



MEDIA RELEASE

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Science Students from Virginia High Schools Compete in the 20th Annual Regional Ocean Science Bowl

Last week, top science students from ten Virginia high schools visited the campus of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point for an immersive experience in ocean science. On Friday, February 17, a tour of research labs provided a first-hand look at current projects, as graduate students explained the objectives of their work. And, Associate Dean of Academic Studies, Dr. Linda Schaffner addressed the importance of a career in the marine sciences and shared seasoned advice on how to prepare.

Then, Saturday, February 18, fifteen teams faced off for the **20th Annual Blue Crab Bowl**. The **Blue Crab Bowl** is the Virginia regional competition of the National Ocean Science Bowl (NOSB®). Fifteen teams came from across of the Commonwealth, from Manassas to Virginia Beach, Warrenton in the west to Exmore on the Eastern Shore. The nearly 80 students spent the day in heated tournament competition focused on the marine sciences.

After a challenging day of both round robin and double elimination matches – 46 matches in all – power house **Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School's Team A, from Virginia Beach, remained undefeated and took First Place** for a record tenth year. In **Second Place was Seton School Team A**, from Manassas, **Bishop Sullivan's Team B** took Third and **Seton School's Team B placed Fourth**. This was the first time that all top four positions were dominated by just two schools.

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 75 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 1,580 of the Commonwealth's brightest science students from 53 public and private schools across Virginia.**

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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.

Competing 2017 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, Warrenton
Governor's School for Science & Technology –New Horizons, Hampton
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

At the end of the grueling day, all teams were recognized during the Awards Ceremony by Bowl Coordinators **Dr. Carol Hopper Brill** from VIMS and **Dr. Victoria Hill** from ODU. Prizes were presented by President and CEO of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, **Rear Admiral Jonathan White** and **Dr. Mark Luckenbach**, Associate Dean of Research & Advisory Services at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. 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 other regional champions at the National finals, April 20-23, in Corvallis, Oregon. 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 2017, an expected 2,000 students from over 300 high schools from around the country will participate in this 20th annual event.

The Blue Crab Bowl wouldn't be possible without the generous support of national, regional and local sponsors. The local sponsors are: the Virginia Institute of Marine Science; ODU's Department of Ocean Earth & Atmospheric Sciences; VIMS Marine Advisory Program; the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association and National Marine Educators Association; Leave Only Bubbles/What If Scientific; Comfort Suites-Airport, Newport News; Pizza Hut, Gloucester Point. For a list of the national and regional sponsors, visit the NOSB website at www.nosb.org/.

For further information, please contact or **Dr. Carol Hopper Brill**, phone 804-684-7735, email chopper@vims.edu or **Dr. Victoria Hill** via phone at 757-683-4911 or e-mail vhill@odu.edu. Information about **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 2017 WINNING TEAMS



1st Place:

Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School – Team A
Coach Bill Dunn



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

For a record tenth year in a row, students from **Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School's Team A** took **First Place in the Blue Crab Bowl**. The 20th Annual Virginia Regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl was held at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science on February 18. Coached by **science teachers Bill Dunn** (far left) and **Dr. Carol Stapanowich** (far right), team members include (left to right): **Sebastián Martinez** (senior); **Gerry Fernandez III** (junior); **Team Captain Ignatius Liberto II** (senior); **Jake Leporte** (senior); and **Alan Ding** (senior). Photo by Christopher Katella, VIMS.



BLUE CRAB BOWL 2017 WINNING TEAMS



2nd Place:
Seton School – Team A
Coach Hank Konstanty



Second Place: Seton School – Team A,
Manassas, VA

Seton School's Team A secured **Second Place in the Blue Crab Bowl**. The 20th Annual Virginia Regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl was held at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science on February 18. Coached by **Hank Konstanty** (far left) and **Tricia Kellogg** (far right), team members include (left to right): **Benjamin Dealey** (junior); **Co-Team Captain Regina Terreri** (junior); **Martin Quinan** (junior); **Co-Team Captain Joseph LaVigne** (junior); and **Sean Kellogg** (junior). Photo by Christopher Katella, VIMS.



BLUE CRAB BOWL 2017 WINNING TEAMS



3rd Place:

Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School – Team B
Coach Bill Dunn



Third Place: Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School – Team B,
Virginia Beach, VA

Bishop Sullivan Catholic High School's Team B took Third Place in the Blue Crab Bowl. The 20th Annual Virginia Regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl was held at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science on February 18. Coached by **science teachers Bill Dunn** (far left) and **Dr. Carol Stapanowich** (far right), team members include (left to right): **Andrew Michalak; Madeline Coleman; Matthew Mytych; Team Captain Gregory Mytych; Keith Espinosa.** Photo by Christopher Katella, VIMS.



BLUE CRAB BOWL 2017 WINNING TEAMS



4th Place:

Seton School – Team B
Coach Tricia Kellogg



Fourth Place: Seton School – Team B Manassas, VA

Seton School's Team B took **Fourth Place** in the **Blue Crab Bowl**. The 20th Annual Virginia Regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl was held at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science on February 18. Coached by **Tricia Kellogg** (far right) and **Hank Konstany** (far left), team members include (left to right): **Catherine Moore** (junior); **Monica Wood** (junior); **Patrick Murray** (junior); **Team Captain Brendan Santschi** (junior); and **Hannah Freivald** (junior). Photo by Christopher Katella, VIMS.