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Stolen cars to be recovered from river

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Up to 60 stolen cars will be recovered from the Georges River, in Sydney's south west, as an underwater salvage operation commences on Tuesday.

Police divers fought strong river currents and 12 degree celsius waters on Monday to locate and attach marker buoys to the submerged vehicles believed to be carjacked, linked to car rebirthing operations or used in robberies.

Cranes will be used to remove many of the vehicles but some will be raised by using industrial flotation devices.

Recovery teams comprising local police, NSW Fire Brigades, the NSW Maritime Authority, the NSW Rural Fire Service and the State Emergency Service are involved in the operation.

Bankstown police commander Dave Darcy said the submerged cars were discovered over the past few weeks.

"It is estimated there are possibly up to 60 cars in this part of the river and we are unsure whether they are simply stolen, used in a car rebirthing operation or linked to crimes such as robberies or carjackings," Supt Darcy said in a statement.

"Once the cars have been pulled out of the water, they will be towed to police holding yards and forensically examined.

"Then we will have a better idea of where they came from and what they were used for."

Anyone who has had a car stolen and not recovered should contact police.

The submerged vehicles are affecting the natural tidal flow of the Georges River and are posing a navigational hazard for smaller vessels, Supt Darcy said.