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Contact: Lillie Paquette  
MIT Sea Grant College Program  
Tel: 617-253-3461  
E-mail: [lillie\\_p@mit.edu](mailto:lillie_p@mit.edu)

## MIT SEA GRANT HOSTS THE 17TH ANNUAL BLUE LOBSTER BOWL, A REGIONAL COMPETITION OF THE NATIONAL OCEAN SCIENCES BOWL TO BE HELD AT MIT ON MARCH 1, 2014

CAMBRIDGE, MA - February 26, 2014 - [MIT Sea Grant College Program](#) is organizing and hosting the 17th annual Blue Lobster Bowl at MIT on March 1, 2014 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at [Kirsch Auditorium](#) (building 32, room 123). This year's tournament includes 120 students from 15 Massachusetts high schools and is free and open to the public and the media.

Teams of students will be split into four divisions and tested in classrooms across campus through quick-answer buzzer questions and thought-provoking group challenge questions. MIT Sea Grant's [Kathryn Shroyer](#), regional co-coordinator for the event, says this year's competition has been specially designed to provide more game play to all teams. "In the past many teams were eliminated from the competition by early afternoon," explained Shroyer, "so there wasn't enough incentive for all of them to stick around until the end and participate in other activities and the closing award ceremony." Shroyer has restructured this year's program as follows:

### Game Play

Each match pits two teams of four students against one another in an academic quiz bowl format. Competitors use a buzzer system to respond to rapid-fire multiple choice and short answer questions read by a Moderator. Additionally, teams work collectively to produce answers to complex "Team Challenge Questions."

### Tournament Format

During the first phase of the competition all 24 teams compete in a Round Robin Tournament, each team playing 5 matches. Following the Round Robin, the top 8 teams advance to a Single Elimination Tournament and the winner of the final round is the regional champion. The regional champion will represent Massachusetts at the National Ocean Science Bowl.

### McDowell Science Challenge

The remaining 16 teams who do not participate in the Single Elimination Tournament will compete in the McDowell Science Challenge for the McDowell Award for Excellence in Academic Collaboration. The McDowell Science Challenge is a new competition element added this year to assess and strengthen students' creative problem solving skills.

The competing schools include: Acton-Boxborough Regional High School, Brookline High School, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, Chelmsford High School, Community Academy of Science and Health, Fitchburg High School, Jeremiah E. Burke High School, Lexington High School, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, Marblehead High School, Newton North High School, Newton South High School, North Andover High School, North Reading High School, and Phillips Academy.

Working in partnership with [People Make a Difference](#) to recruit and train volunteers, MIT Sea Grant research scientists and partners will also be on hand throughout the day to offer information and guidance to students interested in marine science and ocean engineering careers. The winning team will go on to compete against other regional champions in the [17th Annual National Ocean Sciences Bowl Finals tournament at the University of Washington in May 2014](#).



Watch this video of last year's Blue Lobster Bowl at MIT

### **MORE ABOUT THE BLUE LOBSTER BOWL**

BLB question topics include marine biology, chemistry, geology, physics, navigation, geography, and related ocean history, literature, and public policy. In addition to the opportunity for the winning team to travel to the National Finals, teams vie for a variety of prizes, including money for study materials and educational trips. BLB participants are eligible to apply for ocean science summer internships at the MIT Sea Grant College Program. The BLB is part of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB), which is a program of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership based in Washington, D.C. 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, to be stewards of the ocean. Many past NOSB participants have moved on to pursue college degrees and careers in ocean science. For more information, visit [www.nosb.org](http://www.nosb.org).

### **ABOUT MIT SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM**

The mission of the MIT Sea Grant College Program is to employ innovative research, education and outreach strategies to responsibly use and sustain the vital marine resources of Massachusetts. The issues manifested and addressed locally are global in nature, and are thus widely applicable. Compelling challenges demand our attention as a solo entity, and in partnership with other groups living and working on the coasts and

at sea. MIT Sea Grant brings the substantial intellectual abilities of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and our sister universities to bear on ocean-related challenges requiring an extraordinary technical contribution. In meeting these challenges, we expand human understanding of the ocean and establish the infrastructure to sustain the initiatives and talent pool needed to address complex issues of critical and fragile marine resources.

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MIT Sea Grant | 292 Main St. 3rd floor | MIT E38-300 | Cambridge | MA | 02142