

## MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
February 10, 2016

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

### Science Students from Virginia High Schools Compete in 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Ocean Science Bowl

On Saturday, February 6, top science students from ten Virginia high schools faced off at Old Dominion University's campus in Norfolk for the **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Blue Crab Bowl**. The **Blue Crab Bowl** is the Virginia regional competition of the National Ocean Science Bowl (NOSB<sup>®</sup>). Sixteen teams came from across of the Commonwealth, from Manassas to Virginia Beach, Warrenton in the west to Exmore on the Eastern Shore. The 80 students spent the day in heated tournament competition focused on the marine sciences.

It was a challenging day of both round robin and double elimination matches – over 45 matches in all. But, after a tense final match-up, **Bishop Sullivan Catholic High** from Virginia Beach took **First Place**, continuing its multi-year winning streak. In a very close **Second Place** was **Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, Warsaw Campus Team A** from Warsaw. And, sweeping **Third and Fourth Place** was **Broadwater Academy's Teams A and B** from Exmore.

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. Over 70 scientists, including faculty, graduate students and staff from both institutions and 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 1,500 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. The theme of the 2016 National Ocean Sciences Bowl and its local competitions is "Our Changing Ocean: Science for Strong Coastal Communities," a timely and relevant topic given that escalating populations, erosion, more frequent flooding, development, storm impacts, and pollution are among the stressors that impact the protection, economic revenue, security, food, and healthy recreational opportunities provided by our nation's coasts. 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.

~MORE~

Competing 2016 teams included:

**Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School – Team A**, Virginia Beach, VA  
**Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School – Team B**, Virginia Beach, VA  
**Broadwater Academy – Team A**, Exmore, VA  
**Broadwater Academy – Team B**, Exmore, VA  
**Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School, Glenns Campus**, Glenns, VA  
**Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School, Warsaw Campus– Team A**, Warsaw, VA  
**Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School, Warsaw Campus– Team B**, Warsaw, VA  
**Churchland High School**, Portsmouth  
**Culpeper County High School – Team A**, Culpeper, VA  
**Culpeper County High School – Team B**, Culpeper, VA  
**Fauquier High School**, Warrenton, VA  
**Governor’s School for Science & Technology – Team A**, Hampton, VA  
**Governor’s School for Science & Technology – Team B**, Hampton, VA  
**Isle of Wight Academy**, Isle of Wight, VA  
**Seton School – Team A**, Manassas, VA  
**Seton School – Team B**, Manassas, VA

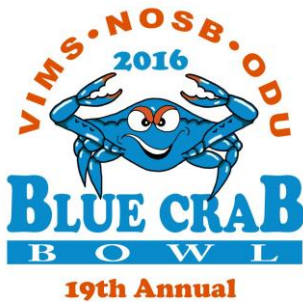
At the end of the grueling day, all teams were recognized during the Awards Ceremony by Bowl Coordinators **Dr. Victoria Hill** from ODU and **Dr. Carol Hopper Brill** from VIMS. Prizes – including custom-made trophies for the top four teams – were presented by **Ms. Emily Hein**, representing the Office of Research and Advisory Services at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. The students received prizes and were applauded for their accomplishments and encouraged to continue their studies in interdisciplinary marine sciences. 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 finals, April 21-24, in Morehead City, North Carolina. 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 2016, an expected 2,000 students from over 300 high schools from around the country will participate in this 19th annual event.

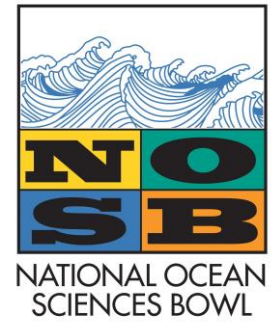
The Blue Crab Bowl wouldn’t be possible without the generous support of national, regional and local sponsors. In 2016, we are grateful to regional sponsors and local including: The Edward T. Bedford Foundation; the Virginia Institute of Marine Science; ODU’s Department of Ocean Earth & Atmospheric Sciences; VIMS Marine Advisory Services; the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association and National Marine Educators Association; Wells Fargo and Hampton Inn-Norfolk Naval Base. For a list of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership’s national sponsors, visit the NOSB website at [www.nosb.org/](http://www.nosb.org/).

For further information, please contact or **Dr. Carol Hopper Brill**, phone 804-684-7735, email [chopper@vims.edu](mailto:chopper@vims.edu) or **Dr. Victoria Hill** via phone at 757-683-4911 or e-mail [vhill@odu.edu](mailto:vhill@odu.edu). Information about **Blue Crab Bowl** is also available at [www.vims.edu/bcb](http://www.vims.edu/bcb) . For information on other competitions around the country and the National Ocean Science Bowl, visit [www.nosb.org/](http://www.nosb.org/).

###



## BLUE CRAB BOWL 2016 WINNING TEAMS



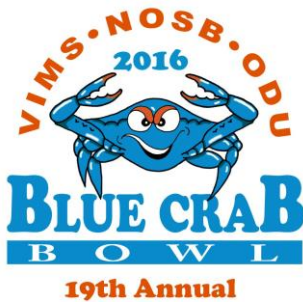
### 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School – Team A Coach Bill Dunn



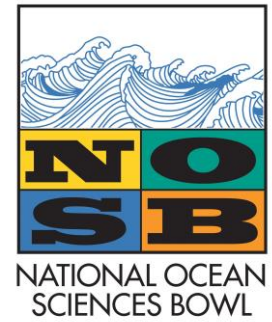
### First Place: Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School – Team A, Virginia Beach, VA

Dominating for the ninth year in a row, students from **Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School's Team A** took **First Place** in the **Blue Crab Bowl** after more than forty-five competitive rounds. This 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Virginia Regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl was held at Old Dominion University's Norfolk Campus on February 6. Coached by **science teachers Bill Dunn** (far right) and **Dr. Carol Stapanowich** (far left), team members include (left to right): **Gerry Fernandez** (sophomore); **Ignatius Liberto** (junior); **Jake Leporte** (junior); **Team Captain Patrick West** (senior); and **Dominic Gentlesk** (sophomore). Photo by Zoe Jakovenko, Virginia Sea Grant Photo Intern.





## BLUE CRAB BOWL 2016 WINNING TEAMS



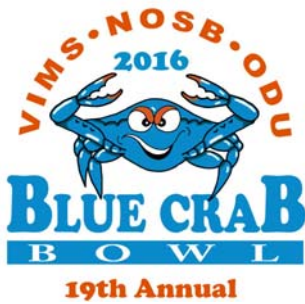
### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place:

**Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, Warsaw Campus – Team A  
Coach Bethany Smith**

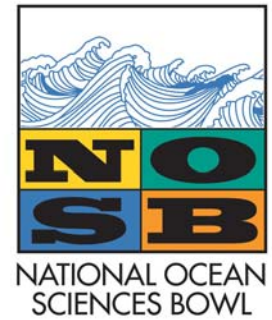


### Second Place: Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, Warsaw Campus – Team A, Warsaw, VA

After a hard fought competition and only one loss after more than 45 matches, students from **Chesapeake Bay Governor's School, Warsaw Campus Team A** took a close **Second Place in the Blue Crab Bowl**. This 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Virginia Regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl was held at Old Dominion University's Norfolk Campus on February 6. Coached by **science teacher Bethany Smith** (far right), the team of all seniors included (left to right): **Stephen Parker** (Northumberland High School); **Lizzie Ellis** (Essex High); **Michael Johnson** (Washington & Lee High); **Team Captain Team John Richardson** (Lancaster High School), and **Hannah Gross** (Essex High). Photo by Zoe Jakovenko, Virginia Sea Grant Photo Intern.



## BLUE CRAB BOWL 2016 WINNING TEAMS



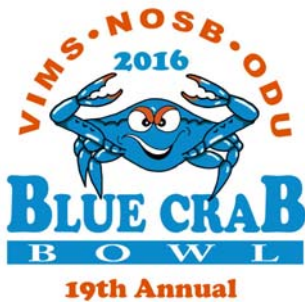
### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Broadwater Academy – Team A Coach Joe Spagnolo



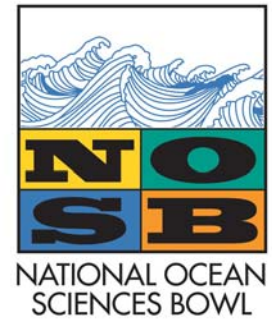
### Third Place: Broadwater Academy – Team A, Exmore, VA

After more than 45 competitive matches, students from **Broadwater Academy's Team A** emerged in **Third Place in the Blue Crab Bowl**. This 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Virginia Regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl was held at Old Dominion University's Norfolk Campus on February 6. Coached by **science teacher Joe Spagnolo** (far right), the team included (back row, left to right): team supporter **Elijah Turner**; team member **Hayden Mabalot**; **Team Captain John Gordon**; team member **Tristan Mariner** and (front row, left to right) **team members Nick Gomer and James Lord**. Photo by Zoe Jakovenko, Virginia Sea Grant Photo Intern.





## BLUE CRAB BOWL 2016 WINNING TEAMS



### 4<sup>th</sup> Place: Broadwater Academy – Team B Coach Airlia Gustafson



### Fourth Place: Broadwater Academy – Team B, Exmore, VA

In a double win for their school, students from **Broadwater Academy's Team B** took **Fourth Place in the Blue Crab Bowl**. The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Virginia Regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl was held at Old Dominion University's Norfolk Campus on February 6. Coached by **science teacher Airlia Gustafson** (far left), team members include (left to right): **Jacob McClaskey**; team supporters Emily Kellam & Ethan Ross; **team members Jack Salm and Zachary Lingle**; **Team Captain Austin Murphy** and **team member Heather Custis**. Photo by Zoe Jakovenko, Virginia Sea Grant Photo Intern.