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## **FAU Harbor Branch to Host 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Qualifier for National Ocean Sciences Bowl**

**FORT PIERCE, Fla. (February 15, 2017)** – Teams of local high school students will gather on Friday, Feb. 17 and Saturday, Feb. 18 to compete in the Florida Manatee Bowl at FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI), 5600 U.S. 1 North, in Fort Pierce.

The annual regional competition tests teams through quick-answer buzzer questions, and the winners earn a spot in the National Ocean Science Bowl (NOSB). HBOI has co-hosted the event with the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences for 20 years, with the event location alternating each year between Fort Pierce and Miami.

“Now in its 20th year, the Florida Manatee Bowl opens up the world of environmental and earth sciences to high school students,” said Dennis Hanisak, Ph.D., FAU Harbor Branch director of education and event coordinator. “By exposing students to ocean science early on, they are better prepared to become knowledgeable citizens and future leaders. Although challenging, I know the Ocean Science Bowl will be a fun way for students, teachers, scientists and volunteers to come together and put ocean science into a real world context.”

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. St. Lucie County schools that will participate in the event include Westwood's Marine & Oceanographic Academy and Fort Pierce Central High School.

For more information, contact Carin Campbell Smith at 772-242-2230 or [carinsmith@fau.edu](mailto:carinsmith@fau.edu).

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**About Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute:**

*Founded in 1971, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University is a research community of marine scientists, engineers, educators and other professionals focused on Ocean Science for a Better World. The institute drives innovation in ocean engineering, at-sea operations, drug discovery and biotechnology from the*

*oceans, coastal ecology and conservation, marine mammal research and conservation, aquaculture, ocean observing systems and marine education. For more information, visit [www.fau.edu/hboi](http://www.fau.edu/hboi).*

**About Florida Atlantic University:**

*Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University, with an annual economic impact of \$6.3 billion, serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students at sites throughout its six-county service region in southeast Florida. FAU's world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the Graduate College, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. FAU is ranked as a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The University is placing special focus on the rapid development of three signature themes – marine and coastal issues, biotechnology and contemporary societal challenges – which provide opportunities for faculty and students to build upon FAU's existing strengths in research and scholarship. For more information, visit [www.fau.edu](http://www.fau.edu).*