

Coast tourism officials seeks halt to slump

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GULFPORT, Miss. (AP) - Tourism officials on the Mississippi Gulf Coast will conduct a survey they hope will help them determine what is needed to bring back tourists.

Revenues for coast casinos took a dive in June. The local gaming industry earned \$84.1 million in June 2008.

And the latest numbers for coast hotel occupancy show that in May, 23% fewer rooms were rented than in the same month last year.

Harrison County's tourism director says over the next few weeks volunteers will ask tourists questions about what they are staying, and what they think would attract more people to the area.

Students from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College will conduct the survey.

Information from: WLOX-TV, <http://www.wlox.com>