



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 27, 2014

## MEDIA CONTACT:

Meg Matthews  
Washington Sea Grant  
206.291.5942  
[megmm@uw.edu](mailto:megmm@uw.edu)

### **Do Washington state students have what it takes to tackle ocean acidification?**

*Thirteen fin-tastic high schools from Seattle to Soap Lake compete for top honors at [Orca Bowl](#)*

SEATTLE, WASH. – On Saturday, March 1, 2014, [Washington Sea Grant](#) and other programs and schools from the [University of Washington College of the Environment](#) will host [Orca Bowl](#) in the Fishery Sciences Building (1122 NE Boat Street) from 8:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. More than 100 students from 13 Washington state high schools will compete for top honors at the event, focused this year on ocean acidification. Orca Bowl is free and open to the public and media.

Buzzers will buzz. Teams will huddle. Volunteers dressed as sea creatures will roam the halls. One team will be left standing. Hundreds of scientists, costumed volunteers, inspiring high school teachers, and passionate students from Seattle to Soap Lake will come together for a day of fun, friendly competition. The winning team will represent Washington state at the 17th annual [National Ocean Sciences Bowl](#) in May, held for the first time in Seattle.

“This is an incredible opportunity for participating Washington high schools,” said Maile Sullivan, who coordinates Orca Bowl for Washington Sea Grant. “For some teens, especially those from the inland schools, this may be the first time they get to tour actual marine science labs or meet real scientists who work on the same issues that the kids study during the competition. It’s set more than one past participant on a path to become a marine science, policy or education expert in our region.”

Throughout Orca Bowl, all of the teen participants can connect with UW faculty and marine professionals to learn about study programs and professional careers that fit their passions. With the impacts of ocean acidification [reaching our shores](#), cities like Seattle and Tacoma need this talented, creative generation of marine scientists to help tackle 21st century ocean and coastal challenges.

“We’ve developed a Friday class modeled after ORCA Bowl where students develop their own strategies for using knowledge from traditional science courses,” said Kainoa Higgins, science teacher and Orca Bowl coach at [Tacoma's Science and Math Institute \(SAMI\)](#). “We even host the ‘SAMI bowl-off,’ a school competition to decide which team earns the right to represent our school on the regional level. It’s been a wonderful way to enhance our science curriculum, and students have started making connections between real-world marine research and their Orca Bowl quiz topics.”

– more –

### **2014 Participating Schools**

*School coaches and student teams are available to talk with media*

Ocean Research College Academy, Everett  
Bainbridge High School, Bainbridge Island  
Winlock High School, Winlock  
Everett NJROTC, Seagull Company, Everett  
Friday Harbor High School, Friday Harbor  
Tacoma Science and Math Institute, Tacoma  
Ellensburg High School, Ellensburg  
Soap Lake High School, Soap Lake  
White Swan High School, White Swan  
Shelton High School, Shelton  
Garfield High School, Seattle  
ExCEL Academic League, Washougal  
Redmond High School, Redmond

## **Background**

Orca Bowl lasts a full day, with teams competing in a round-robin tournament followed by a double elimination for the top teams. Students tackle questions in all areas of marine studies, including ocean-related physics, chemistry, geology, biology, social sciences and technology. Questions are presented in multiple-choice, short-answer and team-challenge formats that require strong problem-solving skills and close cooperation. For more information, see [general topics of study](#).

The National Ocean Sciences Bowl® is a program of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership. Approximately 2,000 students from more than 400 high schools participate in 25 regional competitions. Through this educational forum, NOSB® encourages and supports the next generation of marine scientists, policy makers, teachers, explorers, technicians, environmental advocates and informed citizens.

# # #

*Housed in the College of the Environment at the University of Washington, Washington Sea Grant leads research, outreach and education for people to understand and address challenges facing our oceans and coasts.*

Join the conversation with [@WASeaGrant](#) and [facebook.com/WaSeaGrant](https://www.facebook.com/WaSeaGrant)