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WHY ARE *JAWS* AUTHOR PETER BENCHLEY AND PHOTOGRAPHER DAVID DOUBILET VISITING THE NATIONAL AQUARIUM IN BALTIMORE?

Baltimore, Md. (August 21, 2003) – Peter Benchley, the best-selling author of *Jaws*, and David Doubilet, renowned underwater photographer, join forces with the National Aquarium in Baltimore to help protect sharks.

As part of the Aquarium's Marjorie Lynn Bank Lecture Series, Benchley and Doubilet will discuss the diminishing populations of sharks and other ocean predators on September 4, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are \$10 for Aquarium members, \$18 for the general public. To reserve a seat, call 410-727-FISH. Both speakers will sign autographs after the presentation; their books may be ordered during the reservation process.

Benchley, a Harvard graduate, served as a reporter for *The Washington Post*, editor at *Newsweek* and White House speech writer before writing *Jaws*. The fear-inspiring novel spent 40 weeks on the *New York Times* Best Seller list. Since *Jaws*, he has focused on shark conservation and dispelling the myths surrounding the great predators, which he discusses in his newest book, *Shark Trouble*.

Doubilet took up scuba diving and photography at age 12, using a Brownie Hawkeye in a rubber bag as his first underwater camera. Since then, he has shot more than 60 stories for *National Geographic*, published three books and won several prestigious awards.

Benchley and Doubilet have worked together on several topics such as the Galapagos Islands, Cuba and white sharks.

The National Aquarium in Baltimore, a non-profit organization and world-class aquatic institute, is Maryland's leading attraction, hosting more than 1.5 million visitors per year. Dedicated to education and conservation, our Aquarium's impact spans well beyond our walls. It serves the environment, students, visitors and communities through a variety of programs. For more information visit www.aqua.org.