

Dutch startup DIVR turns every dive into a data point for ocean research

Free dive-logging app launches on iOS and Android; divers' species sightings flow to marine research organisations as structured biodiversity data.

Rotterdam, the Netherlands, end of July 2026. Recreational divers make millions of dives every year and collectively see more of the ocean than any research fleet. Almost none of what they observe is ever used. DIVR, a free dive-logging app launching today, was built to change that: every logged dive becomes a structured data point for marine research.

Divers use DIVR to log a dive in under 30 seconds, share photos with their buddies, and record the species they encounter. Under the hood, each sighting is validated against the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) and structured in Darwin Core, the international standard for biodiversity data. The results flow to marine research organisations: DIVR works with Coral.org and with EMODnet, the European Marine Observation and Data Network.

At launch the platform covers more than 4,300 marine species and 4,700 dive sites worldwide. The app is free for divers.

"Every diver has a drawer full of observations no scientist will ever read. Divers notice first what is changing under water. DIVR makes sure those observations count."

— Joep Weterman, founder of DIVR

Weterman, a scuba instructor and econometrics master's student, built the entire platform himself: the iOS and Android apps, the web platform and the research data pipeline.

About DIVR

DIVR is a Dutch data company that turns recreational diving into research-grade ocean data. Divers log dives, photos and species sightings in a free app; DIVR validates and structures those observations and delivers them to marine research organisations. DIVR was founded by Joep Weterman and launched in July 2026. More at divr-connect.com.

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Press kit and imagery: divr-connect.com/press