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**The Writing Works**

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**"AT OCEAN'S EDGE:  
Coastal Hazards of the Southwest  
Washington Shore"**

Final Script

"AT OCEAN'S EDGE:  
Coastal Hazards of the Southwest Washington Shore"

FADE IN:

A MONTAGE OF SCENES THAT ILLUSTRATE THE POWER OF THE OCEAN.

For example:

1. Waves crashing wildly against rocks.

**MUSIC:** Strong drumming (perhaps music  
native to local tribes) UP AND UNDER

2. Immense trunks of driftwood colliding.

**NARRATOR:** (voiceover)  
(a strong female voice)

IT WASN'T ALWAYS ....

3. A torrential downpour over thundering breaking waves.

... THAT AMERICANS

WANTED TO LIVE ...

4. Monstrous waves gouging the sandy shore.

a) SUPER TITLE: AT OCEAN'S EDGE

Coastal Hazards of the Southwest Washington Shore

... AT OCEAN'S EDGE.

**MUSIC** UP AND UNDER

b) FADE TITLE

SUPERIMPOSE SCENE: Camera moves on photographs.

Native Americans (from the study area) fishing or drying salmon.

EXCEPT FOR SUMMER

FISHING CAMPS ...

NATIVE AMERICANS

AVOIDED LIVING ON THE  
COAST.

c) SUPERIMPOSE SCENE: Camera moves on photographs.  
Early settlers with wooded or town-like background.

EUROPEAN SETTLERS  
FOLLOWED.  
FOR MORE THAN 200 YEARS,  
COLONISTS CONSIDERED  
BEACH PROPERTY A BURDEN.

d) SUPERIMPOSE SCENE: Camera moves on photographs or map  
Possibly a photo of Ed Kaakinen, or Point Chehalis at the time, or a map of the  
area at the time.

MUSIC UP AND UNDER

EVEN AS LATE AS THE 1930s,  
SHRIMPING MAGNATE ED  
KAAKINEN REFUSED AN  
OFFER TO BUY POINT  
CHEHALIS FOR ONE  
HUNDRED DOLLARS.  
"IT ISN'T WORTH IT," HE SAID.

dissolve to:

A MELANGE OF SPEEDED-UP SCENES THAT ILLUSTRATE TODAY'S  
CROWDED BEACHES AND WALL-TO-WALL DEVELOPMENT.

For example:

5. If possible, a crowded scene at Point Chehalis today, with speeded-up images  
of throngs of people and boats.

TODAY, TEN MILLION  
DOLLARS WOULDN'T BUY  
POINT CHEHALIS.

6. A sandy beach with speeded-up images of a multitude of people running, playing, swimming, flying kites, and so forth.

NOW, OCEANFRONTS  
EVERYWHERE TEEM WITH  
HORDES OF PEOPLE.

7. A speeded-up image of driving along Ocean Shores Boulevard, past house after condo after house.

... HOUSES, HOTELS, CONDOS,  
MOTELS ...

8. A speeded-up image of a busy tourist-town street, traffic clogging the road, crowds bumping into each other on the sidewalks.

...WALL-TO-WALL SHOPS IN  
TOURIST TOWNS.

dissolve to:

9. A MAP SEQUENCE, PERHAPS BEGINNING WITH A SATELLITE OR LANDSAT VIEW OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA AND MOVING INTO A VIEW OF THE STUDY AREA

For example:

a) A satellite view of North and South America. The camera begins to move into the Pacific coast of North America.

YET, AS ESTABLISHED AS  
THESE SHORELINES SEEM...

b) The camera moves into a section of coast, perhaps from northern California to British Columbia. Different colors for accretion and erosion signify a changing coastline.

IN FACT, THE OCEAN'S EDGE  
IS ALWAYS CHANGING.

c) The camera moves into the section of the coast included in the study, and the accretion/erosion changes continue.

SINCE MILLENNIA,  
ACCRETION AND EROSION  
HAVE BEEN PART OF THE  
HISTORY OF EVERY  
SHORELINE ...  
... INCLUDING SOUTHWEST  
WASHINGTON.

10. A CLOSEUP OF THE STUDY AREA ON THE MAP. DIFFERENT CRISIS AREAS ARE HIGHLIGHTED, EACH WITH A RAGGED-EDGED "NEWSPAPER HEADLINE" POINTING OUT THE CRISIS.

For example:

a) HIGHLIGHT: Gray's Harbor  
HEADLINE: **Jetty Breach**

IN RECENT YEARS, A FEW  
EROSION CRISES ...

b) HIGHLIGHT: Ocean Shores.  
HEADLINE: **Condos on the Brink**

... HAVE THREATENED  
HOMES ...

c) HIGHLIGHT: Connor Creek  
 HEADLINE: **32 Acres Gone; Homes, Roads Threatened**

... AND COMMUNITIES.

d) HIGHLIGHT: Westport  
 HEADLINE: **City Drinking Water in Jeopardy**

... AND REQUIRED MULTI-  
 MILLION-DOLLAR FIXES ...

e) HIGHLIGHT: Westport  
 HEADLINE: **\$8 Million Jetty Repair**

.... THAT ARE TEMPORARY AT  
 BEST.

### MUSIC UP AND UNDER

dissolve to:  
 A MONTAGE OF SCENES THAT ILLUSTRATE THE DAMAGE FROM  
 EROSION

For example:

11. Seattle TV news coverage of the Westport jetty breach, showing the raging waters.

THESE EXPENSIVE CRISES  
 POSED A QUANDARY....

12. The jagged edge of an asphalt road juts from a sand cliff.

.... FOR COASTAL  
 COMMUNITIES, AND PACIFIC  
 AND GRAY'S HARBOR  
 COUNTIES:

13. At Ocean Shores, looking up an eroded scarp to see the huge condo building near its brink.

IMMEDIATE DECISIONS HAD  
TO BE MADE ...  
... YET THERE WAS NO BASIC  
SCIENTIFIC DATA TO OFFER  
GUIDANCE AND  
PERSPECTIVE.

14. A row of woodland trees is collapsed over an eroded escarpment.

SO, TOGETHER THEY SOUGHT  
FEDERAL AND STATE  
FUNDING ...

15. Waves wash across a house foundation with stairs embedded in the low tide zone.

... FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH  
THAT COULD PREDICT  
COASTAL CHANGE.

### MUSIC UP AND UNDER

dissolve to:

A MONTAGE OF ENTICING SCENES THAT VISUALLY INTRODUCE THE STUDY.

For example:

16. A close shot of two hand-held Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) devices marked "Sensor and Software," lifted and lowered, moved, lifted and lowered across a dune.

AS A RESULT, A FIVE-YEAR

COASTAL EROSION STUDY IS  
UNDERWAY.

THE RESEARCH WILL  
UNEARTH A FUNDAMENTAL  
UNDERSTANDING OF PAST  
AND PRESENT COASTAL  
DYNAMICS.

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*To see the complete script, contact me at [matrazzo@msn.com](mailto:matrazzo@msn.com)*

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