



# Orca Inquiry Researcher Profile

## Name

Gavin Hanke (he/him)

## Job Title

Curator of Vertebrate Zoology

## Years of Experience

19 years in museums,  
17 at the Royal BC Museum

## Greatest Scientific Accomplishment

Described 12 species of early fishes from a Lower Devonian fossil site from the Northwest Territories to try understand the origins of sharks and their relatives among early fishes

## Hobbies

Gardening, nature photography, video gaming, building finescale models, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, and I am a proud member of the 501<sup>st</sup> Legion

## Super Power

Making traffic lights turn red when I am driving.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



## My Role at the Royal BC Museum

I oversee the development of the fish, amphibian, reptile, bird and mammal collections, as well as doing outreach and learning programs, exhibit development, and publishing scientific research. My research focus is on marine fish biodiversity in BC, as well as invasive species introduction and spread.

## My typical day goes like this

My days vary and can include any of the following tasks:

- Proofing records on our collection database
- Receiving and preparing new specimens
- Helping develop exhibits for the public
- Tracking the range expansion of the Common Wall Lizard

## Other tasks

- I am the museum representative on the Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group (IMISWG)
- I have helped gut whales to recover the skeleton
- I have spent months at sea collecting fishes with the Coast Guard and DFO

## Inquiry Connection

In your opinion, what needs to be considered when creating a plan to manage orca habitat?

Wildlife management is more about people management. Orcas can look after themselves if we back away, reduce boat traffic, reduce commercial fishing, cut pollution drastically and restore habitat needed by salmon, and the species salmon feed on.

## How do you think we should manage orca habitat?