MEDIA RELEASE

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25th Annual Regional Ocean Sciences Bowl Attracts Competing High School Science Students from Across Virginia

On Friday, February 11th and Saturday, February 12th, top science students from 11 Virginia high schools faced off virtually for the 24th Annual Blue Crab Bowl. The Blue Crab Bowl is the Virginia regional competition of the National Ocean Science Bowl (NOSB®). Thirteen teams came from schools across of the Commonwealth, from Manassas and Charlottesville to Hampton Roads and the Eastern Shore. The 65 students spent the two days in heated virtual competition focused on the marine sciences.

The challenging 2-day event included both preliminary and finals contests – with top placing teams facing over 140 questions assessing their marine science knowledge. Tense final rounds resolved 1st – 4th place winners. First Place was captured by Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School – Glens from Glens. In Second Place was Norfolk Collegiate A from Norfolk. Third Place honors were earned by Broadwater Academy from Exmore. Fourth Place honors went to Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School – Warsaw, from Warsaw.

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 seventy 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 25-year history, the Blue Crab Bowl has involved 1,985 of the Commonwealth’s brightest science students from 61 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 2022 teams included:

Blue Crab Bowl 2022 Winners

Albemarle High School, Charlottesville
Broadwater Academy, Exmore
Catholic High School, Virginia Beach
Churchland High School, Portsmouth
Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School, Glenns Campus, Glenns
Chesapeake Bay Governor’s School, Warsaw Campus, Warsaw
Governor’s School for Science & Technology, Hampton
Isle of Wight Academy A & B, Isle of Wight
Norfolk Collegiate School A & B, Norfolk
Seton School, Manassas
Tidewater Academy, Wakefield

At the end of the 2nd day of competition, all teams were recognized during the Virtual Awards Ceremony where welcoming and congratulatory remarks were given by Dr. Fred Dobbs, Chair – Old Dominion University Department of Ocean & Earth Sciences, Dr. Gail Dodge, Dean – Old Dominion University College of Sciences, and Dr. Derek Aday, Dean & Director – 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 virtually 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.

The winning team will represent Virginia in the national competition, facing other regional champions at the 25th Annual Virtual National NOSB finals, May 2022. 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 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 2022, 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 coordinators Bethany Smith at VIMS via email bsmith@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.

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