Hutchison comes in seventh in Tsunami Bowl

Hutchison High School’s “Hammerheads” team participated in the Alaska Tsunami Bowl, a regional competition of the National Ocean Science Bowl. The team took seventh place out of 25 teams gathered in Seward for the February event.

Team members are: Jared Canright and Sara Schlumbohm, seniors, Bri Whiteside, junior, Lina Henrichs, sophomore, and Phelan Green, freshman.

This year’s focus was “Estuarine Systems and the Importance of Freshwater in Marine Science.”

The Hammerheads investigated the importance of sheefish and the health of the Kobuk-Selawik River Estuary.

Sheefish, or “inconnu” are critical to the Kobuk area Alaska Natives as a subsistence resource, but little is known about juvenile sheefish.

The team, coached by Megan McCarthy, Hutchison science teacher, and James Savereide, an Alaska Department of Fish and Game expert on sheefish, began researching the topic in September. The team collaboratively put together a 20-page proposal to gather the information and
developed a multi-year management plan to monitor the health of the estuarine system.

The report included a planned budget and implementation timeline. The team also developed a 20-minute PowerPoint presentation in which each member participated. Afterwards they answered questions from the audience of students, coaches, scientists, judges and the public.

The Hutchison team was the only Fairbanks school represented at the competition.

The Hammerheads were also honored as the "Most Improved Team" which includes a $1,000 award to McCarthy to purchase classroom materials and supplies.

More about Hutchison High School

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- IMAGE: Monroe boys overpower Eielson in basketball opener
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