High school students train for ocean science quiz bowl


Eight Petersburg High School students have been spending Thursday afternoons since last September learning about polar ice caps, mid-ocean ridges, effects of fresh water runoff on estuaries and the biology of sponges. They are in training for the Tsunami Bowl, a statewide competition held in Seward in February each year.

These students received a nice boost in their fundraising efforts this week when Marine Conservation Alliance board member Kris Norosz gave them a check from the organization for $500 to help defray their travel expenses. “MCA is delighted to be able to support young people in this kind of educational endeavor. It is important for students in Petersburg, in particular, to learn about ocean science, since so much of our lives in this community revolves around the ocean,” said Norosz. MCA has also donated to Tsunami Bowl teams in other parts of the state.

In advance of the actual competition in Seward, teams from directly pertinent to life in their town. Their paper looked at the impact of increased freshwater inputs from melting glaciers and ice fields on Southeast Alaska waters.

“I think the students got more out of the research because it pertained directly to the waters they and their families fish in,” said co-coach and biology teacher Joni Johnson. “I think they’ll be asked some tough questions at their presentation,” said co-coach and Marine Advisory Program agent Sunny Rice, “but I think the judges will also be impressed at the initiative the students took.”

Following a formal presentation of their research paper at the Seward Sea Life Center, Tsunami Bowl teams compete in a round-robin quiz bowl with all other teams. Last year, Petersburg team took 7th place, the highest place for a first-year team. This year, they hope to challenge long-time champions from Juneau-Douglas High School for the grand prize, a trip to the National Ocean Science
led $5.3 million for value for the 2009ed $77 million for ever than the 2008 ion higher for black Troie Zuniga at "This year’s aver-13 per pound and izes to averages 3," she added.
at to 2,184 Alaska from 2,302 in 2008 yments.

Sea crab fisheries, $212 million, a $10 previous year. Just 22 sent bills for man- o cover projected rest, NMFS has entage will be zero crab fishing year,”

gubernatorial can- lendars for April 15 e for the famous which is broadcast The popular event Kodiak Chamber of ry governor elected d in the “goober

annual Symphony competition will be e and winners will on February 19 in divided into three vice and smoked it entries is January e Alaska Fisheries www.afdf.org.

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In advance of the actual competition in Seward, teams from around the state submit 20-page research papers in early December. This year’s topic was “the effect of shrinking polar ice caps on your community.” Petersburg’s team revised the topic a bit to make it more

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Rules of the road
US Coast Guard

QUESTION & ANSWER

QUESTION:
If more than one raft is manned after the vessel has sunk, you should--:
A. go in a different direction in search of land
B. spread out to increase the possibility of a search aircraft finding you
C. reduce the number of rafts by getting as many people as possible into as few rafts as possible
D. tie the rafts together and try to stay in a single group

ANSWER:

Source: U.S. Coast Guard