

## **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO COMPETE AT HARBOR BRANCH IN NATIONAL OCEAN SCIENCES BOWL**

Fort Pierce, Florida -- On Saturday, February 22, 18 teams of Florida high school students will face off at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University in the “Florida Manatee Bowl” regional competition of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB®). Teams will compete on a wide range of ocean-related topics. The winning team will advance with 24 other regional champions to the 11th Annual National Ocean Sciences Bowl, April 25-27, in Seward, Alaska.

The National Ocean Science Bowl ([www.nosb.org](http://www.nosb.org)) is managed by the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, a new organization formed by the merger of the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE) and the Joint Oceanographic Institutions (JOI). Ocean Leadership is a Washington, DC-based non-profit organization that represents 95 of the leading public and private ocean research and education institutions, aquaria and industry. Ocean Leadership’s mission is to advance research, education and sound ocean policy.

NOSB seeks to interest students in the ocean sciences as a college major and potential career. Through this educational forum, the NOSB strives to encourage and support the next generation of marine scientists, policy makers, teachers, explorers, researchers, technicians, environmental advocates and informed citizens. Approximately 2,000 students from over 300 high schools will participate in 2008 at 25 sites throughout the country.

Students around the country spend months working with volunteer coaches to get ready for competitions, which pit four-student teams against each other in rapid-fire buzzer rounds of multiple choice and short-answer questions, as well as in team challenge questions. Topics include ocean biology, chemistry, geology, physics, navigation, geography, and related history, literature and public policy.

For 11 years, since the inception of the NOSB, the Florida Manatee Bowl has been co-hosted by Harbor Branch and the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, with the event alternating each year between Fort Pierce and Miami. Moderators and judges for the event are drawn from both institutions.

Competitors will be arriving on Saturday, February 22, for afternoon tours of Harbor Branch and an opening event to include a mock competition round. The official competition will take place Saturday beginning at 8:30 a.m., with final rounds running from approximately 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. An awards ceremony will immediately follow the competition.

Dr. Dennis Hanisak, Harbor Branch’s Director of Education and coordinator of this event, calls the Florida Manatee “an opportunity for Florida’s high school students to showcase their interest and understanding of one of greatest resources, our oceans.” He adds that “I believe the Ocean Science Bowl will be both a challenging and a fun event, not only for the students, but for their teachers, and the scientists and volunteers who will be hosting, organizing, and volunteering at this bowl.”

If you have questions about the nature of the competition itself, or if you wish to obtain resource guides, practice questions, etc., please go to the NOSB website at <http://www.nosb.org>. If you have questions specific to the Florida regional competition, contact [education@hboi.edu](mailto:education@hboi.edu).

**Confirmed High Schools attending the Manatee Bowl in Fort Pierce, Florida**

Bayside High School

Eau Gallie High School

G. Holmes Braddock Senior High

Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High School ( 2 teams)

Lake Worth Community High School

MAST Academy (2 teams)

Miami Beach Senior High School

Miami Palmetto Senior High School (2 teams)

Palm Bay High School (2 teams)

South Broward Marine Magnet (2 teams)

St. Lucie West Centennial High School (2 teams)

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Westwood Marine & Oceanographic Academy