



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The Junior Olympics of Ocean Science Comes to UW**

*Washington Sea Grant hosts the 18<sup>th</sup> annual **Orca Bowl**, promoting science, technology, engineering, math, and marine studies to youth across the state*

**What:** Washington State Orca Bowl

**When:** Sat., Feb. 28, 2015, 8:15 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

**Where:** University of Washington Fishery Sciences Building, 1122 N.E. Boat St., Seattle

**Cost:** Free admission

Seattle – Emerging young oceanographers and marine biologists from high schools around the state will gather on Saturday, Feb. 28, 2015 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 high school students, scientists, volunteers, and science teachers gather for the popular [Orca Bowl marine science tournament](#), hosted by UW’s College of the Environment and organized by Washington Sea Grant.

The event is high-energy, fun, and fierce competition, but behind all the fun lies a very serious educational purpose: nurturing a new generation of marine scientists. This is vitally important as the United States and the Puget Sound maritime region contend with marine issues such as ocean acidification, climate change, fishing pressures, and other threats to the seas that sustain us.

At the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Orca Bowl, visitors will have a chance to mingle with high school students passionate about the ocean. The event is free to the public and this year’s teams represent students from all around the state:

- Bainbridge High School A and B teams, Bainbridge Island
- Ellensburg High School A and B teams, Ellensburg
- Everett NJROTC, Seagull Company, Everett
- Friday Harbor High School A and B teams, San Juan Island
- Garfield High School, Seattle

- Newport High School, A and B teams, Seattle
- Ocean Research College Academy (ORCA), Everett
- Shelton High School, Shelton
- Soap Lake High School A and B, Soap Lake
- Tacoma Science and Math Institute (SAMI) A and B teams, Tacoma
- Washougal High School, Washougal
- White Swan High School, Yakima
- Winlock High School, Winlock

In May, the winning state Orca Bowl squad will face off against champion teams from 24 other states in the grueling daylong national bowl. Afterwards, Washington state winners and competitors will be honored at a banquet in Seattle.

For information and to make arrangements for filming or recording, contact MaryAnn Wagner at [maryannb@uw.edu](mailto:maryannb@uw.edu) or 206-616-5363.

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*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.*

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