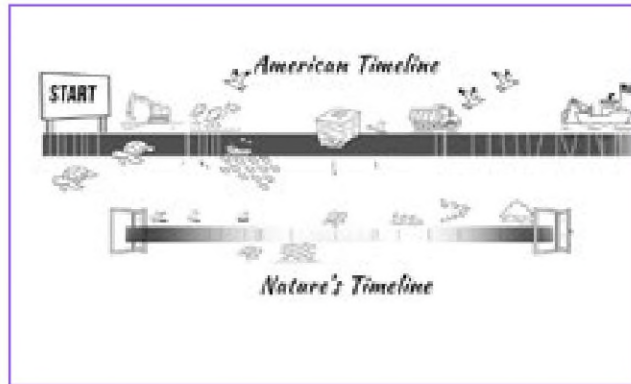
**She moves fast. There's no time to fall behind.**  
NATURE'S TIMELINE. We see a line, with WINDOWS OPEN AND CLOSE BETWEEN SECTIONS, Birds land in a nest, a turtle climbs out of the water onto the line... Fish jump out of the timeline and splash in.



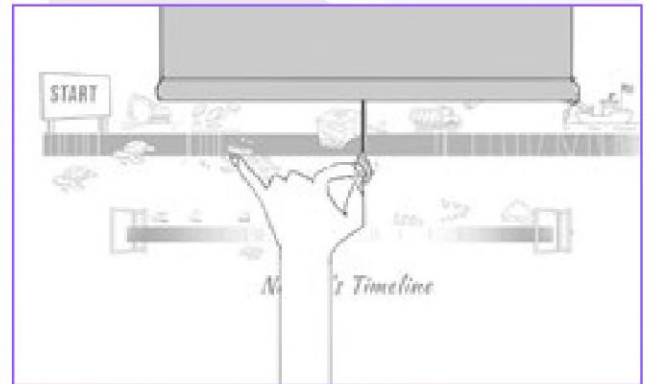
**In Europe, they work with that rhythm.**  
A SECOND TIMELINE APPEARS; EUROPEANS. Timeline a bit longer than the Nature timeline...



**Projects move faster—fitting the season, minimizing disruption.**  
ADJUSTS WITH COLORS MATCHING TO THE NATURE TIMELINE — Dredging ships and construction build beaches and dredge sand.



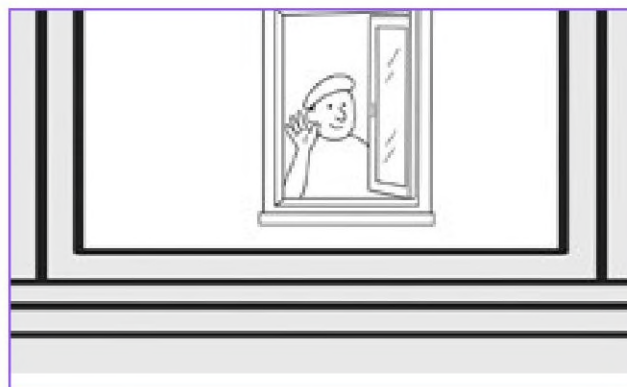
**But U.S. timelines lag. Permits stall. Equipment waits. By the time we start,**  
AMERICAN TIMELINE APPEARS, long, with two labels START AND END. It JAMS ITSELF ONTO THE NATURE TIMELINE... The fish leap out of the way, birds fly for cover, etc.



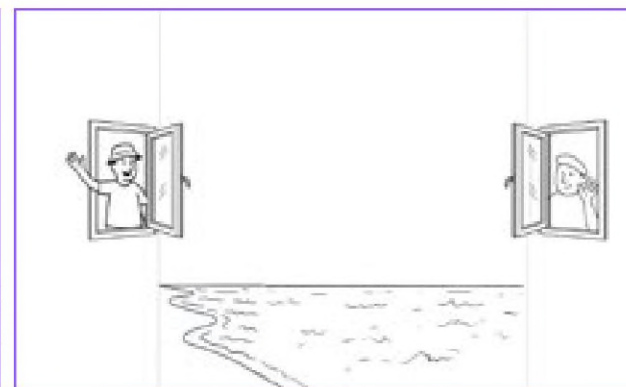
**the window's already closed. And yet—**  
SHADE PULLS DOWN — on the shade:



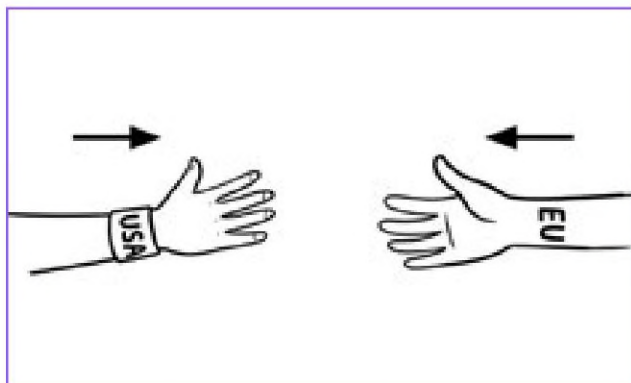
The answers are right in front of us.  
TEXT ON THE SHADE, then it suddenly lifts up and reveals:



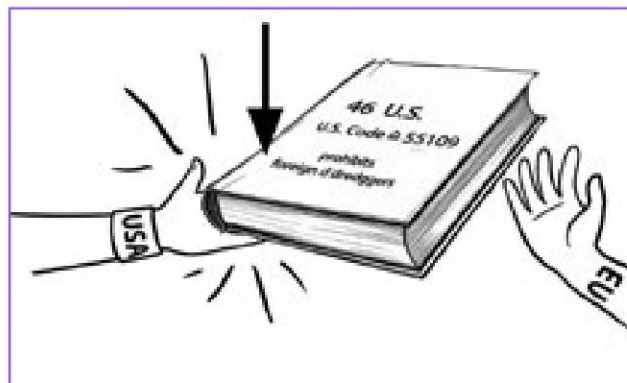
Our allies...  
Shade flips up revealing, a EUROPEAN WINDOW, he European is waving, holding a Shovel- little SOUNDS of him saying "Allo"



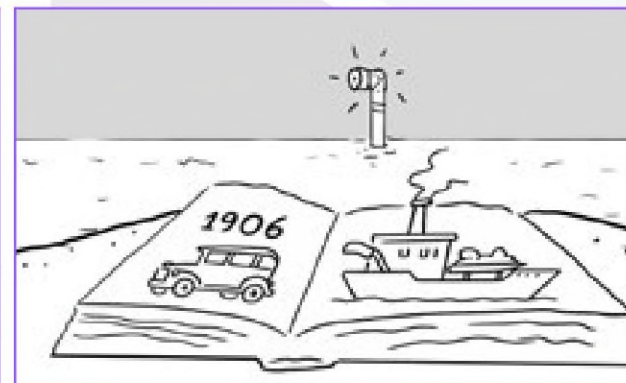
They have the gear—and the record to prove it.  
US AND EU: Two hands waving. US gestures, 'come over'.



But even when they're ready to help—  
They reach out to shake hands...



We're blocked.  
A big law book LANDS, OPENS: TEXT: "46 U.S. Code § 55109 prohibits foreign dredgers"

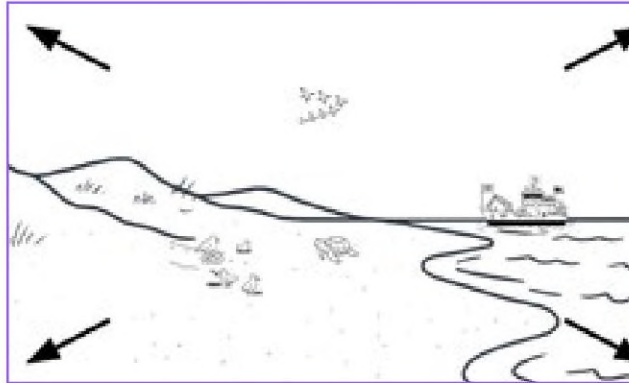


A century-old law forbids it. No waivers. No exceptions. Not when the job is urgent. Not when the coast is slipping away. Not even when American jobs are on the line. It was meant to protect national security.  
Law book with date, and old looking equipment, in the background PERISCOPE POPS UP.



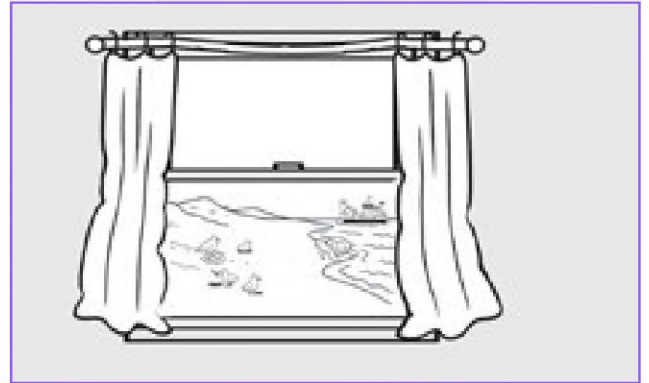
But today, the real threat is coming from the ocean itself. American coastlines should be tended by Americans. But we need better tools—modern, fuel-efficient, ready now.

Zoom slowly out, We See AMERICAN FLAG & EU FLAG BELOW... Above GEESE FLY BY in the background...



Our European partners have them: faster ships, cleaner methods, proven results. We'll steer the ship—they'll lend a hand.

Continue to zoom out, the COASTAL SCENE from beginning appears.



Nature doesn't wait. And she doesn't check party lines. Let's act now—before our window of opportunity closes.

Continue to Zoom out through the window and the FINAL CTA APPEARS.

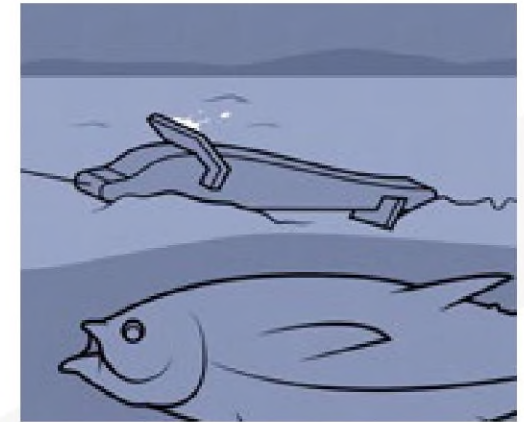
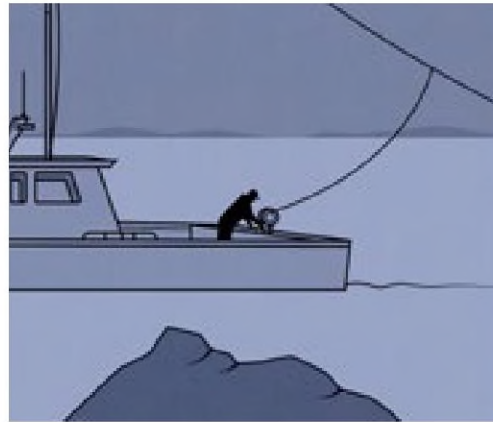
## Style Suggestions

These visual styles are starting points, not final treatments. Each option is meant to spark conversation and explore tone, clarity, and visual rhythm. We'll refine and evolve the chosen style in collaboration with your team.



### Simple "Technical" Illustration

Monochrome and muted color pallet, detailed slightly, clean and clear style.

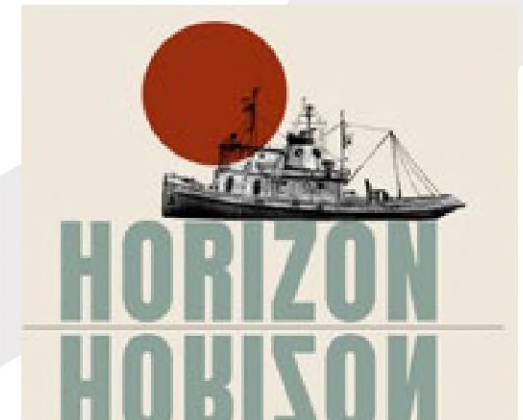


### Stylized Illustration

Broad graphic shapes, slightly abstracted. Bold color combos can be used.

### Collage Style

Broad graphic shapes, Photographic elements, combined with large text elements.



## **Delivery & Formating Questions**

Based on these scripts, we have a few questions on your delivery format(s).

*Let us know if you need something other than what is below.*

- **File format**, typically we can deliver standard web movie format (.mp4)
- **Length**: The scripts time out to approximately 90 seconds.
- **Aspect ratio**: the budget dictates one format size -- layout and re-organzing of elements is time consuming and is NOT something that can be done afterwords as a quick option. We'll need to know the aspect format before designing the layout of each shot. It will be either 16x9 (Horizontal) or 9x16 (vertical).
- Please let us know any other specs you may need.



## What's next?

This is Round One of scripting. From here, you'll either:

**Approve the script > move to preproduction**

**Request Revisions > provide consolidated feedback**

### Revision Process

You: 1 round of notes (conceptual, factual, tone) – 5 business days

Us: Revised script returned – 5 business days

Extra revision rounds will impact schedule.

### After Script & Style Approval

We begin design + illustration.

You'll review sample frames for minor edits only (no style shifts here).

We'll also create a rough animatic – a timed storyboard with temp voice to preview pacing and tone.

### Final Production

Animation begins with approved voice + timing

First Cut: animation + voice + sample music

Fine Cut: final mix + polish for last tweaks

Final Delivery: delivered in your requested format

