

# Massachusetts State Police dive team takes on Earth Day cleanup of Commonwealth waterways

“In recognition of Earth Day on April 22, and in an effort to play a small part to help protect the environment, Troopers from the Massachusetts State Police Underwater Recovery Unit took to reservoirs, rivers, and streams throughout the Commonwealth Thursday to help remove trash and debris from several bodies of water.

MSP Sergeant Jason Macomber with Troopers Daniel Gill, Christopher Lenney, and Jonathan Nugent with the District 8 Technical Rescue Dive Team deployed to five roadway bridges in the town of Lancaster and scoured the riverbed under the surface of the water. With the assistance of Lancaster Police Lieutenant Everett Moody and Officer Jose Milletti, many tires, bags of trash, plastics, and even a canoe oar were bagged and properly disposed. The Lancaster Department of Public Works lent assistance for removal of the larger items.

The Underwater Recovery Unit did not stop there; other MSP Dive Team Troopers took to the Charles River in Cambridge and Boston for additional cleanup. With the assistance of the Cambridge Fire Department, old trash, bottles, plastics, and submerged lawn furniture were removed from the bed of the Charles.

Rounding out the divers' Earth Day cleanup was at Wachusett Reservoir north of Worcester. The day's dive yielded bags of recovered trash, bottles and plastics, some of which are seen in the photo (yellow bags) with MSP Lieutenant Scott Sawicki as he emerges from his dive in the reservoir with his fins and

SCUBA gear. Also found were two discarded pistols, which are under investigation and will be properly safeguarded.

The Massachusetts State Police invites its members- and the people of the Commonwealth- to continue to recognize Earth Day each year, and practice environmental protection and conservation."

***All photos by the Massachusetts State Police:***

