

Panel 13

ORCAS INSIDE AND OUT

While much work on orcas is done in the field, or in large public aquariums, laboratory studies are critical to understanding many features of orca biology. In a laboratory, you can study things like tooth structure and wear patterns, fossil history, variation in skeletal anatomy, stomach contents and feces, and genetics. You may even be able to examine the uptake of pollutants through time by comparing new samples to museum specimens decades old.