Since 2003, the National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB), a program of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, has recognized and rewarded student achievement by providing scholarships to up to five students per year who plan to pursue degrees in ocean science or a related science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) field. With the help of dedicated and caring individuals, we were able to reward five talented young scholars in 2019 as they begin the next phase of their education and start working towards their future careers.

2019 Recipients:

**Clare Dana** competed at the Bay Scallop Bowl for three years with her team from Mount Sinai High School (NY). Given her ability to organize and motivate her fellow students, she was chosen by her team to serve as captain for two years. By focusing on her interests in ocean science, Clare has overcome personal challenges and learned how to persevere. It was clear from her recommendations and application reviewer comments that Clare has a charismatic and enthusiastic personality capable of engaging other students to be involved in school and community activities. Tackling ocean plastics is a priority for Clare, highlighted by her application essay on the topic and a 2017 Long Island Youth Conservation Summit grant awarded to her for her efforts in teaching elementary students about recycling, developing her own lessons and activities on the dangers of plastics in the ocean. At Stony Brook University, Clare plans to major in Marine Science with a minor in Film Making. Her goal is to better understand biological and physical processes in the ocean and then accurately communicate that information to the general public in an easily understandable way.

**Joseph Kaden** was a member of his Friday Harbor High School (WA) ocean bowl team for four years, leading his teammates his last two years. He was dedicated to his team, heading review sessions, mentoring new members, creating learning packets, and leading quiz sessions. He even once arranged a live demonstration on the proper use of a Secchi Disk during one team practice. Fearing his school’s marine science club might disband when he was the only returning member, he took it upon himself to recruit new members, igniting a spark in them about they should care about our ocean. Joseph is active in his local community as well, conducting surveys of the life found on the docks of the Port of Friday Harbor as a Marine Health Observatory Coordinator with Kwiáht, a nonprofit conservation biology laboratory in the San Juan Islands, and encouraging local boaters to slow their speed in an attempt to lessen the impact of underwater noise pollution on marine life. Joseph will major in Oceanography with a Marine Biology minor at the University of Washington.
Helen Laird has lived a unique life, mostly at sea, from a very young age. Homeschooled, she continually pushed herself academically. After moving to Alaska, she immersed herself in the local community, volunteering for the Prince William Sound Science Center and joining a local Cordova (AK) NOSB team to formally study the sea that surrounded her. She noted that the Tsunami Bowl’s team research project helped her gain skills in writing and working as a member of a group – something difficult to come by when homeschooled. Having seen marine pollution first hand in Antarctica when she was eight years old, she designed a project to study macro- and micro-plastic levels in the Aleutian Islands where she saw logs mixed with old fishing nets and buoys. She won a state-wide high school science competition for that research, as well as a stewardship award at the National Junior Water Prize competition. Helen, recently named a 2019 U.S. Presidential Scholar, will attend Dartmouth College where she plans to major in Biology and Environmental Science with the goal of protecting the marine environments she witnessed growing up on a 56-foot sailboat.

Magdalena Phillips participated in the Orca Bowl for two years with her Garfield High School (WA) team, where she was hooked on the excitement, relief, pride, and adrenaline of correctly answering the competition buzzer questions. Described as mature and altruistic, she contributed to learning opportunities both in her school and her local community. Magdalena volunteered at the Seattle Aquarium where she used her marine biology knowledge as a youth engagement minor with the aquarium’s Youth Ocean Advocate Program. Her curiosity and interest in opportunities to educate others led her to create her own anatomy themed activity for the aquarium guests. She also participated in beach restoration projects with the Youth Conservation Corps of the San Juan Islands. Reviewers were intrigued by her unique essay topic on the plight of cetaceans captured illegally by Russian companies with the intent to sell them to Russian or Chinese marine parks, including the potential impacts on the transient and resident Orca populations of the Okhotsk Sea. Magdalena will major in Biology (with a concentration in Marine Science) at Duke University in hopes of becoming a marine invertebrate researcher in the future.

Jeremy Schaffer, who attended Philomath High School (OR) was a founding member of the Oregon Coast Aquarium’s NOSB team, the Nerdi Nautili, and participated on the team for four years. It’s clear that he has a passion for the natural world and an interest in educating others about it, encouraging them to join him in stewardship activities. Jeremy is extremely active in his local community. He has volunteered at the Oregon Coast Aquarium, serving on the Sea Turtle Conservation Team, assisting with the creation of an awareness program to explain cold shocked sea turtles and how the public can help stranded animals. He helped launch a video news magazine with a video on the plight of the vaquita with the Oceanscape Network. He also volunteered with the Mary’s River Watershed Council, acting as a peer mentor to third grade students, and as a kindergarten assistant at a local school. Through his work with Brenton County Search and Rescue, he is now certified and can join an adult rescue group in OR, and he is a certified kayak instructor with the Oregon Boating Foundation. Jeremy is optimistic, even when faced with the daunting issue of ocean plastics, his essay topic, noting how it was kids who spearheaded a plastic bag ban in the city of Newport, OR. He will complete a dual major in Marine Studies and Education, with a minor in Oceanography, at Oregon State University.