

DIVR



FREE GUIDE FROM DIVR

The 30-second dive log

What to record, in what order, and why each field matters. Before your hair dries.

Later becomes never, and it is **not your fault**



You climb back on the boat buzzing, promise yourself you will write it up tonight, and then there is a surface interval, a beer, a drive home. By the weekend the dive has quietly merged with every other dive you have done.

This is how memory works, not a discipline failure. Similar experiences interfere with each other, so twenty dives on one coastline blend into a composite dive that never happened. Worse, the gaps get filled in confidently, so you end up certain you saw something at 22 metres when it was a different dive entirely.

The order things fade in is predictable, and that is useful. Numbers go first, because they were never properly encoded. Names go next. What survives longest is how it felt, which is lovely and completely unusable.

So capture in the opposite order to how you remember. Numbers and names first, while they are still in front of you. The feeling will still be there in a year without any help from you.



Six fields, in this order

This is the whole thing. Done on the boat, it takes under thirty seconds.

01 **The dive site, with real coordinates**

Not "that bay with the boats". A named site anchored to an actual position is what makes your log searchable later and comparable to anyone else's.

02 **Date and time in the water**

The date is what makes every other field meaningful. Time of day matters more than people think, because what is out changes through the day.

03 **Max depth and bottom time**

The two numbers that describe the dive you actually did, and the two that vanish fastest from memory.

04 **Conditions: visibility, current, water temperature**

The three things every diver wants to know in advance and almost nobody writes down. Temperature also tells the next person what suit to bring.

05 **Species, with proper names**

"Fish" helps nobody. A real name tied to a site and a date is a record a researcher can use. Log the level you are sure of and keep the photo.

06 **Coral or habitat condition**

One rating. Meaningless on its own, a trend line across hundreds of dives at the same site.



What turns a logbook into **evidence**

In 2012 a group of volunteer divers off the Scottish island of Arran did something unglamorous: they wrote down what was on the seabed. Forms, photos, video, dive after dive. A local trust turned those records into a formal proposal, every record was independently validated, and in 2014 the South Arran Marine Protected Area was designated, with seagrass and maerl beds confirmed as protected features.

This is rare. Almost every marine citizen science project believes it informs management, and only a minority can show it. What made Arran different was not enthusiasm. It was that the records were standardised, validated and traceable.

Standardised: same fields, same way, so records compare.

Validated: identifications checked, not assumed.

Traceable: who, when, where and how, auditable years later.

Miss any one and the data is still true, it is just unusable. That is the difference between a nice logbook and evidence.



What can wait, and what cannot

Do it on the boat

Site, depth, time, conditions. These are the perishable ones. Your computer has the numbers for a few dives, then overwrites them, and your memory of visibility is gone within hours.

Do it the same day

Species you are confident about, and the coral rating. Both are still vivid and both get unreliable overnight.

This can wait

Identifying anything you were unsure about. Photograph it, note depth and habitat, and work it out on dry land with a guide. There is no rush and guessing at the surface is how wrong names enter the record.

If you log nothing else

Site, date, depth, one species. Four fields, ten seconds, and the dive stops being a blur. Everything after that is upside.

The habit is worth more than any single entry. A logged dive is worth something on its own; a hundred logged dives at the same site is a record of how that place changed while you were watching it.

DIVR



NOW GO LOG SOMETHING

Log it while it is still salty.

DIVR is a free dive log with citizen science built in. Log a dive in under 30 seconds, tag the species you saw from a catalogue of 4,400+, rate coral health, and find dive sites near you. Every log becomes a structured marine observation that researchers can actually use.

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