PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New England District

696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Date: March 16, 2004
Comment Period Ends: March 30, 2004
File Number: 200400302
In Reply Refer To: Ted Lento

15 DAY PUBLIC NOTICE COMMENT

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), 20 Somerset Street, Boston, MA 02108 has requested a Corps of Engineers permit under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to place fill material in an area of about 2.3 acres below the high tide line in conjunction with the stabilization of approximately 2000 feet of concrete seawall along Nantasket Beach in Hull, Massachusetts. The area to be filled is in front of the section of seawall that extends from the pedestrian ramp near the Mary Jeanette Murray Bathhouse to approximately 50 feet past the pedestrian ramp opposite Atherton Road. The work is depicted on the attached plans entitled "PROPOSED NANTASKET BEACH RESERVATION SEAWALL STABILIZATION" dated March 8, 2004.

The work includes placing material in front of the damaged section of the seawall to create a cobble berm with a top elevation of 10.0 NGVD and with a minimum width 15 feet seaward of the wall. The maximum width of the berm, as depict on the plans, is 43 feet. Sand would be placed at the toe of the cobble berm for additional protection. The cobble material is a mixture of various sized rounded cobble with a mixture of sand and gravel. This type material approximates the natural winter beach material found up along the beach in front of the seawall. Fill shall be composed primarily of rounded cobbles, with less than 15% gravel, and less than 5% sand. Cobbles shall be graded, displaying a range of particle sizes, between 3 inches and 10 inches in diameter. The majority of cobbles shall fall in the 4-inch to 8-inch range. The estimated amount of cobble material is 31,000 tons (approx. 21,000 C.Y.) and the estimated amount of additional sand is 6,000 tons (approx. 4,500 C.Y.)

The DCR proposes to commence work in April and complete the work within 45 days. They will also perform limited crack repairs and fill under wall voids with concrete. Geotextile fabric would be placed beneath the cobble berm to increase stability of the cobble. Maintenance in the fall, spring, and after storms would be performed as needed and will include topographic surveys of the berm to determine changes from the original berm profile as constructed.

This project will impact approximately 2.3 acres of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for 31 species as noted in the attached Table 1 entitled "Species and life stages that NEFMC and MAFWC have designated EFH for in Massachusetts Bay". This habitat consists of inter-tidal sandy and cobble coastal beach. Although the project will change the contours of the inter-tidal habitat, it is not expected that there will be a loss of habitat. Time of year restrictions may be required for in water work in order to minimize impacts during construction due to increased turbidity. The District Engineer has made a preliminary determination that the site-specific adverse effect will not be substantial. Further consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding EFH conservation recommendations is being conducted and will be concluded prior to the final decision.

The project purpose is to stabilize the seawall that has been undermined by beach scouring from recent storms. The storm resulted in soil washing out from behind the wall by water passing under and through the wall. Voids exist under the wall with no sand supporting the wall. Settlement is occurring with tilting of wall away from sidewalk. Cracks in the wall allow waves to penetrate into area behind wall thereby washing out additional material. Inadequate height of beach material in front of wall results in a lack of support to keep wall from falling forward or sliding. The proposed cobble berm would prevent rapid scouring of the beach material that is currently presenting the greatest threat to wall failure.

This project is located on the USGS Hull quadrangle sheet at UTM zone 19 coordinates 346274E and 4682433N.

In order to properly evaluate the proposal, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date. If you have any questions, please contact Ted Lento at (978) 318-8863, or (800) 362-4367, if calling from within Massachusetts.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR
DETAILS OF EVALUATION
FACTORS

Crystal I. Gardner
Chief, Permits & Enforcement Branch
Regulatory Division

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity in the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Where the activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of disposing it in ocean waters, the evaluation of the impact of the activity in the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act, and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 as amended.

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that little likelihood exists for the proposed work to impinge upon properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, and no further consideration of the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, is necessary. This determination is based upon one or more of the following:

a. The permit area has been extensively modified by previous work.
b. The permit area has been recently created.
c. The proposed activity is of limited nature and scope.
d. Review of the latest published version of the National Register shows that no presence of registered properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are in the permit area or general vicinity.

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, the District Engineer is hereby requesting that the appropriate Federal Agency provide comments regarding the presence of and potential impacts to listed species or its critical habitat.

The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice.

The following authorizations have been applied for, or have been, or will be obtained:

(X) Permit, License or Assent from State.
(X) Permit from Local Wetland Agency or Conservation Commission.
(X) Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

The States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island have approved Coastal Zone Management Programs. Where applicable the applicant states that any proposed activity will comply with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved Coastal Zone Management Program. By this Public Notice, we are requesting the State concurrence or objection to the applicant's consistency statement.

All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in an effort to reach an understanding.

THIS NOTICE IS <u>NOT</u> AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.

If you would prefer not to continue receiving public notices, please check here ( ) and return this portion of the public notice to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – New England District, ATTN: Regulatory Branch, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

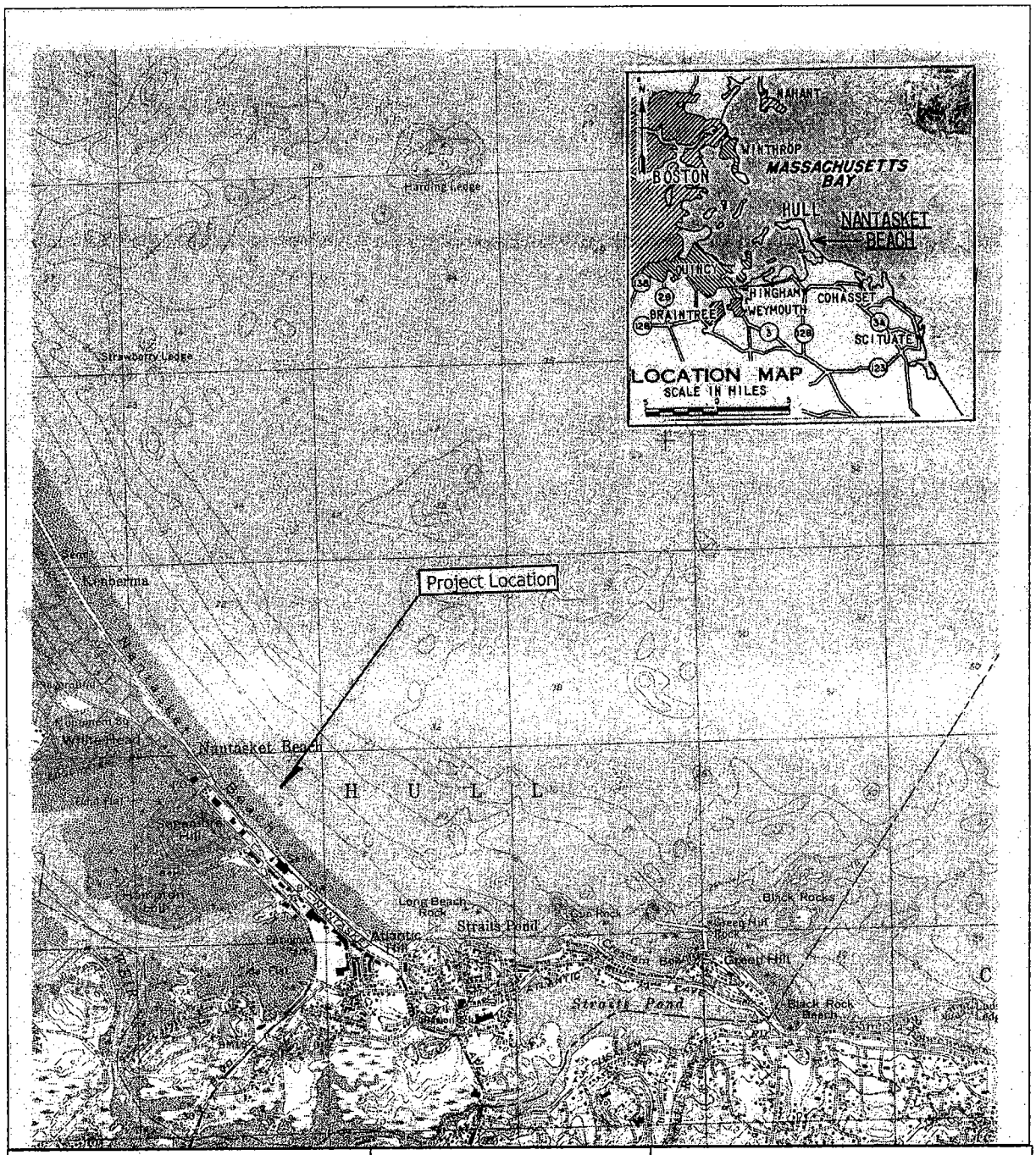
NAME:
ADDRESS:

Table 1. Species and Life Stages that NEFMC & MAFMC Have Designated EFH for in Massachusetts Bay

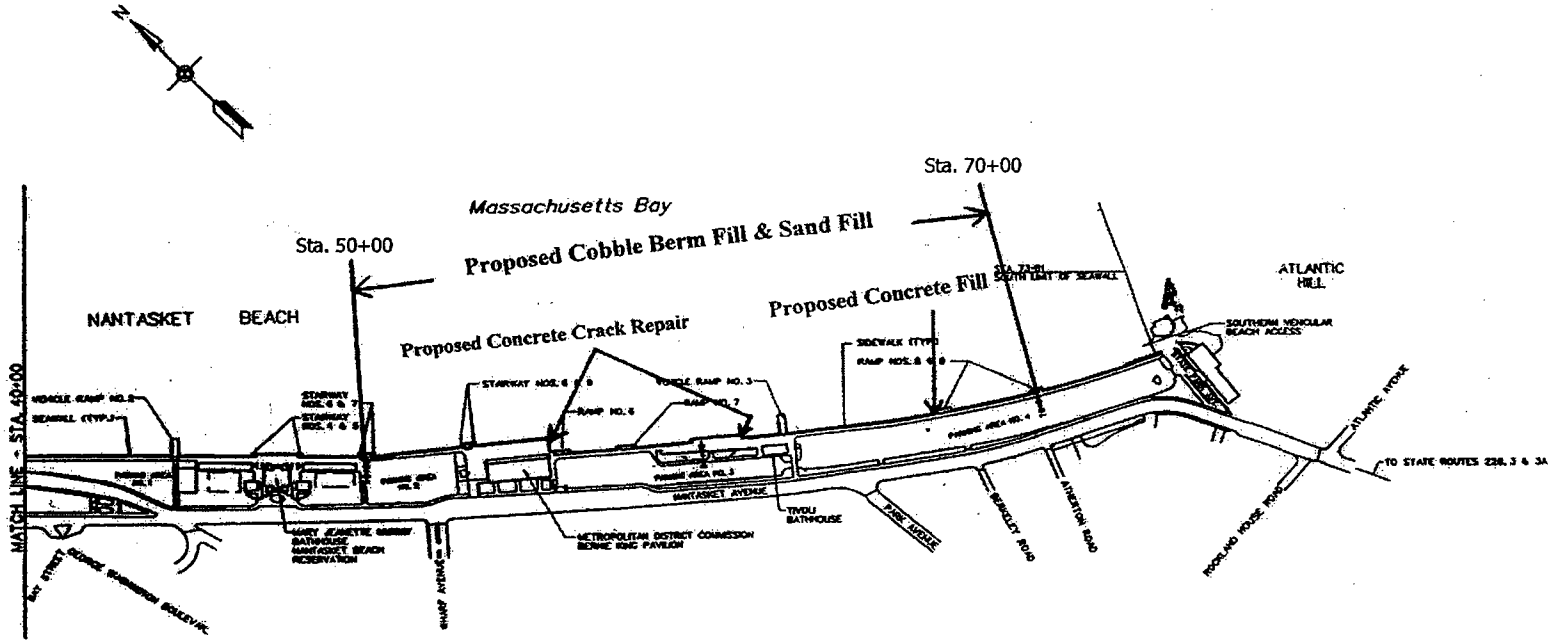
Species	Eggs	Larvae	Juveniles	Adults
Atlantic Cod (*Gadus morhua*)	X	X	X	X
Haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*)	X	X		
Pollock (*Pollachius virens*)	X	X	X	X
Whiting (*Merluccius bilinearis*)	X	X	X	X
Red Hake (*Urophycis chuss*)	X	X	X	X
White Hake (*Urophycis tenuis*)	X	X	X	X
Winter Flounder (*Pseudopleuronectes americanus*)	X	X	X	X
Yellowtail Flounder (*Pleuronectes ferruginea*)	X	X	X	X
Windowpane Flounder (*Scophthalmus aquosus*)	X	X	X	X
American Plaice (*Hippoglossoides platessoides*)	X	X	X	X
Ocean Pout (*Macrozoarces americanus*)	X	X	X	X
Atlantic Halibut (*Hippoglossus hippoglossus*)	X	X	X	X
Atlantic Sea Scallop (*Placopecten magellanicus*)	X	X	X	X
Atlantic Herring (*Clupea harengus*)		X	X	X
Bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*)			X	X
Long-finned Squid (*Loligo pealei*)			X	X
Short-finned Squid (*Illex illecebrosus*)			X	X
Atlantic Butterfish (*Peprilus triacanthus*)	X	X	X	X
Atlantic Mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*)	X	X	X	X
Summer Flounder (*Paralichthys dentatus*)				X
Scup (*Stentomus chrysops*)			X	X

Black Sea Bass (*Centropristis striata*)			X	X
Surf Clam (*Spisula solidissima*)			X	X
Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*)			X	X
Barndoor Skate (*Dipturus laevis*)			X	X
Little Skate (*Leucoraja erinacea*)			X	X
Smooth Skate (*Malacoraja senta*)			X	X
Thorny Skate (*Amblyraja radiate*)			X	X
Winter Skate (*Leucoraja ocellata*)			X	X

P:\4000\4210\Outfall Cleaning Proj\Permits_rev_041603\Acoe\EFH Table.doc



Purpose: Stabilize southern 2,000 feet of Nantasket Beach Reservation seawall DATUM (NGVD): Mean Low Water (MLW) = -4.5 Mean High Water (MHW) = 5.0 High Tide Line (HTL) = 10.8	**VICINITY MAP**	Proposed Nantasket Beach Reservation Seawall stabilization. County: Plymouth City: Hull Application By: MA Department of Conservation and Recreation Date: 8 March 2004

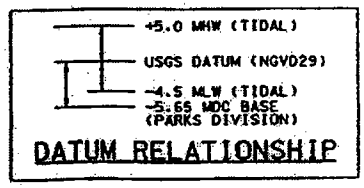


PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 200'

GENERAL NOTES:

1. ALL ELEVATIONS REFER TO NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929 (NGVD29).
2. COORDINATES REFER TO MASSACHUSETTS COORDINATE SYSTEM (NAD83).
3. REACH NUMBERS FROM 50% SEAWALL REHABILITATION DESIGN INCLUDED FOR REFERENCE.
4. High Tide Line (HTL) is on seawall.



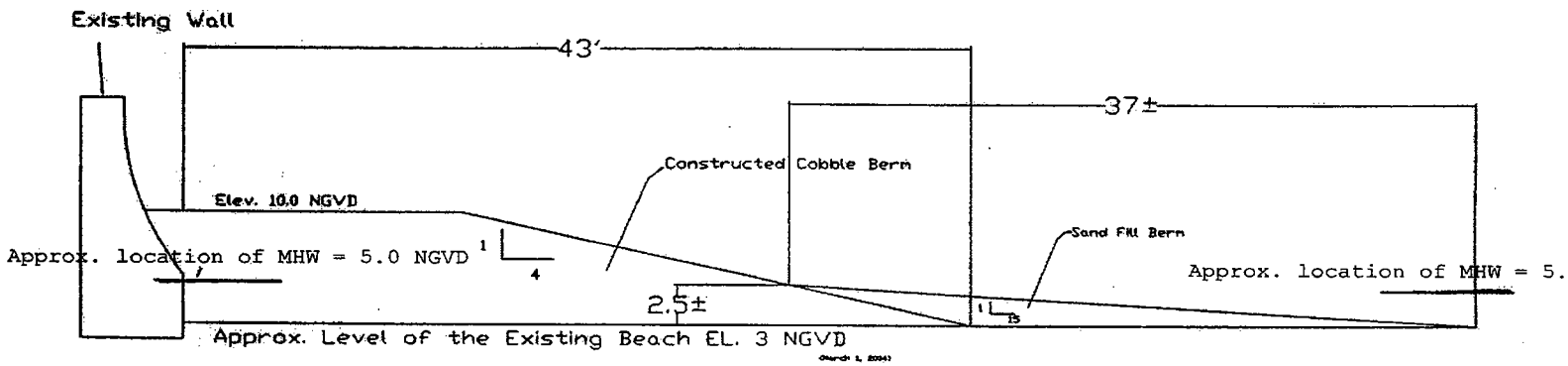
GRAPHIC SCALE

1" = 200' 200' 0 200' 400'

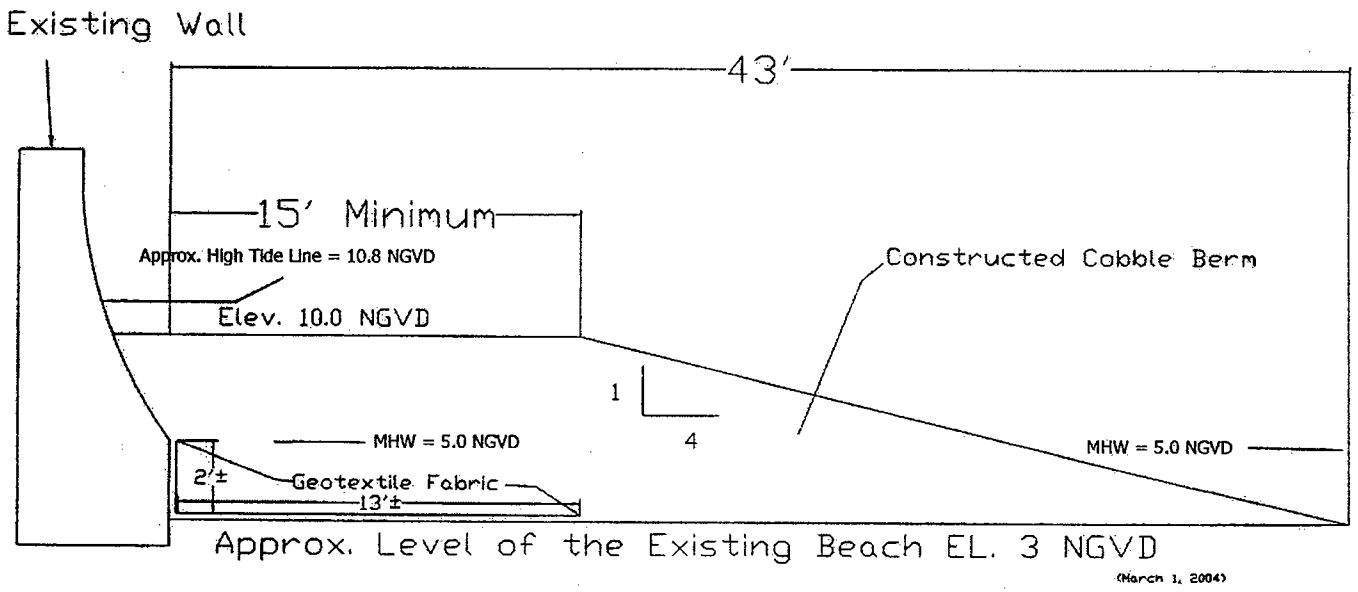
NANTASKET BEACH ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS STUDY
HULL, MASSACHUSETTS

Emergency Seawall Stabilization
March 2004

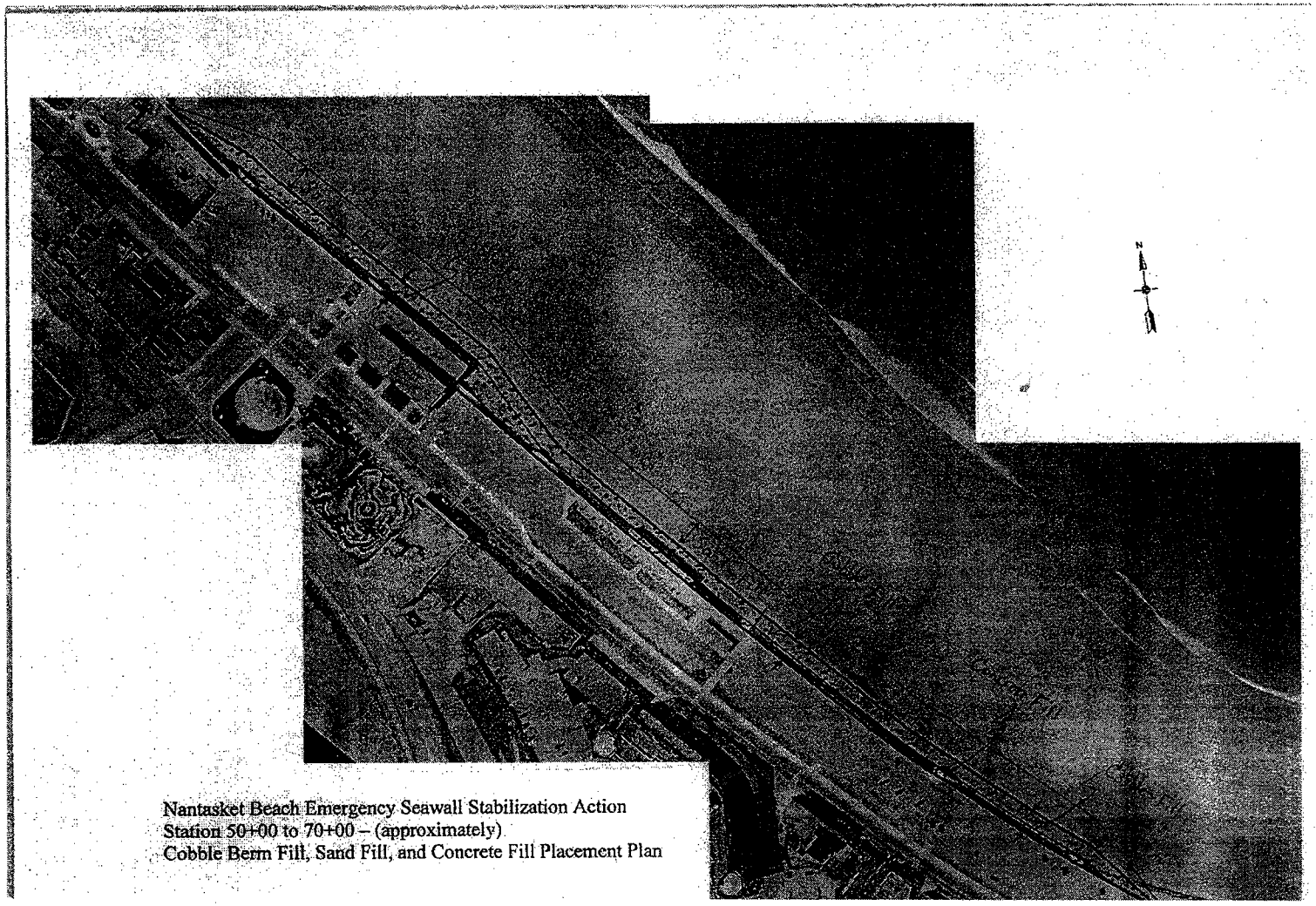
Cobble Berm = 43 feet from existing seaward face of seawall Sand Fill = 37 feet (about 10 feet overlap)	**PLAN VIEW**	Proposed Cobble Berm and Sand Fill Limits Nantasket Beach Reservation County: Plymouth City: Hull (Not to Scale) Date: 8 March 2004



Cobble Berm = 43 feet from existing seaward face of seawall Sand Fill = 37 feet (about 10 feet overlap) Total Intertidal Encroachment = about 70 feet	**CROSS SECTION VIEW 1 of 2**	Proposed Cobble Berm and Sand Fill Limits Nantasket Beach Reservation County: Plymouth City: Hull (Not to Scale) Date: 8 March 2004



Cobble Berm = 43 feet from existing seaward face of seawall Sand Fill = 37 feet (about 10 feet overlap) Total Intertidal Encroachment = about 70 feet	**CROSS SECTION VIEW 2 of 2**	Proposed Cobble Berm and Sand Fill Limits Nantasket Beach Reservation County: Plymouth City: Hull (Not to Scale) Date: 8 March 2004



Limits of Cobble berm and Sand fill along about 2,000 feet of Nantasket Beach	**PLAN VIEW – AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH**	Proposed Cobble Berm and Sand Fill Limits Nantasket Beach Reservation County: Plymouth City: Hull Date: 8 March 2004