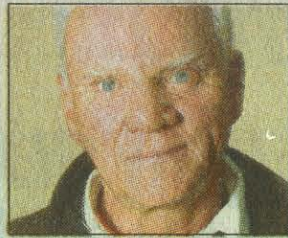


Friday/Saturday



Variable clouds,
a shower and
cooler **C8**



Lights, camera, action!

McDowell stars at PT Film Fest **PENINSULA SPOTLIGHT**

PENINSULA DAILY NEWS

50 cents

Port Angeles-Sequim-West End

September 15-16, 2006

Marine sanctuary

Port Angeles is home base to the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, which stretches along three-quarters of Washington's coastline and is one of 14 sites in the network of national marine sanctuaries.

(See PDN story today, Page A4).

Designated 12 years ago, the sanctuary, working with

tribal, federal, state and local governments has had a significant impact within the region, particularly in the areas of research and education.

For example, sanctuary staff used cutting-edge research and technology to map large, little-known portions of the sea floor off the Washington coast.

This research resulted in the identification of deep-water coral communities and other undersea habitats believed to be critical to the survival of rockfish and other bottom fish along the Washington coast.

This summer, sanctuary research focused on important human and ecological health trends such as recurrent plankton blooms that produce toxic algae.

Using sophisticated data-gathering buoys, scientists increased their understanding of hypoxia and its possible role in recent fish and crab kills.

An active partner in the

community, the sanctuary has helped promote tourism and education programs for visitors, helping support the region's economic base.

On the Port Angeles waterfront, the new Olympic Coast Discovery Center at 115 E. Railroad Ave. (second-floor of the The Landing mall) welcomes thousands of visitors annually.

Nationwide, sanctuaries are critical to the survival of marine habitats and the human communities that are linked with them.

They deserve the support of the communities they serve and need to be funded at appropriate levels.

Unfortunately, funding for these programs is in jeopardy in the U.S. Congress.

Congress is now determining funding for the program for fiscal year 2007.

I urge the community to let influential members of the Washington congressional dele-

gation know of the community's support for this vital program before it is too late.

Lori Arguelles,
Silver Spring, Md.

Arguelles is president and CEO of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (www.nmsfocean.org).