



JEAN SHIFRIN / Staff

**On the move:** Bob Torras Jr. uses a 50-ton lift to pluck a 31-foot sport-fishing vessel from Academy Creek in Brunswick, where construction has begun on the marina.

# Brunswick hopes for economic lift from \$15 million marina complex

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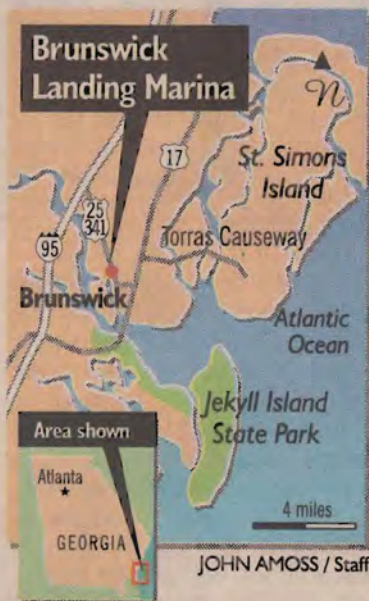
**Brunswick** — The owners of a successful gambling cruise ship in Florida have signed up to dock at a marina complex under construction in the heart of this small coastal city.

Once in full operation, the **Brunswick Landing Marina** hopes to be "the most substantial private development ever done here," said City Council member Ken Plyman, who estimated the complex's cost at \$15 million.

Over the next decade, the complex is designed to include a 100-room luxury hotel, three restaurants and lounges, retail and office space and about 350 slips for boats, as well as a milelong scenic pedestrian walk with views of the Marshes of Glynn.

The development will occupy 31 acres just north of Mary Ross Park.

Bob Torras, the owner-developer of the marina, said his project should help Brunswick



sail out of the economic doldrums. In recent decades, the city has lost many downtown businesses to suburban malls.

"We believe the marina will have a \$60 million to \$80 million economic impact on the area over the next decade and create 600 to 800 new jobs," he said.

Bob Torras Jr., vice president and general manager of the marina development, said he has been swamped with business at the marina's boat repair facility since it opened a few months ago. The 50-ton travel lift is the largest of its kind in South Georgia, he said.

One of the marina's 55 existing dock spaces is reserved for Golden Isles Cruise Lines Inc., a company whose owners have operated the 350-passenger gambling cruise ship Emerald Princess out of Fernandina, Fla., for five years. No gambling cruise ships currently operate off Georgia's coast.

Tina Dyer, the company's director of operations, said another ship is scheduled to begin sailing from Brunswick Harbor, probably in early May. Like the 187-foot-long Emerald Princess, the ship will feature a full-service casino that will open once passengers are taken three miles offshore, where gambling is legal, Dyer said.