

## 'Superheroes' clean ocean floor

By Dick Broom

(Created: Friday, April 25, 2008 7:18 AM EDT)

BAR HARBOR – Eight members of a local group of scuba-divers who call themselves the League of Underwater Superheroes spent several hours Sunday morning picking up trash from the bottom of the harbor near the Town Pier.

They retrieved a number of bottles and cans, a couple of hubcaps and lots of broken china dishes.

"Back when ferries went back and forth from Bar Harbor to the mainland and around the island, whenever a dish broke they would just throw it overboard," said Mike Staggs, a member of the group. "If waiters were serving people tea on a ferry from Hancock and a dish broke, they wouldn't take it back to the kitchen. It would just go over the side."

Mr. Staggs said the divers on Sunday also brought up several "ghost traps."

"Those are lobster traps on the bottom with nothing connected to them," Mr. Staggs said. "Some of them have been down there for decades."

One of the ghost traps contained a very large, very live lobster. It was tossed back into the water.

Most members of the League of Underwater Superheroes are College of the Atlantic students or alumni. This is the third year that they have cleaned up a section of the harbor the day after the Earth Day celebration at COA.



Alex Brett joins Zach Whalen in the water at the Town Pier in Bar Harbor Sunday morning. The two College of the Atlantic students were among eight members of the League of Underwater Superheroes who spent several hours gathering trash from the ocean floor. DICK BROOM PHOTO