



Negril Chamber of Commerce

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August 15, 2018

Mr. Peter Knight
Chief Executive Officer
National Environmental & Planning Agency
10 Caledonia Avenue
Kingston 10

Dear Sir:

We have recently become aware that Sandals Resort has made a formal application to NEPA for permission to construct two breakwaters and three groynes in front of their beach property in Negril. On behalf of our members, we are requesting a copy of any applications made along with the supporting documents received: - (all plans, maps, studies etc.) from Sandals Negril and any permits granted regarding the application. Any reports and other information related to the breakwater and groyne design and specific location would help so that we can better understand the scope and impact of the project.

The Negril Chamber of Commerce (NCC) would like to voice our strong objection to this application at this point. The NCC has met with Sandals representatives on several occasions, in an attempt to work alongside them to find a solution to their severe erosion problems and at these discussions we have offered several alternative suggestions regarding how to solve this problem based on expert scientific advice, including:

- Beach nourishment
- Replacement of the sea grass that was removed
- Removal of all physical structures in the area; previously submerged over the past forty (40) years.

In addition evidence-based research from countries who have previously implemented this proposed HARD method of breakwaters and groynes to protect their beach have proved that:

- it has not been effective in most cases
- in the few cases where it has been effective, it has caused severe problems to neighbouring properties resulting in even worse erosion problems

Question #1:

Why would we wish to pursue such an obsolete method of constructing breakwaters and groynes when there are such other alternatives available? For example, when our neighbouring island Cuba had erosion problems on Veradero Beach they selected beach nourishment as their desired solution. It was only after twenty six (26) years that it became necessary to replenish the said beach.

Bear in mind Veradero Beach, located on Cuba's northern coast, does not have a reef in front of their beach to give any protection from storm surge and it also faces direct exposure from the Atlantic Ocean - yet those in a position to implement effective solutions found it extremely worthwhile to continue using beach nourishment to solve their beach erosion problem.

Question #2:

Here in Jamaica, why is it that those in a position to do something to protect our valuable shores seem committed to pursuing a redundant method which has not worked? Why is there so much strong resistance in doing beach nourishment?

A quick internet search will reveal several SOFT environmental solutions that are being used all over the world. Research suggests that HARD engineering brings more problems than solutions and as evidenced by past experience, properties located near breakwater and groyne projects suffer tremendous beach loss as well.

Therefore, if one is permitted to construct breakwaters and groynes, it will inevitably open the door for others to do the same until eventually the entire Negril beach will be dotted with

breakwaters and groynes. What a horrible sight it would be to see these ugly HARD structures all along our beautiful Negril beach!


Sandals ' beach erosion can be resolved (and protected) without losing the beauty of this great asset of ours. Please let's focus on beach nourishment - just like the Cubans have done - so we can preserve this precious asset for our children, grandchildren and great, great grandchildren.

If this opposition is ignored and the permit is granted, will NEPA and/or Sandals :

1. **Compensate** all neighboring properties affected negatively by these proposed breakwaters and groynes?
2. **Remove** these structures?

NEPA - WE NEED YOU TO STAND TALL AND MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION!!!

Yours respectfully,


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Daniel Grizzle (Mr.)
President
Negril Chamber of Commerce

Cc. The Hon. Daryl Vaz, MP., - Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation with responsibility for Land, Environment, Climate Change and Investments),

Mr. Danville Walker - Chairman of the NRCA

Dr. Wykeham McNeill - M.P. for Western Westmoreland

Mr. Ian Hayles - M.P. for Eastern Hanover