



BLUE CRAB BOWL 2020

Annual Contest Promotes Marine Science Knowledge Among Virginia's High School Students

The **Blue Crab Bowl** is the Virginia regional competition for the National Ocean Science Bowl (NOSB®), an academic tournament for high school students. Each year, this event is made possible by a partnership between the Department of Ocean, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences at Old Dominion University and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary. Through this cooperative effort, faculty, staff and graduate students from both institutions donate many hours of their time to ensure the success of this exciting opportunity.

The first NOSB competition was launched in 1998 by the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE) to further its mission of supporting and expanding oceans sciences education during the *International Year of the Ocean*. In 2007, CORE merged with the Joint Oceanographic Institutions (JOI) to form a new organization, the **Consortium for Ocean Leadership**. Representing 95 of the nation's leading oceanographic institutions, universities, industries and aquaria, the Consortium office in Washington D.C. hosts the NOSB National headquarters.

Virginia's **Blue Crab Bowl** was among the inaugural NOSB competitions in 1998. Designed to inspire and challenge high school students, the Blue Crab Bowl tests the competitors' knowledge of the marine sciences, covering the breadth of oceanography and maritime disciplines. **To date, the Blue Crab Bowl has involved nearly 1,800 of the Commonwealth's brightest science students, roughly 230 teachers from 55 public and private schools across Virginia.**

Selected by lottery, up to sixteen teams compete in an all-day tournament in February of each year. Guided by their teacher coaches, students broaden their awareness and understanding of the oceans. At the Bowl, each match pits two teams of four students in an academic quiz-bowl format. Competitors use a buzzer system to respond to rapid-fire multiple choice and short answer questions read by a Moderator. Additionally, teams work collectively to produce written answers to complex analytical questions. Teams compete in round-robin divisions during the morning and in double elimination tournaments in the afternoon. The Bowl offers students who excel in math and science a chance to receive regional and national recognition for their diligence and talent. The winning team from the **Blue Crab Bowl** goes on to face other regional champions in the National Ocean Sciences Bowl Finals in April.

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Inspiring young marine scientists takes support! Over 70 faculty, researchers, graduate students and staff from ODU and VIMS, and their colleague agencies, donate many hours of their time, energy and expertise preparing for and conducting the event each year. Additionally, grant funds are needed to pay the bills for event venue use, hotel accommodations and meals for teams, enrichment activities, and participation and recognition awards for students and their teachers. The Blue Crab Bowl wouldn't be possible without the generous support of national, regional and local sponsors. Sponsors are acknowledged in the event program, on the Blue Crab Bowl website hosted by VIMS, in the media releases issued before and after the event.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has been involved in National Ocean Sciences Bowl since its inception. Please, join us in this tradition, supporting and inspiring the next generation of Virginia's marine scientists: Attend the **23rd Annual Blue Crab Bowl, February 8, 2020, at Old Dominion University's Higher Education Center** in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

For further information, please contact Blue Crab Bowl Coordinators:

Bill Dunn at ODU – 2020 Host Site Coordinator
e-mail wdunn@odu.edu, phone 757-683-5643 or

Carol Hopper Brill at VIMS - 2020 Teams Coordinator
e-mail chopper@vims.edu, phone 804-684-7735.

Visit the Blue Crab Bowl website at www.vims.edu/bcb. Information about other competitions around the country and the National Ocean Science Bowl is available at www.nosb.org/.

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