

# GARGANTUAN GATOR

Officials investigating if 13-foot alligator was shot legally

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# SunHerald

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## Sub vets want USS Mississippi commissioned here

**\$2 billion submarine will be ready next year**

By MICHAEL NEWSOM  
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South Mississippi veterans are lobbying the U.S. Navy to have the new \$2 billion USS Mississippi submarine commissioned on the Coast in 2012.

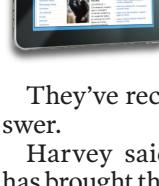
The U.S. Submarine Veterans' Tullibee Base, which is based on the Coast, is hoping the Navy will de-

cide to have the new Virginia-class sub commissioned in Mississippi, with the Port of Gulfport being the most likely site. Navy submarine vet C.L. "Harv" Harvey is helping organize the vets' effort and said his group has talked with naval officials about the ceremony being in Mississippi when the sub is ready about a year from now.

They've received no answer. Harvey said the group has brought the likely commanding officer of the sub, Navy Cmdr. John McGrath, to the Coast for meetings and has met with other Navy officials.

"We're all anxious to get it here," Harvey said. "But we've got a lot of hoops to jump through."

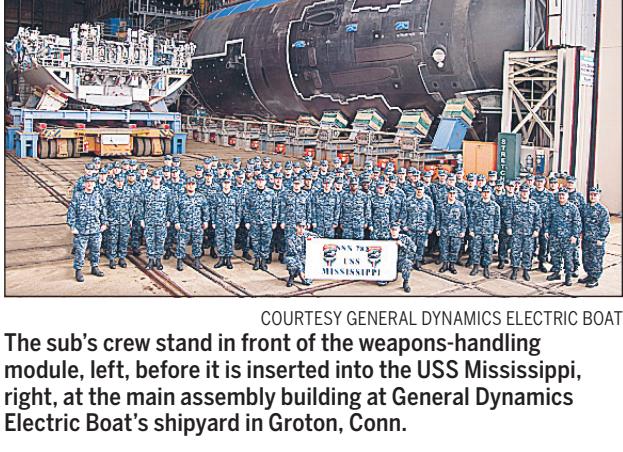
**More photos online  
at SunHerald.com**



### Considerations aplenty

The vessel will be christened at an event its builders control. The commissioning is a separate event, which the Navy controls, and the decision about where to have the ceremony is up to U.S. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, a former governor of Mississip-

SUBMARINE TO 14A



COURTESY GENERAL DYNAMICS ELECTRIC BOAT  
The sub's crew stand in front of the weapons-handling module, left, before it is inserted into the USS Mississippi, right, at the main assembly building at General Dynamics Electric Boat's shipyard in Groton, Conn.

## summer of 10s

Top 10 tourist attractions on Coast

By NICOLE DOW  
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A growing number of visitors are coming to the Mississippi Coast each year. Tourism is one of the region's top industries; it brought in \$1.62 billion in fiscal year 2010, according to Mississippi Development Authority's Office of Tourism Research.

These top 10 Coast attractions are favorites not only for tourists, but also for locals.

**1. Casinos:** South Mississippi is home to 11 casinos — nine in Harrison County and two in Hancock County. Tourists can enjoy gambling, live entertainment, fine dining and lodging.

**2. Beaches:** The Coast has 26 miles of beautiful beaches where visitors can soak up the sun, rent personal watercraft, go fishing in the Sound and more.

**3. Festivals and events:** There always seems to be something going on in South Mississippi, bringing tourists here by the droves. There's the Crawfish Festival, Blessing of the Fleet, the Southern Miss Jazz and Blues Festival, Bay BridgeFest, the Biloxi Seafood Festival, Cruisin' The Coast, WaveFest and the Peter Anderson Festival — just to name a few.

**4. Mardi Gras:** The Mississippi Coast truly knows how to "let the good times

ATTRACTI0NS TO 13A



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