



NEWS RELEASE

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Local High School Scholars to Compete in Orca Bowl

Regional Ocean Science Competition Encourages Scientists of Tomorrow

Seattle – Emerging young oceanographers and marine scientists from high schools around the state will gather on Sat., Feb. 27, 2016 at the University of Washington’s Fishery Sciences Building to vie for a slot in the [National Ocean Sciences Bowl](#). Each year, the UW campus is the site where hundreds of Washington high school students, scientists, volunteers, and science teachers gather for the popular [Orca Bowl marine science tournament](#), hosted by the UW College of the Environment and [Washington Sea Grant](#). In 2016, approximately 2,000 students from over 300 high schools nationally will participate.

The event is high-energy, fun, and fiercely competitive, but behind all the fun lies a very serious educational purpose: nurturing a new generation of marine leaders. Their recruitment is vitally important as our region increasingly contends with marine issues, such as ocean acidification, climate change, population pressures, depleted fisheries, and other threats to the seas that sustain us.

WHEN: Sat., Feb., 27, 2016, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

WHO: Students and teachers from Washington high schools with a strong interest in marine science:

- Bainbridge High, Bainbridge Island, WA
- Ellensburg Marine Bio Club A & B, Ellensburg, WA
- Everett NJROTC, Everett, WA
- Friday Harbor High A & B, Friday Harbor, WA
- Garfield High A & B, Seattle, WA

- Interlake High, Bellevue, WA
- Newport High A & B, Bellevue, WA
- ORCA A & B, Everett, WA
- Tacoma Science and Math Institute, Tacoma, WA
- Shelton High A & B, Shelton, WA
- Soap Lake High, Soap Lake, WA
- Tacoma School of the Arts, Tacoma, WA
- White Swan High, Yakima, WA
- Winlock High, Winlock, WA

WHAT: 20 high school teams consisting of four or five students compete in Orca Bowl, an annual, regional ocean science competition. The teams are tested through quick answer buzzer questions and thought-provoking team challenge questions. The annual theme of the 2016 is “Our Changing Ocean: Science for Strong Coastal Communities,” a timely and relevant topic given that escalating populations, erosion, more frequent flooding, development, storm impacts, and pollution are among the stressors that impact the protection, economic revenue, security, food, and healthy recreational opportunities provided by our nation’s coasts.

The winning team of this bowl will go on to compete against 24 other regional champions in the 19th Annual National Ocean Sciences Bowl on April 21-24, 2015 in Morehead City, North Carolina.

WHERE: Fisheries Sciences Building, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

WHY: The Orca Bowl is part of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB). The NOSB strives to encourage and support the next generation of marine scientists, policy makers, teachers, explorers, researchers, technicians, environmental advocates and informed citizens, to be stewards of the ocean.

Most high school students do not have the opportunity to study ocean science as part of their formal coursework, which makes the Orca Bowl and NOSB one of the only ways students gain exposure to this field. Many past NOSB participants have moved on to pursue college degrees and careers in ocean science, helping to solve the growing environmental, economic and security issues facing our oceans and planet.

The 2016 national NOSB program is made possible through the following sponsors:

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Wendy & Eric Schmidt
- Deerbrook Charitable Trust
- IEEE Ocean Engineering Society
- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- The Curtis & Edith Munson Foundation
- Wells Fargo
- Leave Only Bubbles
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Major Local Sponsors:

- UW College of the Environment
 - Washington Sea Grant
 - Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean
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- Alaska Bering Sea Crabbers
- Alaska Seafood Cooperative
- Groundfish Forum, Inc.
- Ocean Peace, Inc.
- Roche Harbor Resort

For more information, visit wsg.washington.edu or www.nosb.org.

Washington Sea Grant, based at the University of Washington, provides statewide research, outreach, and education services addressing the challenges facing our ocean and coasts. The National Sea Grant College Program is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. www.wsg.washington.edu.

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