

Massachusetts State Police Marine Unit, Dive Team Assist Stranded Boater in Boston Harbor

At 9 a.m. Monday morning, Marine 44, a vessel in the Massachusetts State Police Marine Section fleet being piloted by Trooper Daniel Carideo, was transporting two members of the State Police Underwater Recovery Unit to the United States Coast Guard base in Boston to conduct a hull survey on USCG Cutter Forward. Not long after embarking on that mission, however, Marine 44, with the MSP divers aboard, diverted to a call for a stranded pleasure boat that had run aground in shallow water on the back side of George's Island in Boston Harbor.

Despite heavy fog conditions, Marine 44 located the pleasure boat, which had run aground in 2-3 feet of water. Because of the shallow water, neither Marine 44 nor a private marine towing vessel could get close enough to the pleasure boat to tow her off the rocky ocean floor. MSP divers Trooper Evan Breeding and Trooper Andrew Zeller entered the water and swam to the stranded vessel. Troopers Breeding and Zeller physically manipulated the boat off the rocks and into about 6 feet of water, where it could float freely.

The boat still required a tow, however, and Troopers Breeding and Zeller hooked up tow lines between the pleasure craft and a Sea Tow rescue towboat. The Sea Tow boat towed the boat to shore, and MSP Marine 44 and the two divers continued on to the USCG base, where they completed their initial mission.