



MEDIA RELEASE

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

Virginia High School Science Students Compete in 22nd Annual Regional Ocean Science Bowl

On Saturday, February 16, top science students from twelve Virginia high schools faced off at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point for the **22nd 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 nearly 80 students spent the day in heated tournament competition focused on the marine sciences.

Ten rounds of challenging competition included both round robin and double elimination matches – over 45 contests in all. The day included twists and turns, and surprises from a team new to the competition! **First Place was earned by the team from Norfolk Collegiate School**, first-time competitors this year. **Broadwater Academy Team A from Exmore swept-up Second Place**. **Third Place went to Chesapeake Bay Governor's School – Warsaw Campus**. And, **Fourth Place was captured by Fauquier High School** from Warrenton.

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 seventy-five scientists, including 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 1,700 of the Commonwealth's brightest science students from 54 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 2019 National Ocean Sciences Bowl and its regional competitions is "Observe the Ocean; Secure the Future," a timely and relevant topic. 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 2019 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, Glens Campus, Glens, VA
Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School for Marine & Environmental Science, Warsaw Campus, Warsaw, VA
Churchland High School, Portsmouth, VA
Fauquier High School, Warrenton, VA
Governor’s School for Science & Technology – New Horizons, Hampton, VA
Isle of Wight Academy – Team A, Isle of Wight, VA
Isle of Wight Academy – Team B, Isle of Wight, VA
Maury High School, Norfolk, VA
Norfolk Collegiate School, Norfolk, VA
Seton School – Team A, Manassas, VA
Seton School – Team B, Manassas, VA
York High School, Yorktown, VA

At the end of the long and grueling day, all teams were recognized during the Awards Ceremony by Bowl Coordinators Dr. Carol Hopper Brill from VIMS and Bill Dunn from ODU. Prizes – including custom-made ceramic trophies for the top four teams – were presented by Dr. David Rudders, representing VIMS Marine Advisory Program, and Dr. Fred Dobbs, representing Old Dominion University’s Department of Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. All students received prizes, 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 NOSB finals, April 11-14, in Washington, D.C.** 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 2019, nearly 2,000 students from 300 high schools around the country will participate in this 22nd annual event.

The Blue Crab Bowl wouldn’t be possible without the generous support of national, regional and local sponsors. In 2019, we are grateful to regional and local sponsors including: the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William & Mary; ODU’s Department of Ocean Earth & Atmospheric Sciences; VIMS Marine Advisory Program and VIMS Advancement Department; Virginia Sea Grant; Hampton Inn-Gloucester; the Poddery in Mathews; the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association; and Leave Only Bubbles/What If Scientific. For a list of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership’s national sponsors, visit the NOSB website at 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 and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Blue-Crab-Bowl-382574499609/?ref=ts>. For information on other competitions around the country and the National Ocean Science Bowl, visit www.nosb.org/.

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BLUE CRAB BOWL 2019 WINNING TEAMS



1ST Place NORFOLK COLLEGIATE SCHOOL Coach Frank Thomson, Ph.D.



First Place: Norfolk Collegiate School, Norfolk, VA

Students from **Norfolk Collegiate School** excelled at the **2019 Annual Blue Crab Bowl**, Virginia's 22nd Annual Regional Competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl. The all-day academic event was held at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point on February 16. Coached by **science teacher Frank Thomson, Ph.D.** (far left), team members included (left to right): **Kendra Honey, Team Captain Braeden Thomson, Austin Honey, Carson Giocondo, and Libby Snowden.** Photo by Chris Katella/VIMS.



BLUE CRAB BOWL 2019 WINNING TEAMS



2nd Place BROADWATER ACADEMY – TEAM A Coach Joe Spagnolo



Second Place: Broadwater Academy – Team B, Exmore, VA

At the 2019 Blue Crab Bowl, Virginia's 22nd Regional National Ocean Sciences Bowl, students from **Broadwater Academy – Team A** took **2nd Place**. The all-day academic event was held at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point on February 16. Coached by science teachers **Joseph Spagnolo** and **Charles Carlson** (not pictured), team members included (left to right): **Finn Kelly; Brian Drummond; Nathan Crumb; Team Captain Brandon Stubbs, and Kate Gomer**. Photo by Chris Katella/VIMS.



BLUE CRAB BOWL 2019 WINNING TEAMS



3rd Place

CHESAPEAKE BAY GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR MARINE & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE - WARSAW

Coach James Beam



Third Place: Chesapeake Bay Governor's School – Warsaw Campus, Warsaw, VA

Students from the **Warsaw Campus of the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine & Environmental Science** swept-up **3rd Place** at the 2019 Blue Crab Bowl, Virginia's 22nd Regional National Ocean Sciences Bowl. The all-day academic event was held February 16 at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point. Coached by **science teacher James Beam** (far left), team members included (left to right): **Cecelia MacNamara; Team Captain Tahi Wiggins; Anna Pitts; Roman Cutler; and Nathan Parker**. Photo by Chris Katella/VIMS.



BLUE CRAB BOWL 2019 WINNING TEAMS



4th Place FAUQUIER HIGH SCHOOL Coach George Murphy



Fourth Place: Fauquier High School, Warrenton, VA

At the 2019 Blue Crab Bowl, Virginia's 22nd Regional National Ocean Sciences Bowl, students from **Fauquier High School** captured **4th Place**. The all-day academic event was held at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science in Gloucester Point on February 16. Coached by **science teacher George Murphy** (far right), team members included (left to right): **Team Captain Addie Bowman, Tim Henson, Walker Evans, Ashley McGregor, and Morgan Pletch**. Photo by Chris Katella/VIMS.