MEDIA RELEASE

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24th Annual Regional Ocean Sciences Bowl Attracts Competing High School Science Students from Across Virginia

On Friday, February 26th and Saturday, February 27th, top science students from 12 Virginia high schools faced off virtually for the 24th Annual Blue Crab Bowl. The Blue Crab Bowl is the Virginia regional competition of the National Ocean Science Bowl (NOSB©). Fourteen teams came from schools across of the Commonwealth, from Manassas and Warrenton to Hampton Roads and the Eastern Shore. The 70 students spent the two days in heated virtual competition focused on the marine sciences.

The challenging 2-day event included both preliminary and elimination contests – with top placing teams facing over 140 questions assessing their marine science knowledge. Tense final competitions resolved 4th through 1st Place winners. First Place was captured by Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School – Glenns from Glenns. In a close Second Place was Fauquier High School from Warrenton. Third Place honors were earned by Catholic High School from Virginia Beach. And, Fourth Place honors went to Seton School from Manassas.

The Blue Crab Bowl is a cooperative effort between the Old Dominion University’s Department of Ocean and Earth Sciences and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, William and Mary. Over seventy volunteers, including science faculty, undergraduate and 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 1,920 of the Commonwealth’s brightest science students from 61 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.

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Competing 2021 teams included:

- Albemarle High School, Charlottesville
- Broadwater Academy, Exmore
- Catholic High School, Virginia Beach
- Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School, Combined, Bowling Green, Warsaw
- Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School, Glenns Campus, Glenns
- Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School, Warsaw Campus, Warsaw
- Cosby High School, Midlothian
- Fauquier High School, Warrenton
- Governor’s School for Science & Technology – New Horizons, Hampton
- Indian River High School, Chesapeake
- Isle of Wight Academy, Isle of Wight
- Norfolk Collegiate School, Norfolk
- Seton School, Manassas
- Tidewater Academy, Wakefield

At the end of the 2\textsuperscript{nd} day of competition, all teams were recognized during the Virtual Awards Ceremony where welcoming and congratulatory remarks were given by Dr. David Rudders, Associate Director of the VIMS Marine Advisory Program. Awards – including custom-made “crab bowl” trophies and mugs, designed by Amy Lee of Amy Lee Pottery in Norfolk were virtually presented to the top four teams. 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 Virtual National NOSB finals, May 9, 15-16. 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. For information on the National Ocean Science Bowl and other competitions around the country, visit www.nosb.org/.

The Blue Crab Bowl wouldn’t be possible without the generous support of national, regional and local sponsors. In 2021, we are grateful to regional and local sponsors including: Old Dominion University’s Dept. of Ocean and Earth Sciences; the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS); VIMS Marine Advisory Program; Virginia Sea Grant; Amy Lee Pottery; Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association; and Splendid Sands.com. For a list of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership’s national sponsors, visit the NOSB website at www.nosb.org/.

For additional information, please contact regional coordinators Bethany Smith at VIMS via email bsmith@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 and on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/Blue-Crab-Bowl-382574499609/?ref=ts.

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First Place: Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School - Glenns, Glenns, VA

Students from Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School – Glenns garnered first place honors after two days of grueling virtual competition at the 2021 Blue Crab Bowl, Virginia’s 24th Regional National Ocean Sciences Bowl. The all-day academic event was held virtually and hosted by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science on February 26th and 27th. Coached by science teacher Sara Beam (bottom middle), CBGS team members included: Dylan White; Austin Crocker; Kathryn Parnell; Captain Madelyn Junker; and Carson Brown. Also pictured are ODU Blue Crab Bowl match officials. Screenshot by A. Bowman, ODU
Students from Fauquier High School garnered second place honors after two days of grueling virtual competition at the 2021 Blue Crab Bowl, Virginia’s 24th Regional National Ocean Sciences Bowl. The all-day academic event was held virtually and hosted by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science on February 26th and 27th. Coached by science teacher George Murphy (bottom middle), Fauquier team members included: Jeremiah Ulewicz; Anna Lanning Wright; Jacob Timko; Raeid Ebrahim; and Captain Mikhaela Ulewicz. Also pictured are VIMS Blue Crab Bowl match officials. Screenshot by A. Bowman, ODU.
Third Place: Catholic High School, Virginia Beach, VA

Students from Catholic High School garnered third place honors after two days of grueling virtual competition at the 2021 Blue Crab Bowl, Virginia’s 24th Regional National Ocean Sciences Bowl. The all-day academic event was held virtually and hosted by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science on February 26th and 27th. Coached by science teacher Carol Stapanowich and assisted by Jennifer McMullin, Catholic High team members included: Captain Brandon Ly; Jacob Bovatsek; Timothy Le; Robert Cajes; and Lawrence Maclin. Also pictured are ODU Blue Crab Bowl match officials. Screenshot by A. Bowman, ODU
Fourth Place: Seton School, Manassas, VA

Students from Seton School garnered fourth place honors after two days of grueling virtual competition at the 2021 Blue Crab Bowl, Virginia’s 24th Regional National Ocean Sciences Bowl. The all-day academic event was held virtually and hosted by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science on February 26th and 27th. Coached by Hank Konstanty and assisted by Patricia Kellogg, Seton team members included: Joey Dealey; Captain Liam Kellogg; Justin Orr; and Victoria Baker. Also pictured are VIMS Blue Crab Bowl match officials. Screenshot by A. Bowman, ODU.