



Printed by: Diane Tarkenton
Printed on: March 9, 2016

The Sea Is Rising—What Now?

For those areas, scientists propose a second option. They say that artificial protection may be able to contain the swells. But the cost of creating flood-control systems in all U.S. coastal regions would be too high.

The third option is to raise the elevation of buildings and land on the coast. This means that houses would have to be built on high platforms. Also, sand would have to be continuously added to beaches. But these methods are expensive.

Maine is taking a more practical approach. To combat the rising seas, the state is demanding that contractors consider sea level rise before receiving building permits. The rule has already blocked some high-rise construction.

Susanne Moser of the National Center for Atmospheric Research says there is a fourth solution. She recommends that people try to slow global warming. She suggests cutting fuel emissions.

"We have already committed the world to sea level rise," said the U.N. panel chairman Rajendra Pachauri. Even if factories were shut down today and cars taken off the roads, Pachauri said, the sea level will continue to rise at its current rate. This is due to the carbon already in the atmosphere.

Recently, the U.N. assembled to address the issue of global warming and the rising seas. U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon called upon the U.S., China, and other countries. He wants nations to do more to save energy and fight pollution.

"There are real and affordable ways to deal with climate change," said Ban.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.