

# From Ticking Hands to Tech Titans: Choosing the Best Daily Wear Dive Computer

## *A Real-World Guide to Dive Computers That Work Underwater and Look Good Topsides*

Back in the day, dive watches were as analog as they came—just a ticking hand and a bezel, and if you were lucky, maybe a depth gauge. These were the tools of legends, not just divers. You could tell the time, track your bottom time, and, if you squint hard enough, maybe even look cool doing it. But that was it. Fancy features? Forget about it. You wore one because you needed it to keep you safe, not because it could buzz your wrist when you got a text.

I remember wearing my old-school analog dive watch about ten years ago—classic stainless steel, big luminous hands, the whole deal. My daughter looked at it and said, “What’s that?”

“It’s a watch,” I said proudly like I was James Bond.

“What does it do?” she asked, full of curiosity.

“It tells time,” I replied, still feeling smug.

She frowned and asked, “What else does it do?”

I stared at her for a moment and said, “What else is it supposed to do?”

She burst out laughing, and I realized I had just been roasted by a kid with a smartphone.

That moment stuck with me. Little did I know, it marked the beginning of the end for my trusty old analog companion. Fast forward a decade, and here I am with a wrist-mounted dive computer that can log my dives, track my heart rate, and probably order me a pizza if I surface hungry enough.

And that brings us to today, where dive computers aren’t just for divers—they’ve taken over daily life. These “daily wear” dive computers don’t just keep you safe underwater. They log your dives automatically, track your steps, monitor your health, and even ping you when your phone is blowing up topside. They’ve got all the bells and whistles, wrapped up in sleek designs that look just as good at dinner as they do on a wreck at 100 feet.

Shearwater kicked off the trend with their Teric, a watch so sharp it practically came with its own red carpet. Garmin stepped in with their Descent line, proving they could navigate the dive world as well as the mountain trails. Apple, not to be outdone, teamed up with Oceanic to release the Ultra 2, making sure even the iPhone crowd could dive in style.

Of course, now the big questions are: Which one is best for you? Will it handle the type of diving you love? And, most importantly, will it match your wetsuit?



Below, I've broken down the top contenders with personal ratings, pros, and cons. Dive in—it's time to find your perfect underwater partner. Because let's be honest—these watches might do everything, but you still want them to look good doing it. And if anyone asks you what it does? You can just say, "Everything."

Now, before we dive into the details (pun intended), let me make one thing crystal clear: this isn't the ultimate gospel of dive computer rankings. After all, we're in the dive community, where there are always 12 opinions for every 8 divers. It's like an unwritten law—if you put a group of divers together, you'll end up with at least three debates, four strong alliances, and one person swearing by a piece of gear nobody else has even heard of. The discussions can get so passionate you'd think we were debating the best way to ascend instead of the best dive computer.

What you'll find here is simply *my* take on these wrist-mounted wonders, based on real-world experience. I've put each of these computers through their paces, diving with them in everything from crystal-clear tropical waters to murky mountain lakes, from warm shallows to bone-chilling thermoclines, and in both recreational and technical setups. I've tested them on wreck dives, drift dives, deep dives, ice dives, and dives where I was mostly trying to figure out where my wife/buddy went (she was fine, by the way—she was just distracted by a turtle).

I've used these computers in conditions that ranged from "paradise" to "I-can't-feel-my-hands-anymore," and I've monitored how they perform in various scenarios, including dives that required complex deco planning and dives where I just wanted to get in the water and relax.

So while this isn't the definitive guide to dive computers, it *is* a representation of my firsthand experiences. It's what I've learned after countless dives, testing and comparing features, reliability, ease of use, and even those little details that can make or break a dive. If you disagree with my rankings, that's okay—like I said, in diving, we thrive on a little friendly debate. After all, at the end of the day, the best dive computer

is the one that fits your needs and keeps you safe while you explore the underwater world.

But if you're just starting your search—or if you're a veteran diver looking for an upgrade—consider this your guide. Let's dive into the nitty-gritty of what these devices can do, so you can find the one that's perfect for you.

[Shearwater Teric](#) | [Shearwater Tern/Tern TX](#) | [Garmin Decent Mk3 51MM](#) | [Garmin Descent™ Mk3i](#) | [Garmin Fenix 8](#) | [Ratio iDive](#) | [Apple Watch Ultra 2](#) | [Suunto Ocean Dive Computer](#) | [Huawei Watch Ultimate Dive Edition](#)

## Shearwater Teric

**Retail Price:** \$1,170.00

- **Dive Rating:** █████
- **Dependability:** █████
- **Durability:** █████
- **Recreational Features:** █████
- **Technical Features:** █████
- **Daily Wear Rating:** █
- **Biometrics:** None
- **Air Integration:** Yes
- **Number of Transmitters Supported:** Up to 4
- **Number of Gases Supported:** Up to 5
- **Battery Life:** 50 hours (watch mode)
- **Depth Rating:** 200m / 660ft



## The Breakdown

The Shearwater Teric isn't just a dive computer—it's a dive enthusiast's dream. This device handles everything from your weekend reef dives to the kind of technical expeditions that involve multiple gases, Trimix, or even Closed Circuit Rebreather (CCR) dives. It's a true workhorse, packed into a sleek and robust watch-sized package.

Shearwater has poured their expertise into this one, giving you all their signature tools like **Gas Density**, **GF99**, **SURGF**, and more, making it invaluable for anyone who's serious about diving. Whether you're managing decompression stress or juggling gases at depth, the Teric has you covered.

It also doesn't hurt that it comes in four stylish colors and looks just as sharp in the boardroom as it does strapped over a wetsuit. If you've ever wanted a dive computer that screams "I'm serious about diving, but I still have a sense of style," the Teric delivers.

## The Pros

- **Versatile Dive Capabilities:** Whether you're doing a simple recreational dive or going full technical with Trimix or CCR, the Teric is equipped for it all.
- **Shearwater Reliability:** This is a brand that divers trust, and the Teric is no exception. Dependable, durable, and loaded with advanced features.
- **Ease of Use:** Despite its power, the interface is straightforward and intuitive, even for those who aren't tech wizards.
- **Stylish and Durable:** A tough, beautiful device that's built to handle the rigors of underwater adventures without looking out of place topside.

## The Cons

Where the Teric shines underwater, it doesn't quite dazzle on the surface. If you're looking for a multi-functional smartwatch with features like fitness tracking or phone notifications, this isn't it. The Teric tells the time and date—full stop.

For those who don't need daily bells and whistles, this minimalist approach may be a selling point. But if you're the type who wants to check your heart rate while waiting for your latte at Starbucks, the Teric might leave you wanting more.







## Verdict

The Teric is the ultimate tool for the diver who prioritizes underwater performance above all else. It's a technical and recreational powerhouse that feels equally at home on a deep wreck or a shallow reef. But as a daily wear option, it's more function over frills. So, if you're okay with a watch that says, "I dive, and that's all you need to know," the Teric could be your perfect match.

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## Shearwater Tern/Tern TX

**Retail Price:** \$650 - \$775

- **Dive Rating:** 
- **Dependability:** 
- **Durability:** 
- **Recreational Features:** 
- **Technical Features:** 
- **Daily Wear Rating:** 
- **Biometrics:** None
- **Air Integration:** Yes (Tern TX only)
- **Number of Transmitters Supported:** Up to 4
- **Number of Gases Supported:** Up to 5 (21%-40% Nitrox)
- **Battery Life:** 50 hours (watch mode)
- **Depth Rating:** 120m / 394ft





## The Breakdown

The Shearwater Tern and Tern TX are the smaller siblings of the Teric, designed to fill the gap between recreational and “tech-rational” divers. These computers pack plenty of Shearwater signature features into a more affordable and streamlined package without cutting corners on safety or performance.

The Tern TX steps it up by adding **air integration** and a **tilt-compensated digital compass**, making it a more feature-rich option for those who want added precision and convenience. Whether you’re a weekend reef explorer or venturing into mild deco territory, the Tern series ensures you have what you need to dive safely and confidently.

### Standout Features

**Crystal Clear Display:** Borrowing heavily from the Teric’s interface, the Tern offers an intuitive and crisp screen that’s easy to read, even in murky conditions.

**Gradient Factor Adjustments:** Surprising for its price point, the Tern allows you to tweak gradient factors for decompression, a nod to its tech-diving roots.

**Deco Ready:** We tested the Tern TX on a dive to 150 feet with two deco blends (40% and 70% for accelerated deco). It handled the depth and transitions like a seasoned pro, providing clear prompts for gas switches and maintaining reliable decompression tracking.

**Air Integration (Tern TX):** Monitor tank pressure with ease via up to four transmitters.

## The Pros

- **Affordable and Feature-Packed:** You get Shearwater's reliability and safety features at a fraction of the Teric's cost.
- **Handles Recreational and Deco Dives with Ease:** Suitable for divers transitioning into more advanced profiles without overwhelming complexity.
- **Customizable:** From gas blends to gradient factors, the Tern allows you to fine-tune your dive settings to match your style and needs.
- **Durable Build:** Built like a tank, it can handle the knocks of daily diving life without missing a beat.

## The Cons

- **Minimal Surface Features:** Like the Teric, the Tern series doesn't cater to the surface tech crowd. If you're looking for step counters, message notifications, or sleep tracking, you'll need to look elsewhere.
- **Limited Tech Diving Applications:** While it supports deco dives and gas switches, it's not as robust as the Teric for advanced technical profiles involving Trimix or Closed Circuit Rebreathers (CCR).

## Verdict

The Shearwater Tern and Tern TX are fantastic options for recreational and entry technical divers. With a clean display, dependable performance, and the ability to handle deco with ease, these dive computers are a great choice for those who want Shearwater quality without the full price tag of the Teric.

However, if you're a surface-dwelling gadget lover or a hard-core technical diver demanding Trimix or CCR functionality, the Tern series might feel a bit limiting. For everyone else, it's a dependable and affordable workhorse that gets the job done, dive after dive.

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## Garmin Decent Mk3 51MM

**Retail Price:** \$1,599

- **Dive Rating:** █████
- **Dependability:** █████
- **Durability:** █████
- **Recreational Features:** █████
- **Technical Features:** █████
- **Daily Wear Rating:** █████
- **Biometrics:** █████
- **Air Integration:** Yes (i series only)
- **Number of Transmitters Supported:** Up to 8
- **Number of Gases Supported:** Up to 12
- **Battery Life:** 25 days (watch mode)
- **Depth Rating:** 200m / 660ft





# Garmin Descent Mk3: Comprehensive Review

The Garmin Descent Mk3 is a state-of-the-art smartwatch that combines advanced dive technology with the functionality of a premium outdoor adventure watch. Designed to meet the needs of divers and outdoor enthusiasts alike, this watch offers a comprehensive suite of features, including multiple dive modes, GPS navigation, heart rate monitoring, and smart notifications, all housed in a rugged yet stylish design. Whether you're exploring the ocean's depths or trekking through challenging terrains, the Descent Mk3 provides reliable performance and intuitive tools to enhance your experience. However, as with any high-tech device, it's essential to consider its potential drawbacks alongside its impressive capabilities. While the Garmin does not offer all of the hard-core technical features as the Teric, many of those are coming and coming soon. With the new X50i being released, it is only a matter of time before the engineers at Garmin add the GF99 to it.

The Garmin already packs a punch with all of the amazing technical features like SurGF and dive planning from OC Recreational through Trimix and even CCR. Garmin has certainly entered the market and entered it with a determination to be a premier dive computer!

## Biometrics

Garmin has long been the king of GPS tracking and biometric data on land. When it comes to sports, sleep, and daily wear, they've nailed VO2, pulse ox, and respiration tracking. But underwater? Garmin sticks to heart rate tracking—no VO2, pulse ox, or respiration down there.

Still, that one feature alone is a game-changer for divers. The heart rate data Garmin provides can give you insights into your diving habits, fitness levels, and even how to improve your overall dive experience. It's not just numbers on a screen; it's a tool for real change.

Take me, for example. After noticing my heart rate creeping up during dives and spotting an increase in my RMV (Respiratory Minute Volume), I knew something had to give. I started exercising more and cleaned up my diet. The result? A lower RMV, a calmer heart rate, and smoother, more enjoyable dives.

While Garmin's heart rate tracking doesn't yet impact dive algorithms, you can't help but wonder what the future holds. Could this data eventually enhance safety margins or improve dive planning? Maybe. For now, though, Garmin gives you the tools to dive smarter and healthier—and that's more than enough to make a splash.

## What You'll Love

### Exceptional Battery Life

- Up to 25 days in smartwatch mode (10 days with always-on display).
- Up to 66 hours in dive mode or 40 hours with air integration.

### Comprehensive Dive Features

- Multi-gas support for Air, Nitrox, and Trimix (up to 100% O2).
- Subwave™ air integration supports up to 8 transmitters.
- Bühlmann ZHL-16c decompression model with gradient factors for customizable conservatism.

### Advanced Mapping and GPS

- Multi-band GPS ensures accurate positioning, even in challenging environments.

- Built-in mapping for on-land and underwater navigation.

### **Durable and Premium Design**

- Sapphire crystal lens and DLC-coated titanium bezel.
- Water resistance up to 200 meters.
- Silicone or titanium band options for comfort and style.

### **Health and Fitness Monitoring**

- Pulse Ox, heart rate monitoring, and advanced sleep tracking.
- Training readiness and VO2 Max analysis.
- Wide range of activity profiles for gym, cycling, swimming, and more.

### **Smart Features**

- AMOLED touchscreen for vibrant visuals.
- Garmin Pay™, music storage, and notifications.
- Morning report, real-time stamina, and incident detection.

## **What Could Be Improved**

### **Price**

- The premium materials and features have a high price tag, making it less accessible for budget-conscious buyers.

### **Size and Weight**

- The watch is relatively bulky (51 mm diameter) and heavy, especially with the titanium band (165.9 g).
- May not suit users with smaller wrists.

### **Complexity**

- The sheer number of features and customization options might feel overwhelming for first-time Garmin users.

### **Proprietary Charging**

- Requires a Garmin-specific clip charger, which might be inconvenient compared to universal charging solutions.

### **Music Limitations**

- Music storage capability is limited to 32 GB, which might not satisfy heavy music users who rely on offline playlists.

## Who Is It For?

The **Garmin Descent Mk3** is ideal for serious divers, outdoor adventurers, and fitness enthusiasts who demand top-notch performance and versatility. While the price and size may deter casual users, the robust features and premium design justify the investment for those seeking a professional-grade device.

## Final Thoughts

The Garmin Descent Mk3 combines dive-ready technology with smartwatch convenience, offering unparalleled functionality. While it's not without its challenges—primarily cost and size—it stands out as one of the best options for those who want a multi-sport and dive-focused wearable.

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## Garmin Descent™ Mk3i - 43 mm Dive Computer and Smartwatch

**Price:** \$1,399.99 USD

- **Dive Rating:** █████
- **Dependability:** █████
- **Durability:** █████
- **Recreational Features:** █████
- **Technical Features:** █████
- **Daily Wear Rating:** █████
- **Air Integration:** Yes (i series only)
- **Number of Transmitters Supported:** Up to 8
- **Number of Gases Supported:** Up to 12
- **Battery Life:** 25 days (watch mode)



## Discover a Deeper Connection

The Garmin Descent™ Mk3i isn't just a dive computer—it's your underwater sidekick, adventure planner, and fitness coach rolled into one sleek, 43mm package. Combining advanced dive technology with multisport smartwatch features, it's like having a James Bond gadget strapped to your wrist (minus the grappling hook, unfortunately). This marvel of engineering boasts Garmin's SubWave™ sonar technology, ensuring seamless diver-to-diver communication and precise monitoring, so you can dive deeper, train smarter, and look cooler while doing it.

## Key Features

### SubWave Sonar Networking

- Communicate with preset diver-to-diver messages up to 30 meters.
- Monitor tank pressure for up to 8 divers within a 10-meter range using optional Descent™ T2 transceivers (sold separately).

## Unmatched Dive Versatility

- Multiple dive modes, including single and multiple gases (nitrox and trimix), apnea, gauge, apnea hunt, and closed-circuit rebreather.
- DiveView™ color maps with depth contours and over 4,000 preloaded dive sites.
- Built-in ABC sensors, underwater compass, and surface GPS for navigation and safety.

## Exceptional Battery Life

- Up to 30 hours in dive mode, 10 days in smartwatch mode, and 44 hours in Max Battery GPS mode.
- Lume Mode enhances visibility in low-light conditions.

## Durable Design for Depth

- Bright 1.2" AMOLED color display with sapphire crystal lens.
- Leakproof metal inductive buttons and a 200-meter dive rating.
- Lightweight at 68.3 g with the silicone band, ensuring comfort during extended wear.

## Health and Fitness Insights:

- Daily metrics: sleep monitoring, Pulse Ox, respiration rate, stress tracking, and Body Battery™ energy monitor.
- Animated workouts for cardio, yoga, and strength.
- Advanced sports profiles for running, cycling, swimming, surfing, skiing, and more.

## Navigation and Mapping:

- SatIQ™ technology delivers superior GPS accuracy while optimizing battery life.
- Preloaded TopoActive maps and SkiView™ resort maps.
- Round-trip routing and PacePro™ for advanced navigation planning.

## Lifestyle and Connectivity Features:

- Safety tracking: sends your live location in emergencies.
- Downloadable music storage and Garmin Pay™ contactless payments.
- Smart notifications for emails, texts, and alerts when paired with a smartphone.
- Compatible with the Garmin Connect IQ™ store for additional apps and watch faces.

## What Makes It Special

The Descent™ Mk3i not only excels underwater but also integrates seamlessly into your active lifestyle on land. Its robust design, cutting-edge sonar communication, and fitness tracking make it the ultimate all-in-one device for divers and adventurers.

## Specifications:

- **Lens Material:** Sapphire crystal
- **Case Material:** Fiber-reinforced polymer with titanium rear cover
- **Display Size:** 1.2" AMOLED (390 x 390 pixels)
- **Battery Life:** Up to 30 hours in dive mode, 10 days in smartwatch mode
- **Water Rating:** Dive (200 meters)

Elevate your diving and active lifestyle with the Garmin Descent™ Mk3i. Get ready to dive smarter, train harder, and explore further.

## Final Verdict

The Garmin Descent™ Mk3i is a powerhouse for serious divers and fitness enthusiasts. It's packed with features, boasts a stylish design, and elevates your underwater adventures to a new level. But, like any high-tech gadget, it comes with a few quirks. If you're ready to embrace its capabilities (and its price), the Mk3i is worth the plunge—literally.

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## Garmin Fenix 8 - \$999 - \$1,199

- **Dive Rating:** ████
- **Dependability:** ██████
- **Durability:** █████
- **Recreational Features:** ██
- **Technical Features:**
- **Daily Wear Rating:** ██████
- **Air Integration:** No
- **Number of Gases Supported:** 1
- **Battery Life:** up to 48 days (watch mode)
- **Depth Rating:** 40m / 130ft (dive mode)



# Garmin Fenix 8: Elevating the Multisport Smartwatch to Include Dive Capabilities

Garmin's latest flagship multisport smartwatch, the **Fenix 8**, takes adventure and fitness tracking to a whole new level by introducing basic diving functionality. Known for its robust performance in running, cycling, hiking, and other outdoor sports, the Fenix 8 now supports recreational diving, making it a versatile choice for adventurers who occasionally dive.

## Dive Features

Designed exclusively for recreational diving, the Fenix 8 offers support for a single gas mix ranging from 21% to 40% oxygen, with a maximum operating depth of **40 meters**. This addition is perfect for divers who enjoy casual underwater exploration without the need for advanced features required by technical divers.

## Biometrics

Garmin's Fenix 8 isn't just a dive watch—it's a top-tier multisport powerhouse with diving capabilities. On land, it's as impressive as they come. VO2 tracking, pulse ox, and respiration metrics give you a full picture of your fitness, sleep, and daily performance. But underwater? Garmin focuses on heart rate tracking. No VO2, pulse ox, or respiration metrics below the surface—just the heartbeat of your dive experience.

Even so, this watch is my go-to for tracking everything—from my daily runs to monitoring my sleep. The VO2 data helps me gauge my fitness levels over time, while the sleep scores give me insights into recovery and stress management. It's like having a coach on your wrist that doesn't shout but nudges you to do better. By paying attention to my data, I've been able to improve my performance and make more informed decisions about my training routine.

Underwater, the Fenix 8's heart rate tracking is a solid addition to your dive kit. It won't impact dive algorithms yet, but the insights it provides can help you understand your body better, refine your dive habits, and even identify areas to improve your overall fitness.

Whether you're logging daily steps, tackling a trail run, or exploring a reef, the Fenix 8 bridges the gap between your life topside and underwater. It's not just a dive watch—it's a health and performance companion, built to keep up with you everywhere you go.

## What You'll Love About the Garmin Fenix 8

The **Garmin Fenix 8** is a top-tier multisport smartwatch designed to cater to both adventurers and fitness enthusiasts while introducing basic diving functionality for those who enjoy recreational diving. Here's what makes the Fenix 8 stand out:

**Durable and Rugged Design:** Built to withstand extreme environments, the Fenix 8 features a titanium bezel, and sapphire solar charging lens, and is dive-rated with leak proof construction. It meets U.S. military standards for thermal, shock, and water resistance, ensuring it's ready for any adventure, on land or underwater.

**Battery Life That Keeps Up:** With up to **48 days** of battery life in watch mode, the Fenix 8 ensures you're powered through extended trips, hikes, or dives without constantly worrying about charging.



**Recreational Diving Support:** While not a full-fledged dive computer, the Fenix 8 supports single gas diving with a depth of up to **40 meters**, perfect for casual recreational divers. Whether you're snorkeling, free diving, or just exploring shallow waters, the Fenix 8 offers useful dive features in a sleek, all-in-one device.

**Solar Charging:** The built-in solar charging lens extends battery life, keeping you powered during your longest outdoor excursions. This is perfect for adventurers who need to ensure they can rely on their devices without constantly recharging.

**Health and Performance Metrics:** Track everything from heart rate and VO2 max to sleep patterns and recovery insights. The Fenix 8's comprehensive health monitoring ensures you're always in tune with your body's needs, whether you're on a run, hike, or underwater.

**Navigation and GPS:** Whether you're exploring remote trails or navigating the depths, the Fenix 8 comes with preloaded maps, turn-by-turn directions, and advanced GPS to help you stay on track—both above and below the surface.

**Versatility for Multisport Athletes:** From running and cycling to hiking and swimming, the Fenix 8 is packed with features that cater to all your fitness needs, making it an ideal choice for multisport athletes who want a smartwatch that does it all.

The **Garmin Fenix 8** is the perfect choice for those who want an all-in-one smartwatch that supports both land and light diving adventures, offering reliability, durability, and advanced performance metrics—all in one device.

### **Enhanced Functionality:**

Beyond diving, the Fenix 8 shines with Garmin's signature features:

- **Solar Charging Lens:** Prolong battery life up to 48 days.
- **Built-in LED Flashlight:** Whether you're navigating trails at night or avoiding stubbed toes during late-night adventures, the flashlight ensures you're never in the dark.
- **Health & Performance Metrics:** From heart rate monitoring and VO2 max tracking to recovery insights and sleep coaching, the Fenix 8 provides 24/7 wellness tracking.
- **Navigation:** Preloaded maps, turn-by-turn directions, and advanced GPS ensure you never lose your way, whether on land or underwater.

### **Rugged Design for Every Adventure:**

Constructed with a titanium bezel, a sapphire solar charging lens, and a dive-rated, leak-proof design, the Fenix 8 is built to endure extreme environments. It meets U.S. military standards for thermal, shock, and water resistance.

The Garmin Fenix 8 is ideal for multisport enthusiasts and occasional divers seeking a powerful, all-in-one smartwatch with light dive capability. It bridges the gap between land and sea adventures, all while delivering Garmin's hallmark durability and precision.

**Price:** Starting at **\$1,199.99**, with flexible payment options available.

### **Cons of the Garmin Fenix 8 as a Dive Computer**

#### **Limited Dive Functionality**

While the Fenix 8 offers basic dive features, its single-gas support (21% - 40%) and a maximum depth of

40 meters makes it suitable only for recreational diving. It lacks advanced features required for technical diving, such as multi-gas support or detailed decompression tracking.

### Price Point

At \$1,199.99, the Fenix 8 is significantly more expensive than dedicated entry-level dive computers that offer more comprehensive diving features, making it a questionable investment for frequent divers.

### Battery Life Underwater

Although the watch boasts an impressive battery life for standard smartwatch activities, its performance during extended dive sessions can be limited due to the added strain of underwater tracking.

### Complexity for Non-Athletes

The watch's extensive features for running, cycling, and other sports can overwhelm users who are purchasing it primarily for diving or recreational activities.

### Not Fully Dive-Focused

As a multisport watch, the Fenix 8 prioritizes general athletic functions over diving-specific features, making it less specialized than dedicated dive computers.

### Flashlight Limitations

The built-in flashlight, while a nice addition, is not strong enough to replace proper underwater dive lights, limiting its utility for night dives or low-visibility conditions.

These cons highlight that while the Fenix 8 is an excellent all-around smartwatch, it might not be the best option for divers seeking a fully-featured and dive-centric device.







## Final Verdict

The **Garmin Fenix 8** is an excellent multisport smartwatch with light diving functionality, but it **falls short as a specialized dive computer**. It is ideal for those who want a device that can handle both outdoor sports and occasional recreational diving. However, for divers seeking a dedicated, feature-rich dive computer, this may not be the best option. If you're an athlete or outdoor enthusiast who occasionally dives but doesn't need advanced dive tracking, the Fenix 8 offers great versatility. If diving is your primary focus, look for a more specialized dive computer.

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## Ratio iDive color Dive computer

**Retail Price:** \$548 – \$949

- **Dive Rating:** 
- **Dependability:** 
- **Durability:** 
- **Recreational Features:** 
- **Technical Features:** 
- **Daily Wear Rating:** 
- **Air Integration:** Yes
- **Number of Transmitters Supported:** Up to 10
- **Number of Gases Supported:** Up to 10

- **Battery Life:** 50 hours (watch mode)
- **Depth Rating:** 150 mt (Mineral Glass) / 220 mt (Sapphire Glass)



## Ratio iDive Color Dive Computer

The **Ratio iDive Color** dive computer is an excellent choice for both **recreational and technical divers**, providing a wide range of features at a relatively **affordable price point**. With its **multi-gas capability**, **wireless air integration**, and **customizable interface**, the iDive Color stands out as a versatile dive computer. While it may not be as well-known in the U.S. as other brands, particularly when compared to options like Shearwater or Garmin, the Ratio iDive Color offers impressive functionality and **value for money**.

It is ideal for divers who need a **reliable dive computer** with **upgradable features** and excellent **air integration** for diving multiple tanks. The option to purchase the base version and upgrade the software instead of buying a new computer adds flexibility, making it an attractive option for divers looking to grow their technical diving capabilities without the need for additional hardware purchases.

The **Rechargeable Transmitters** offer additional safety features, like a color-coded system indicating tank pressure levels, which can be particularly beneficial in multi-diver environments, enhancing both ease of monitoring and safety.

#### Pros:

- **Rechargeable Transmitters:** The iDive Color features **rechargeable wireless transmitters**, which are an excellent eco-friendly alternative to traditional disposable battery models. The transmitters are color-coded (green, yellow, red) to indicate tank pressure, allowing divers to quickly assess air levels at a glance—this adds an extra layer of safety, particularly in a multi-diver environment.
- **Versatile Gas Support:** With the ability to support **up to 10 gas mixes**, the iDive Color is a versatile computer, perfect for both **recreational** and **technical divers**.
- **Air Integration:** The computer fully supports **air integration** and can monitor **up to 10 transmitters** simultaneously, a feature ideal for divers using multiple tanks or in need of advanced air management.
- **Upgradeable Software:** One of the standout features is the option to **upgrade the software** of the base model, allowing divers to expand their computer's capabilities over time rather than purchasing a new unit.
- **Customizable Interface:** The iDive Color offers a **highly customizable interface**, allowing divers to adjust graphical elements to suit their personal preferences, making the user experience more intuitive.
- **Multi-Transmitter and SideMount Mode:** The computer supports **multi-transmitter** setups, including a dedicated **SideMount mode**, which automatically switches between tanks, improving gas management on more complex dives.
- **Compact Design:** The **lightweight and slim design** (similar to a wristwatch) makes it easy to wear daily, and the **bright 1.3-inch color display** ensures visibility in low-light conditions.

#### Cons:

- **Rechargeable Transmitter Battery Life:** One of the major drawbacks of the Ratio iDive Color is the **battery life of the rechargeable transmitters**. While convenient, these transmitters tend to have a much shorter battery life compared to traditional ones, often requiring more frequent recharging.
- **Charging Complications:** The **charging process for the transmitters** can be a bit cumbersome. Since the transmitters need to be connected to a power source, divers may find it inconvenient to bring their **regulator setup near a power outlet** for charging, especially when diving in remote locations or during travel.
- **Less Advanced Than Some Competitors:** While the iDive Color offers excellent features, it **lacks some of the advanced capabilities** seen in higher-end models from brands like Shearwater or Garmin. This may be a limiting factor for **technical divers** who need more detailed dive planning tools or deeper decompression options.
- **Smaller Screen Size:** The **1.3-inch screen** may feel small compared to other dive computers with larger displays, especially for divers used to more spacious interfaces for monitoring data.

underwater.

- **Not as Widely Supported in the U.S.:** The Ratio iDive Color, while popular in Europe, is not as commonly used in the U.S., which could mean fewer options for **service centers** or **technical support** if something goes wrong with the unit.

## Final Verdict

The **Ratio iDive Color** is a solid dive computer that brings **advanced features** at an affordable price. The **rechargeable transmitters** with their color-coded air status system make it a great option for divers looking to enhance their safety. However, the **short battery life of the transmitters** and the need to have a nearby power source for recharging might be a hassle for some divers. Despite this, the computer's **upgradeable software**, **multi-gas support**, and **customizable interface** make it a highly versatile and cost-effective choice for divers who want a capable device without the premium price tag of other brands.

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## Apple Watch Ultra 2

**Retail Price:** \$799

- **Dive Rating:** ☐☐
- **Dependability:** ☐☐☐
- **Durability:** ☐☐
- **Recreational Features:** ☐☐☐
- **Technical Features:** ☐
- **Daily Wear Rating:** ☐☐☐☐
- **Biometrics:** ☐☐☐☐
- **Air Integration:** No
- **Number of Transmitters Supported:** N/A
- **Number of Gases Supported:** Single gas (Air/Nitrox)
- **Battery Life:** 8 hours in dive mode / Up to 36 hours in smartwatch mode
- **Depth Rating:** 40m / 130ft



The Apple Watch Ultra 2 takes Apple's flagship smartwatch to new depths—literally. It's an adventure watch with dive capabilities that seamlessly combines high-end features for daily wear and recreational activities. While it doesn't rival dedicated dive computers in functionality, it offers an appealing option for recreational divers who want surface-to-dive versatility.

Equipped with Apple's signature design and a suite of biometric tools, the Ultra 2 provides robust fitness tracking and everyday wear features. Its dive functions are powered by the Oceanic+ app, allowing it to handle single-gas Air/Nitrox dives up to 40 meters. However, the Ultra 2 truly shines in its surface features, offering an unbeatable experience for fitness enthusiasts and adventurers.

### **Biometrics**

The Apple Watch Ultra 2 is built for more than just diving—it's a comprehensive health and performance tracker. On land, it delivers VO2 Max, pulse oximetry, respiration tracking, and sleep monitoring with



stunning accuracy. The sleep scores are particularly noteworthy, offering insights into recovery and readiness that are comparable to the industry's best.

Underwater, the focus shifts to basic yet valuable metrics. While the Ultra 2 doesn't track VO2 or pulse ox during a dive, it provides clear, readable dive data through the Oceanic+ app. Its single-gas support (Air/Nitrox) makes it ideal for recreational divers, and while it won't replace a technical dive computer, it's a great choice for casual underwater adventures.

The Ultra 2 excels as an all-day companion. I rely on it to monitor my daily workouts, track runs, and measure sleep patterns. Its biometric data helps me fine-tune my fitness routine and ensure I'm getting enough rest to perform at my best. Whether it's keeping tabs on my morning VO2 or tracking recovery metrics after a long dive, the Ultra 2 keeps me informed and motivated.

## What You'll Love

### Exceptional Build Quality

- Aerospace-grade titanium case with a flat sapphire crystal display.
- Dual speakers and three microphones for enhanced audio clarity.
- Water resistance rated to 100 meters and EN13319 certification for dive use.

### Dive Features

- Dive functionality powered by Oceanic+ app.
- Single-gas support for Air and Nitrox dives (up to 40 meters).
- Simple, intuitive interface for dive planning and execution.

### Advanced Surface Features

- VO2 Max, heart rate monitoring, and sleep tracking for fitness enthusiasts.
- Dual-frequency GPS for ultra-accurate positioning on land and sea.
- Apple's renowned suite of apps, including seamless iPhone integration.

### Smart Features

- Always-on Retina display with 3000 nits of brightness—perfect for bright sunlight.
- Siri, Apple Pay, and a vast ecosystem of apps.
- Up to 36 hours of battery life, with a low-power mode for extended use.

## What Could Be Improved

### Reliability Concerns

The Apple Watch Ultra 2 isn't a purpose-built dive computer and can sometimes lock itself during a dive, creating potential issues for users relying on its functionality underwater.

### Durability for Diving

While it's designed for a variety of activities, regular diving can wear out the watch faster compared to specialized dive computers, which are built to withstand harsher underwater conditions.

## Constant Updates

Frequent updates to the watch's software can improve features, but it also means you must regularly sync it with your phone to ensure optimal performance. This can be inconvenient, especially if updates are required just before a dive.

## Limited Technical Diving Support

The watch lacks multi-gas functionality, air integration, and decompression model support, making it unsuitable for advanced or technical diving.

## Battery Life for Heavy Dive Users

Although the battery life is adequate for casual divers, it falls short for more frequent or advanced users who require extended functionality during longer dive trips.

## Who Is It For?

The Apple Watch Ultra 2 is ideal for occasional recreational divers (a few dives a year), fitness enthusiasts, and adventurers seeking a stylish and versatile smartwatch that doubles as a dive watch. However, it's not designed for technical divers or those who prioritize reliability and durability in extreme underwater environments. This is really designed as well for those who are already tied into the Apple ecosystem as well.

## Final Thoughts

The Apple Watch Ultra 2 bridges the gap between a smartwatch and recreational dive watch, offering impressive biometrics, seamless integration into the Apple ecosystem, and a sleek design. While it shines for surface activities and casual diving, its reliability concerns and lack of advanced diving features make it less suitable for those requiring a purpose-built dive computer. It's a great choice for those prioritizing style and versatility but may fall short for hardcore divers.

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## Suunto Ocean Dive Computer: Comprehensive Review

**Retail Price: \$899**

- **Dive Rating:** ⭐⭐⭐⭐
- **Dependability:** ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐
- **Durability:** ⭐⭐⭐⭐
- **Recreational Features:** ⭐⭐⭐⭐
- **Technical Features:** ⭐
- **Daily Wear Rating:** ⭐⭐⭐⭐
- **Biometrics:** ⭐⭐⭐⭐
- **Air Integration:** Yes (optional transmitter)
- **Number of Transmitters Supported:** Up to 20
- **Number of Gases Supported:** Up to 5
- **Battery Life:** up to 26 days
- **Depth Rating:** 100m / 330ft



The Suunto Ocean Dive Computer is a trusted companion in the world of diving—solid, straightforward, and reliable. It's built for recreational and entry-level technical diving, offering the essentials without the fluff. Think of it as the dive computer equivalent of a trusty pair of boots—nothing fancy, but it gets the job done. You won't find any unnecessary distractions, just accurate dive metrics that let you focus on what really matters—your dive.

In terms of biometrics and activities, it comes pretty close to the Garmin, and for recreational-only dives, it could easily be your go-to. It's the kind of device you can depend on, much like a loyal dog, without needing to worry about whether it's going to do a backflip or perform a magic trick (unlike some of the newer, flashier models).

Sure, the Suunto Ocean doesn't have all the bells and whistles of something like the Garmin Descent Mk3 or Shearwater Teric for diving, but that's kind of the point. It's not trying to be the flashiest kid on the block; it's content doing what it's made for—giving you the core essentials without the confusion. It's the

perfect tool for those who appreciate the art of simplicity, and for the diver who doesn't need a nanny on the dive.

Now, let's dive into what the Suunto Ocean does well, where it could improve, and why, for many, it's the ideal choice for a no-nonsense dive experience.

## What You'll Love

### Dependable Dive Functionality

- Suunto's renowned reliability ensures safe and accurate dive planning, with customizable conservatism settings using the Suunto Bühlmann 16 GF
- Supports Air and Nitrox blends, making it suitable for both recreational and entry-level technical divers.

### Affordable Air Integration

Optional wireless air integration for up to 20 transmitters gives divers detailed tank pressure data at an accessible price point.

### Intuitive Design

- A large, clear display with easy-to-read data ensures effortless underwater navigation.
- A straightforward interface with minimal menus simplifies use, even for beginners.

### Durable Build

- Robust construction resists wear and tear, with a 100-meter water resistance rating.
- Mineral glass lenses and reinforced casing enhance durability.

### Battery Life and Charging

- The rechargeable battery provides 40-60 hours of dive mode operation, ideal for multi-day trips.

## What Could Be Improved

### Limited Advanced Features

- No support for advanced technical diving functions like multi-gas blending beyond three gases or extended-range CCR diving.
- Lack of GPS or mapping tools, which limits utility for surface navigation.

### Display and Aesthetics

- The monochrome display lacks the vividness of AMOLED screens on competing devices, which can make data harder to interpret in low-light conditions.

### Daily Wear Appeal

- The bulky design and utilitarian look make it less appealing as an everyday smartwatch.

### Algorithm

Suunto incorporates extra limiting factors into the Suunto Bühlmann 16c algorithm to “enhance diver safety.” While we understand their intention, especially considering past concerns, we believe these decisions should be left to the diver, who can manage them through gradient factors or diver-controlled conservatism settings. As one diver put it, “I don’t need a nanny on my dive.” While this comment may be a bit blunt, it’s important for dive leaders to be mindful of how using different dive computers could impact the dives of those they’re diving with.

## Who Is It For?

The Suunto Ocean Dive Computer is perfect for recreational divers and those venturing into entry-level technical diving who want a reliable, easy-to-use, and affordable device. It’s a great choice for divers prioritizing simplicity and core dive functionality over cutting-edge features.

## Final Thoughts

The Suunto Ocean Dive Computer delivers dependable performance in a durable and straightforward package, making it a trusted companion for recreational and technical divers alike. While it might not have the advanced features or sleek aesthetics of higher-priced competitors, its reliability and affordability make it an excellent option for divers focused on safe, no-nonsense dives.

Sure, it’s not the fanciest dive computer in the room—it won’t be calculating your trimix levels or brewing you a latte at the surface like some of those high-end models (looking at you, Garmin). But if you’re not looking for a dive computer with all the bells and whistles—like a trimix setting that costs as much as a month’s worth of Starbucks—then the Suunto Ocean is a solid choice. It’s perfect for exploring coral reefs or sharpening your skills, without needing a second mortgage.

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## Huawei Watch Ultimate Dive Edition: Comprehensive Review

**Contribution by Roberto Bottini, SSI Instructor Trainer**

- **Retail Price:** 899€ / available worldwide, excluding US
- **Dive Rating:** █████
- **Dependability:** █████
- **Durability:** █████
- **Recreational Features:** █████
- **Technical Features:** ████
- **Daily Wear Rating:** █████
- **Biometrics:** █████
- **Air Integration:** No
- **Number of Transmitters Supported:** N/A
- **Number of Gases Supported:** 3 (Trimix support included)
- **Battery Life:** Up to 14 days
- **Depth Rating:** 100m for technical dives



The **Huawei Watch Ultimate (Dive Edition)** is like a freshly certified diver—packed with potential, still without a history to back it up. It promises a lot though: sleek design, robust build, and dive-focused features that tick many of the right boxes. It is a recreational and tech diving computer, a smart watch and multi-sport watch. Will it be up to the fierce competition?

I've been testing it for a few months now and it's constantly on my wrist, in very different settings. I'm lucky enough to dive in some of the most extraordinary environments: caves, mines, open sea, lakes. Using it in both recreational and tech configuration, with different gases ranging from compressed air to trimix, I now have a clearer idea about what this quite surprising device is capable of.



The first thing that strikes the user is the great visibility and contrast of the screen. Even in full tropical sun the screen is extremely easy to read, both in and out of the water. In a closed and dark environment its clearness and efficiency is even more remarkable. There are several different functions – such as the ever useful compass – which you can scroll during the dive. The information is very clear, thanks to both product design and vibration alarms. Pushed to the limit with multi-gas technical dives, it gives its best, with simple and intuitive gas switches. You can also add more gas mixtures during the dive. It's obviously possible to set a custom Gradient Factor before the dive, however you won't be able to change it while diving. The battery life seems optimal, even when diving every single day, on repetitive dives.

Besides, I have used and still use dive computers from other manufacturers, but honestly I haven't missed them during this period.

## Key Features at a Glance

### Dependability

The watch employs the tried-and-tested **Bühlmann ZHL-16C decompression algorithm**, offering pro-level diving tips tailored to your physical condition and environmental factors. It includes metrics like CEIL, OT+3, and +OD+5, ensuring real-time monitoring during dives.

Its **ISO 22810 certification** and **EN 13319 compliance** confirm its suitability as a diving instrument. It boasts a **10 ATM water resistance** – I took it to a depth of over 100 metres and never had any issues at all: keys active and algorithm doing its job.

### Battery Life and Charging

With up to **14 days of battery life** in standard use and **8 days under heavy load**, the watch excels in longevity. If no extra work is required, you almost forget to charge it. The **wireless fast charging** feature powers the device to capacity in just **60 minutes**, a notable advantage for divers with tight schedules.

## Diving-Specific Features

- **Trimix Support:** The watch handles gases with a PPO2 range of 0.18 to 1.6.
- **Multi-Sensory Alerts:** The device employs **buzzer and vibration** alerts for events like safety stops, decompression stops, and Overspeed ascent warnings, ensuring critical notifications are both heard and felt underwater.
- **Customizable Settings:** It offers over **20 dive-related reminders**, enhancing safety and versatility for diverse diving scenarios. Rec, tech, and freediving modalities supported.

## What You'll Love

### Impressive Durability

With a **sapphire glass lens** and a sturdy titanium casing, the watch is built to withstand underwater and surface conditions. These materials also contribute to its polished, premium look. Price is competitive compared to more expensive rivals. The extended battery life is a real plus.

### Recreational Features

While it caters primarily to divers, its advanced smartwatch capabilities (fitness tracking, ECG analysis, notifications, sleep monitoring, and more) make it a great hybrid for day-to-day wear. Depending on the model chosen, the package may include a titanium strap, a rubber band or longer band for dry suits.

### **Aesthetic and Comfort**

The **sleek design** combines high-end aesthetics with functionality, making it appealing both underwater and as an everyday smartwatch.

## **Areas for Improvement**

### **Advanced tech feats**

Having the possibility to change the Gradient Factor during the dive would make it a more complete tech computer.

### **No Air Integration**

Personally, I do not use pressure sensors, but the absence of air integration may limit its appeal for those divers who rely on tank pressure monitoring. Competing models like the Shearwater Teric and Garmin Descent Mk3 outshine it in this area.

### **Dependability**

Constant and prolonged use will certainly provide a more complete picture. However, having now completed over 300 dives, I can say with a certain degree of confidence that it is a reliable computer.

## **Who Is It For?**

The Huawei Watch Ultimate Dive Edition is an excellent choice for both **recreational and tech divers** who value stylish, durable gear with a mix of technical and everyday features. It's ideal for divers who don't require air integration, and look for solid safety tools and convenience.

## **Final Thoughts**

The Huawei Watch Ultimate Dive Edition is a promising hybrid device, bridging the gap between a dive computer and a high-tech smartwatch. Its robust design, strong safety features, and impressive battery life make it a great companion for rec and tech divers.

Worn constantly on your wrist, it can be a reliable travelling companion. It is also suitable for those dive pros who like to wear an eye-catching watch, without missing out on a reliable diving instrument. Only time will tell if it can challenge industry leaders like Garmin and Shearwater in the long run.

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## **Summary of Dive Computers: The New Age of Dive Watches**

Gone are the days when a dive watch was just a glorified stopwatch with a rotating bezel. Today's dive computers are sleek, feature-packed gadgets that do everything except carry your tanks. They look good, work hard, and bridge the gap between life underwater and on land. But are they everything they claim to be? Let's take a closer look.

These wrist-mounted wonders have evolved from simply telling time to tracking heart rates, logging dives, and sending smartphone alerts. The Shearwater *Teric*, Garmin's *Descent* series, and Suunto Ocean are leading the charge, each offering unique features that cater to divers' needs both above and below the surface.

While they dazzle with high-tech features, there's one glaring question: **Do these biometric-heavy devices account for everything that matters?**

## Do They Factor in These Critical Metrics for Diving?

**Water Temperature?** Nope.

**Temperature?** Nope.

**Heart Rate, Age, or Fitness Level?** Nope.

**Sleep Score, BMI, Weight, and Height?** Still waiting.

No dive computer integrates these metrics to give a complete physiological snapshot. But we're hopeful. Research is already exploring how these factors impact diving safety. Studies are analyzing data post-incident, and the results could revolutionize how we dive. Imagine a future where your dive computer adjusts limits based on your sleep quality or fitness level—it's an exciting time to be in dive medicine and research.

For now, though, this level of tech remains in the realm of possibility. And while we eagerly await this future, remember this is just one opinion. Like a spirited dive briefing, everything here is up for debate.

## A Brief Dive into Nostalgia

Back in the day, dive watches were no-frills companions. They told the time, tracked your dive, and made you feel like James Bond. My daughter once roasted me for my analog dive watch, laughing when I explained it "just told time." Fast forward a decade, and today's dive computers do so much more—and they are better because they come with price tags that could fund a liveaboard trip.

## The Bottom Line

The dive community thrives on debates, and choosing the "best" dive computer is no exception. What works for one diver might not work for another, and that's okay. At the end of the day, the best dive computer is the one that fits your needs, your wrist, and your wetsuit.

So, let's celebrate how far we've come—and how far we're about to go. Because whether you're rocking an analog classic or a smartwatch powerhouse, the ocean is still the best part of the adventure. And no watch—yet—can argue with that.

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### About the authors

**Benjamin Hadfield** is a highly accomplished Instructor Trainer and technical diving expert, whose passion for diving has taken him to breathtaking locations across North America. From the high-elevation lakes of Idaho and Wyoming, including the iconic Yellowstone Lake, to the vibrant reefs and historic wrecks of Florida, Benjamin's diving adventures are as diverse as they are inspiring.

As the managing partner of Stuart Scuba, based in Stuart, Florida, Benjamin and his amazing wife and partner, Nikki, lead a thriving dive operation that caters to a wide range of divers. Stuart Scuba boasts two dedicated dive boats, offering unforgettable experiences for open-water divers, advanced explorers, technical divers, and CCR enthusiasts alike. Whether guests are looking to explore shallow reefs, venture into legendary deep reefs, or penetrate technical wrecks, Stuart Scuba provides tailored adventures for all skill levels.

Benjamin's love for teaching is at the core of everything he does. From high mountain lakes in the west to the coastal waters of the east — and even into Canada — he has earned a reputation for excellence in diving education. His expertise in technical diving, particularly in high-altitude environments, has made him a well-known figure in the diving community.

With Nikki by his side, Benjamin continues to foster a vibrant diving community and share his passion for the underwater world through his engaging "Teach Me to Dive" Facebook and YouTube channels. Together, they are not only shaping the future of Stuart Scuba but also inspiring divers everywhere to push their limits and explore new depths.

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**Roberto Bottini** is an accomplished Instructor Trainer, DAN first-aid educator, and tech & cave diver with a profound passion for underwater exploration and education. Founder of XR Scuba Academy, he offers comprehensive training across all levels of scuba diving, emphasizing both skill development and the enjoyment of the underwater world.

Beyond teaching, Roberto actively participates in underwater projects. Notably, he was involved in the restoration of black coral on the Haven wreck, collaborating with a team to reattach coral branches using specialized techniques. He is actively involved in marine conservation projects such as the recovery of ghost fishing nets, especially in Sicily, Italy. Roberto's dedication to diving education and environmental initiatives underscores his influential role in the scuba diving community.