



MEDIA RELEASE

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27th Annual Regional Ocean Sciences Bowl Attracts Competing High School Science Students from Across Virginia

On Friday, February 28th and Saturday, March 1st, top science students from 13 Virginia high schools faced off virtually for the **27th Annual Blue Crab Bowl**. The **Blue Crab Bowl is the Virginia regional competition of the National Ocean Science Bowl (NOSB®)**. Fifteen teams came from schools across the Commonwealth, from Manassas and Charlottesville to Hampton Roads and the Eastern Shore. The 80 students spent the two days in heated competition focused on marine science.

The challenging 2-day event included both round-robin and finals contests. Tense final rounds resolved 1st – 4th place winners. **First Place was captured by Warwick High School in Newport News. In Second Place was Seton School from Manassas. Third Place honors were earned by The Governor's School for Science and Technology from Hampton. Fourth Place honors went to Catholic High School – B Team, from Virginia Beach.**

The **Blue Crab Bowl** is a cooperative effort between Old Dominion University's Department of Ocean and Earth Sciences and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, William and Mary. Over eighty 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, in its 27-year history, the Blue Crab Bowl has involved over 2,000 of the Commonwealth's brightest science students from over 60 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 2025 teams included:

Albemarle High School, Charlottesville
Broadwater Academy, Exmore
Catholic High School - A, Virginia Beach
Catholic High School – B, Virginia Beach
Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School, Bowling Green Campus, Bowling Green
Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School, Glenns Campus, Glenns
Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School, Warsaw Campus, Warsaw
Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School, Combined Team
Grafton High School, Yorktown
Governor’s School for Science & Technology, Hampton
Isle of Wight Academy, Isle of Wight
Liberty High School, Bealeton
Norfolk Collegiate School, Norfolk
Seton School, Manassas
Warwick High School, Newport News

At the end of the 2nd day of competition, all teams were recognized during the Awards Ceremony where welcoming and congratulatory remarks were given by Dr. David Rudders, Associate Director, Marine Advisory Program – Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Awards – including custom-made “crab bowl” trophies and mugs, designed by Amy Lee of Amy Lee Pottery in Norfolk were 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.

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 2025, 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 coordinator **Bethany Smith at VIMS** via email bsmith@vims.edu or phone 804-684-7735. 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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