



PRESS RELEASE

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Top Science Students from Virginia High Schools Compete in 14th Annual Regional Ocean Science Bowl

Sixteen teams, representing thirteen Virginia high schools, faced off on Saturday, February 26, at the **14th Annual Blue Crab Bowl**. The academic contest, held this year at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point, tested the students' knowledge of the oceans. The **Blue Crab Bowl** is the Virginia regional competition of the National Ocean Science Bowl (NOSB[®]). Eighty students spent the day in heated tournament competition focused on the marine sciences. Teams came from all corners of the Commonwealth, from Fredericksburg to Virginia Beach, Warrenton in the west to Exmore on the Eastern Shore.

For a record fourth year in row, **Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School** walked away with the top honors. In second place was **Chesapeake Bay Governor's School-Glenns Campus**; third went to **Chesapeake Bay Governor's School-Warsaw**; **Broadwater Academy** (Exmore) placed fourth.

The **Blue Crab Bowl** is a cooperative effort between the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary and the Old Dominion University's Department of Ocean, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences. Over eighty volunteers, including faculty, staff and graduate students from both institutions, as well scientists from the US Navy and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration donated many hours of their time to ensure the success of this exciting event.

Virginia's **Blue Crab Bowl** was among the inaugural NOSB competitions in 1998. Designed to inspire and challenge high school students, NOSB contests like the Blue Crab Bowl test the competitors' knowledge of the marine sciences, covering the breadth of oceanography and maritime disciplines. **To date, the Blue Crab Bowl has involved 1150 of the Commonwealth's brightest science students from 51 public and private schools across Virginia.**

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Using questions designed by marine scientists and educators, the contest tested students' knowledge of oceanography, geology, biology, maritime history and policy. Guided by their teacher coaches, students broadened their awareness and understanding of the oceans as they prepared for the competition. The Bowl provides a forum for students who excel in math and science to receive regional and national recognition for their diligence and talent. During Saturday's event, the competition started with a field of 16 teams, with four emerging as top contenders by late afternoon.

Competing teams included:

Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School – A Team, Virginia Beach
Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School – B Team, Virginia Beach
Broadwater Academy, Exmore
Chesapeake Bay Governor's School-Glenns Campus, Glenns
Chesapeake Bay Governor's School-Warsaw Campus, Warsaw
Churchland High School, Portsmouth
Fauquier High School, Warrenton
Fredericksburg Academy, Fredericksburg
Isle of Wight Academy, Isle of Wight
Louisa County High School, Mineral
Maury High School, Norfolk
Patrick Henry High School – A Team, Ashland
Patrick Henry High School – B Team, Ashland
Saint Christopher's School, Richmond
Seton School – A Team, Manassas
Seton School – A Team, Manassas

During the Awards Ceremony, all teams were recognized with awards presented by the leaders of the competitions two host institutions: **Dr. John Wells, Dean/Director of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science** and **Dr. Roger Harvey, Chair of ODU's Department of Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Science**. They addressed the audience of 200, applauded the students' accomplishments and encouraged their continued studies in marine sciences.

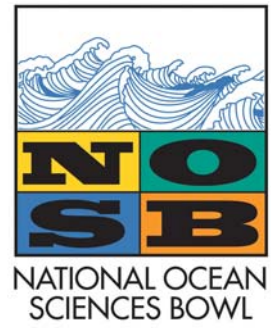
The winning team will represent Virginia in the national competition, facing 24 other regional champions at the **National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB®)**, April 29-May 1, in Galveston, Texas. NOSB is a program of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership in Washington, DC. NOSB seeks to interest students in ocean science as a college major and potential career. Through 25 regional competitions across the nation, **NOSB** also provides an educational forum intended to: generate student interest in the ocean sciences; improve awareness of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes; and create an "ocean literate" society that can meet the ocean challenges of the future. During 2011, an expected 2,000 students from nearly 400 high schools from around the country will participate in this this fourteenth annual event.

The Blue Crab Bowl wouldn't be possible without the generous support of national, regional and local sponsors. Among them are Virginia Institute of Marine Science's Dean & Directors Office, The Mariners' Museum, Pizza Hut-Gloucester Point, Comfort Suites-Airport, Newport News, the VIMS Gift Shop, Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association and National Marine Educators Association.

For further information, please contact Dr. Carol Hopper Brill via phone at 804-684-7735, e-mail chopper@vims.edu. Information about the **Blue Crab Bowl** is also available at www.vims.edu/bcb. For information on other competitions around the country and the National Ocean Science Bowl, visit www.nosb.org/.



BLUE CRAB BOWL 2011 WINNING TEAMS



1st Place:
Bishop Sullivan Catholic High
Coach Bill Dunn

2nd Place:
Chesapeake Bay Governor's
School - Glens
Coach Sherry Pettyjohn

3rd Place:
Chesapeake Bay Governor's
School - Warsaw
Coach James Beam



4th Place: Broadwater Academy
Coach Joseph Spagnolo



Photo Captions:

First Place: Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School, Virginia Beach

For the fourth year in a row, students from **Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School** took **First Place** in the Blue Crab Bowl. The 14th Annual Virginia Regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl was held at the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences on Saturday, February 26. Coached by **science teacher William Dunn** (back row, right), team members include (from left to right): **Walker Olson** (junior); **Cameron Forren** (freshman); Team Captain **Mary Chang** (senior); **Nathon Taylor** (senior); and (back row, right) **Joe Bridenstine** (senior).

Second Place: Chesapeake Bay Governor's School – Glens Campus

The Chesapeake Bay Governor's School - Glens team captured **Second Place**. Science teacher **Coach Sherry Pettyjohn** (standing), has a winning history at the Bowl. This year's team members include: **Emma Marie Hepworth** (junior), **Rachel Corrigan** (senior), Team Captain **Rebecca Walker** (senior), and **Henry Banks** (senior).

Third Place: Chesapeake Bay Governor's School-Warsaw Campus

The Chesapeake Bay Governor's School-Warsaw Campus team, coached by science teacher **James Beam** (back row, right), took Third Place. Team members include: **LeighAnna Morris** (senior, back row, left); front row (left to right) **Paige Trivett** (senior); **Hannah Wallace** (senior), Team Captain **Emma Hollowell** (senior), and **Anne Self** (senior).

Fourth Place: Broadwater Academy, Exmore

The team from **Broadwater Academy**, coached by science teacher **Joe Spagnolo** (back row, center) received **Fourth Place** honors. The team includes, in the back row: Team Captain **Colin Parker** (senior) on left and **Dylan Ward** (junior) on right. In the front row: **Anna White** (senior); **Rachel Seaman** (senior); **Paige McManus** (senior); and team supporter Natalie Tomlinson.

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