

# PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA Marine National Monument

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT**  
Toni Parras, 808-282-9332  
[toni.parras@noaa.gov](mailto:toni.parras@noaa.gov)

## ***Lightning Strikes Twice: the Real Life Sequel to Moby Dick* screens at the Doris Duke Theatre**

On Saturday, March 22, 2014, the film *Lightning Strikes Twice* – an account of the discovery of the Nantucket whaleship *Two Brothers* in Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument – premiered at the Doris Duke Theatre in Honolulu. The vessel was captained by George Pollard, Jr., who earlier commanded the ill-fated *Essex*, which inspired the classic tale *Moby Dick*.

The *Two Brothers* ran aground on French Frigate Shoals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands in 1823 and remained hidden beneath the sea until its discovery in 2008. Over the next two and a half years, marine archaeologists from NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries worked to uncover clues as to its identity and ultimate fate.

This was the first discovery of the wreckage of a whaling ship from Nantucket, Massachusetts, the birthplace of America's whaling industry. The *Two Brothers* was part of a fleet of several hundred whaling ships that were part of America's economic and political expansion into the Pacific, transforming the region, including Hawai'i, both economically and culturally.

A 2008 NOAA-led expedition to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands to study marine life, remove floating marine debris and look for cultural resources resulted in the initial clues about the resting place of the *Two Brothers*. Maritime archaeologists first spotted a large anchor, followed by three try pots (cast iron pots for melting whale blubber to produce oil), another large anchor, hundreds of bricks, and the remains of the ship's rigging. Those artifacts conclusively indicated the wreckage was from a whaler dating to the early-19th-century. Subsequent expeditions in 2009 and 2010 resulted in researchers discovering more artifacts, including blubber hooks, five whaling harpoon tips, three whaling lances, four cast-iron cooking pots, and ceramics and glass indicating U.S. origin.

"It's amazing to me that we get closure to this journey of George Pollard and the *Essex* and we find that closure on that remote shoal somewhere off the Hawaiian archipelago," says Jeff Corwin, Producer and Presenter for ABC's *Ocean Mysteries*.

An exhibit with artifacts from the *Two Brothers* is on display at the Nantucket Whaling Museum in Massachusetts. For more information about the *Two Brothers*, visit <http://www.papahanaumokuakea.gov/maritime/twobrothers.html>.

*Papahānaumokuākea is cooperatively managed to ensure ecological integrity and achieve strong, long-term protection and perpetuation of Northwestern Hawaiian Island ecosystems, Native Hawaiian culture, and heritage resources for current and future generations. Three co-trustees - the Department of Commerce, Department of the Interior, and State of Hawai'i - joined by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, protect this special place. Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument was inscribed as the first mixed (natural and cultural) UNESCO World Heritage Site in the United States in July 2010. For more information, please visit [www.papahanaumokuakea.gov](http://www.papahanaumokuakea.gov).*

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