

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
February 11, 2013

Contact: Carol Hopper Brill
804-684-7735 <chopper@vims.edu>

Top Science Students from Virginia High Schools Compete in 16th Annual Regional Ocean Science Bowl

Sixteen teams, representing ten Virginia high schools, faced off on Saturday, February 9, at the **16th Annual Blue Crab Bowl**. Held this year at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) in Gloucester Point, the academic contest 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 across of the Commonwealth, from Virginia Beach to Manassas, Exmore on the Eastern Shore to Warrenton in the west.

In a tense competition that required an extra match to determine the final outcome, **Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School's Team A** (Virginia Beach) took First Place for a record sixth year. In Second Place was **Chesapeake Bay Governor's School-Glenns Campus; Fauquier High School's Team A** (Warrenton) took Third Place; and **Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, Warsaw Campus - Team A** (Warsaw) placed Fourth.

The **Blue Crab Bowl** is a cooperative effort between the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary, and Old Dominion University's Department of Ocean, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences. Nearly 80 volunteers, including faculty, staff and graduate students from both institutions, as well scientists from the 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 over 1,300 of the Commonwealth's brightest science students from 52 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 16 teams, with four emerging as top contenders by late afternoon.

~MORE~

Competing teams included:

Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School – Team A, Virginia Beach
Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School – Team B, Virginia Beach
Broadwater Academy – Team A, Exmore
Broadwater Academy – Team B, Exmore
Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School, Glens Campus, Glens
Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School, Warsaw Campus – Team A, Warsaw
Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School, Warsaw Campus – Team B, Warsaw
Churchland High School, Portsmouth
Fauquier High School – Team A, Warrenton
Fauquier High School – Team B, Warrenton
Grafton High School – Yorktown
Isle of Wight Academy, Isle of Wight
Patrick Henry High School – Team A, Ashland
Patrick Henry High School – Team B, Ashland
Seton School –Team A, Manassas
Seton School –Team B, Manassas

During the opening ceremonies, VIMS Dean & Director **Dr. John Wells** welcomed the Bowl audience of roughly 200 on Saturday morning and addressed the teams. He assured students that their hard work was not only preparation for the competition, but also skill development for possible careers in marine science. During the afternoon Trophy Rounds, **Congressman Rob Wittman** (VA, 1st District) dropped in to observe a match and congratulated all the competitors on their efforts. At the end of the grueling day, teams were recognized during the Awards Ceremony coordinated by **Dr. Carol Hopper Brill**, the Blue Crab Bowl Coordinator for VIMS and **Dr. Victoria Hill**, ODU’s Coordinator for the Bowl. Prizes were presented by special guests: **Dr. Roger Harvey**, Chair of ODU’s Department of Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Science and **Kristen Yarincik**, Director of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl. The students were applauded for their accomplishments and encouraged to continue their studies in interdisciplinary marine sciences.

The winning team will represent Virginia in the national competition, facing 24 other regional champions at the National finals, April 18-21, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. 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 25 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 2013, an expected 2,000 students from over 300 high schools from around the country will participate in this this sixteenth annual event.

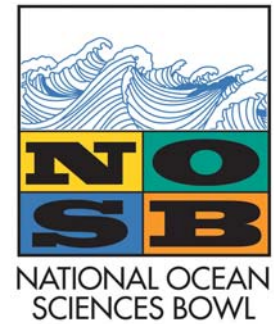
The Blue Crab Bowl wouldn’t be possible without the generous support of national, regional and local sponsors. Among them are: the Virginia Institute of Marine Science; Virginia Sea Grant and the Marine Advisory Program; ODU’s Department of Ocean Earth & Atmospheric Sciences; the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association; the National Marine Educators Association; Comfort Suites-Airport (Newport News); the Virginia Living Museum (Newport News); and Pizza Hut-Gloucester Point.

For further information, please contact Dr. Carol Hopper Brill via phone at 804-684-7735, or by email at 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 2013 WINNING TEAMS



1st Place: **Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School – Team A** **Coach Bill Dunn**

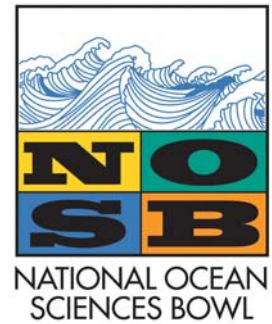


First Place: Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School, Virginia Beach, VA

For the sixth year in a row, students from **Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School's Team A** took **First Place in the Blue Crab Bowl**. The 16th Annual Virginia Regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl was held at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point on February 9. Coached by **science teachers Bill Dunn** (far left) and **Carol Stapanowich** (far right), team members include (from left to right): **Will Harris; Team Captain Cameron Forren; Anna Chang; Josh Taylor ; and Lorenza West**. Photo by Vivian Hollingsworth, Virginia Sea Grant Photo Intern.



BLUE CRAB BOWL 2013 WINNING TEAMS



2nd Place: **Chesapeake Bay Governor's School - Glenns** **Coach Sara Chaves Beam**

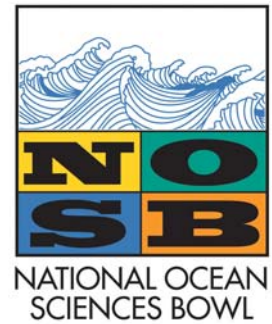


Second Place: Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, **Glenns Campus, Glenns, VA**

The Chesapeake Bay Governor's School - Glenns team captured **Second Place** in the 2013 Blue Crab Bowl. The 16th Annual Virginia Regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl was held at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point, Saturday on February 9. Science teacher **Coach Sara Chaves Beam** (far left). This year's team members include, left to right: **David Bushhouse** (New Kent County High); **Marissa Voight** (King & Queen County High); **Elizabeth Ransone** (Mathews High); **Team Captain Alexys Gray** (New Kent County High); and **Hans Saunders** (Mathews High). Photo by Vivian Hollingsworth, Virginia Sea Grant Photo Intern.



BLUE CRAB BOWL 2013 WINNING TEAMS



3rd Place: Fauquier High School – Team A Coach George Murphy

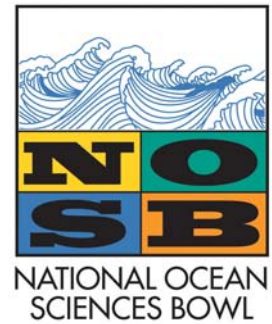


Third Place: Fauquier High School – Team A, Warrenton, VA

Fauquier High School's Team A, coached by George Murphy (far right), took **Third Place** at the 2013 Blue Crab Bowl. The 16th Annual Virginia Regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl was held at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point, Saturday on February 9. Fauquier's team members include, left to right: **Chenoa Payne; Sergio Ribeiro; Claire Burke; and Rhiannon Begley**. Photo by Vivian Hollingsworth, Virginia Sea Grant Photo Intern.



BLUE CRAB BOWL 2013 WINNING TEAMS



4th Place: Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, Warsaw Campus – Team A Coach James Beam



Fourth Place: Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, Warsaw Campus – Team A, Warsaw, VA

Team A from **Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, Warsaw Campus**, coached by science teacher **James Beam** (second from right) received **Fourth Place** honors. The Warsaw Team A members include, left to right: **Katie Parr** (Essex High School); **Team Captain Meghan Frere** (Lancaster High School); **Jen Radcliffe** (Northumberland High School); **Megan Daiger** (Washington & Lee High); and **Alexandra Pitman** (Northumberland High School). Photo by Vivian Hollingsworth, Virginia Sea Grant Photo Intern.