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23rd Annual Regional Ocean Sciences Bowl Attracts Competing High School Science Students from Across Virginia

On Saturday, February 8, top science students from 14 Virginia high schools faced off at Old Dominion University’s Higher Education Center in Virginia Beach for the 23rd Annual Blue Crab Bowl. The Blue Crab Bowl is the Virginia regional competition of the National Ocean Science Bowl (NOSB©). Sixteen teams came from across of the Commonwealth, from Manassas and Warrenton to Hampton Roads and the Eastern Shore. The 70 students spent the day in heated tournament competition focused on the marine sciences.

The challenging day included both round robin and double elimination contests – over 45 matches in all. Tense final competitions resolved 4th through 1st Place winners. First Place was captured by Catholic High School from Virginia Beach. In a close Second Place was Seton School from Manassas. Another tight race determined Third Place for Norfolk Collegiate School from Norfolk. And, Fourth Place was earned by Churchland High School from Portsmouth.

The Blue Crab Bowl is a cooperative effort between the Old Dominion University’s Department of Ocean, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, William and Mary. Over seventy volunteers, including science faculty, graduate students and staff from both institutions, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other organizations, 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 1,850 of the Commonwealth’s brightest science students from 58 public and private schools across Virginia.

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 sixteen teams, with four emerging as top contenders by late afternoon.

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Competing 2020 teams included:

- **Broadwater Academy**, Exmore
- **Catholic High School**, Virginia Beach
- **Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School - Glens Campus**, Glens
- **Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School - Warsaw Campus**, Warsaw
- **Churchland High School**, Portsmouth
- **Cosby High School**, Midlothian
- **Fauquier High School**, Warrenton
- **Governor’s School for Science & Technology – New Horizons**, Hampton
- **Isle of Wight Academy**, Isle of Wight
- **Landstown High School**, Virginia Beach
- **Maury High School**, Norfolk
- **Norfolk Collegiate School – Team A**, Norfolk
- **Norfolk Collegiate School – Team B**, Norfolk
- **Patrick Henry High School**, Ashland
- **Seton School**, Manassas
- **York High School**, Yorktown

At the end of the long and grueling day, all teams were recognized during the Awards Ceremony. As the Special Guest, Representative Elaine Luria from Virginia’s 2nd Congressional District congratulated the students, applauded their accomplishments and encouraged them to continue their studies in interdisciplinary STEM subjects. Awards – including custom-made “crab bowl” trophies for the top four teams – were presented by Representative Luria, Dr. Fred Dobbs of Old Dominion University’s Department of Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, and Dr. David Rudders, representing the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences. All students received prizes and Coaches received science teaching resources and memberships in the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association.

The winning team will represent Virginia in the national competition, facing other regional champions at the **National NOSB finals, April 16-19, in Long Beach/Gulfport, Mississippi**. The National Ocean Science Bowl 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 over 20 regional competitions across the nation, NOSB 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 2020, nearly 2,000 students from 300 high schools around the country participate in this 23rd annual event. For information on the National Ocean Science Bowl and other competitions around the country, visit [www.nosb.org/](http://www.nosb.org/).

The Blue Crab Bowl wouldn’t be possible without the generous support of national, regional and local sponsors. In 2020, we are grateful to regional and local sponsors including: Old Dominion University’s Dept. of Ocean, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences; Old Dominion University – Virginia Beach Center; ODU’s Research Vessel Fay Slover; NOAA Marine Operations Center – Atlantic; the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS); VIMS Marine Advisory Services Program; Virginia Sea Grant; McGraw Hill Education; the Poddery; Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association; John Wily & Sons; Splendid Sands.com; Hampton Inn Oceanfront South, Virginia Beach. For a list of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership’s national sponsors, visit [www.nosb.org/](http://www.nosb.org/).

For further information, please contact or Dr. Carol Hopper Brill at VIMS via email chopper@vims.edu or phone 804-684-7735; or Bill Dunn at ODU via e-mail at wdunn@odu.edu or phone at 757-390-0750. Information about Blue Crab Bowl is also available at [www.vims.edu/bcb](http://www.vims.edu/bcb) and on Facebook at [https://www.facebook.com/Blue-Crab-Bowl-382574499609/?ref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/Blue-Crab-Bowl-382574499609/?ref=ts).
Students from Catholic High School emerged in First Place after a day of grueling intellectual competition at the 2020 Blue Crab Bowl, Virginia’s 23rd Regional National Ocean Sciences Bowl. The all-day academic event was held at Old Dominion University’s Virginia Beach Center on February 8. Coached by science teachers Dr. Carol Stapanowich (far right) and Jennifer McMullen (far left), team members included (left to right): Robert Cajes; Andrew Michalak; Jacob Bovatsek; Team Captain Matt Mytych; and Brandon Ly. Catholic High received their team trophy from Representative Elaine Luria of Virginia’s 2nd Congressional District (3rd from left), special guest and awards presenter for the 2020 Blue Crab Bowl. Photo by A. Devlin|Virginia Sea Grant.
At the 2020 Blue Crab Bowl, Virginia’s 23rd Regional National Ocean Sciences Bowl, students from Seton School garnered a close 2nd Place after a grueling day of intellectual competition. The all-day academic event for high school students was held at Old Dominion University’s Virginia Beach Center on February 8. Seton School received their team trophy from Representative Elaine Luria of Virginia’s 2nd Congressional District (far left), special guest and awards presenter. Tricia Kellogg and Hank Konstanty (2nd & 3rd from left) served as Coaches for the team, including (left to right): Joseph Dealey; Team Co-Captain Liam Kellogg; Team Co-Captain Victoria Baker; John Konstanty; and Lydia O'Keefe. Photo by T. Whitfield, College of Sciences, ODU.
3rd Place
NORFOLK COLLEGIATE SCHOOL – TEAM A
Coach Frank Thomson

Third Place: Norfolk Collegiate School – Team A
Norfolk, VA

Students from Norfolk Collegiate School’s Team A swept up Third Place after a day of grueling intellectual competition at the 2020 Blue Crab Bowl, Virginia’s 23rd Regional National Ocean Sciences Bowl. The all-day academic event was held at Old Dominion University’s Virginia Beach Center on February 8. Coached by science teacher Dr. Frank Thomson, team members included (left to right): Kendra Honey; Libby Snowden; Carson Giocondo, Coach Thomson; Emily Scott; and Team Captain Braeden Thomson. Norfolk Collegiate received their team trophy from Representative Elaine Luria of Virginia’s 2nd Congressional District (far right), special guest and awards presenter for the 2020 Blue Crab Bowl. Photo by T. Whitfield, College of Sciences, ODU.
Fourth Place: Churchland High School, Portsmouth, VA

Students from Churchland High School earned Fourth Place honors after a grueling day of intellectual competition at the 23rd Annual Virginia Regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl. The all-day academic event focusing on multi-disciplinary marine sciences was held at Old Dominion University’s Virginia Beach Center on February 8. Coached by science teacher Cami Field (center), team members included (left to right): Jennifer Reza, Malissa Whitehead, Team Captain Felix Radford, Coach Field; Ke’Shon Kellogg (behind); Gabrielle Smalls (in front). Churchland received their team trophy from Representative Elaine Luria of Virginia’s 2nd Congressional District (far right), special guest and awards presenter for the 2020 Blue Crab Bowl. Photo by T. Whitfield, College of Sciences, ODU.