



NOAA

**NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION**
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DC High School Team Places in the Top Three at Regional Ocean Science Competition
NOAA works with schools to coach students in marine science

The clock was ticking as a Wilson High School team from Washington, D.C., the Tigersharks, pondered a question in a marine science competition last Saturday, Feb. 5, 2011: What is the name of the pendulum designed to demonstrate the rotation of the Earth?

In the nick of time, team member Isabel Bush recalled the name of the device, the Foucault pendulum. Her correct answer helped lead the Tigersharks to a third-place finish in the Chesapeake Bay Bowl, a competition that challenges high school teams from the mid-Atlantic region about their knowledge of marine science.

This is the fourth consecutive year that teams from the District of Columbia Public Schools have participated in the bowl, thanks to a partnership between DCPS teachers and scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Service. It is the first time a D.C. public school placed among the top teams.

"This is great news," said Eric Schwaab, NOAA assistant administrator for NOAA's Fisheries Service. "Our nation and NOAA need young people who are excited about marine science and committed to learning. I congratulate all the students who competed in the bowl and their coaches at the schools and at NOAA."

Team members Isabel Bush, Caleb Eckenwiler, Sebastien Ortiz, Sunita Premisler, captain Reid Rumelt and their coach, Wilson High School teacher Dr. Anna Wilder received prizes including a free marine science field trip and SCUBA experience. The first and second place finishers at the bowl were: State College Area High School (Team A) of State College, Pa. and Thomas Jefferson School of Science and Technology (Team A) of Alexandria, Va., respectively. State College's team will go on to the national competition.

The partnership of NOAA and the DC public school called NEMO (NOAA Enrichment in Marine sciences and Oceanography) began in 2007 as an after school program designed to promote ocean literacy and help prepare students for the bowl through field trips, visits from scientists, and weekly academic preparation with teachers. Since the start of NEMO, eleven DC public school teams have participated in the Chesapeake Bay Bowl (including the first ever in 2008) and over 100 students and teachers have participated in one or more NEMO events. At Saturday's Chesapeake Bay Bowl, the DC public schools were also represented by a team from

School Without Walls and a second Wilson High School team composed entirely of freshmen. NEMO has contributed to increased student interest in pursuing careers and college studies in the ocean sciences. Hardy Middle School, School Without Walls, and Wilson High School currently participate in NEMO.

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