



BLUE CRAB BOWL 2017

Annual Contest Promotes Marine Science Knowledge Among Virginia's High School Students

The **Blue Crab Bowl** is the Virginia regional competition for the National Ocean Science Bowl (NOSB[®]), an academic tournament for high school students. Each year, this event is made possible by a partnership between the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary, and the Department of Ocean, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences and Center for Coastal Physical Oceanography at Old Dominion University. Through this cooperative effort, faculty, staff and graduate students from both institutions donate many hours of their time to ensure the success of this exciting opportunity.

The first NOSB competition was launched in 1998 by the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE) to further its mission of supporting and expanding oceans sciences education during the *International Year of the Ocean*. In 2007, CORE merged with the Joint Oceanographic Institutions (JOI) to form a new organization, the **Consortium for Ocean Leadership**. Representing 95 of the nation's leading oceanographic institutions, universities, industries and aquaria, the Consortium office in Washington D.C. hosts the NOSB National headquarters.

Virginia's **Blue Crab Bowl** was among the inaugural NOSB competitions in 1998. Designed to inspire and challenge high school students, the Blue Crab Bowl tests the competitors' knowledge of the marine sciences, covering the breadth of oceanography and maritime disciplines. **In its 20-year history, the Blue Crab Bowl has involved over 1,620 of the Commonwealth's brightest science students from 53 public and private schools across Virginia.**

Selected by lottery, sixteen teams compete in February or March of each year. Guided by their teacher coaches, students broaden their awareness and understanding of the oceans. At the Bowl, each match pits two teams of four students in an academic quiz-bowl format. Competitors use a buzzer system to respond to rapid-fire multiple choice and short answer questions read by a Moderator. Additionally, teams work collectively to produce written answers to complex analytical questions. Teams compete in round-robin divisions during the morning and in double elimination tournaments in the afternoon. The Bowl offers students who excel in math and science a chance to receive regional and national recognition for their diligence and talent. The winning team from the **Blue Crab Bowl** goes on to face 24 other regional champions in the National Ocean Sciences Bowl in April.

Inspiring young marine scientists takes support! Over 70 faculty, researchers, graduate students and staff from ODU and VIMS, and their colleague agencies, donate many hours of their time, energy and expertise preparing for and conducting the event each year. Additionally, sponsor organizations and donors support the costs of venue use, hotel accommodations and meals for teams, enrichment activities, and participation and recognition awards for students and their teachers. This year's sponsors and donors include: the Consortium for Ocean Leadership; ODU's Department of Ocean Earth & Atmospheric Sciences; the Virginia Institute of Marine Science; VIMS Marine Advisory Program; the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association and National Marine Educators Association; among others. The Blue Crab Bowl wouldn't be possible without the generous support of these national, regional and local sponsors. For a list of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership's national sponsors, visit the NOSB website at www.nosb.org/.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has been involved in National Ocean Sciences Bowl since its inception. Please, join us in this tradition, supporting and inspiring the next generation of Virginia's marine scientists! The **20th Annual Blue Crab Bowl takes place on February 18, 2017, at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science** in Gloucester Point, Virginia.

For further information, please contact Blue Crab Bowl Coordinators:

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Visit the Blue Crab Bowl website at www.vims.edu/bcb. Information about other competitions around the country and the National Ocean Science Bowl is available at www.nosb.org/.

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