KIRILL IVANOV

WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENTAL FILMMAKER | UNDERWATER CINEMATOGRAPHER

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Ready for relocation and international travel

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Wildlife and environmental filmmaker, underwater cinematographer, director and editor with 20+ years of professional experience across documentary production, scientific fieldwork and expedition filmmaking. Has contributed to more than 30 documentary and popular-science films and worked with research teams, museums, conservation-related projects and international film crews, including productions associated with BBC, NHK, UNESCO, the Cousteau Society, ZED and NDR Naturfilm. Combines field experience and research-diving expertise with the ability to develop visual stories and carry projects through filming and post-production. Focused on applying this experience to conservation storytelling and scientific visual communication.

CORE EXPERTISE

Documentary storytelling: Developing stories about wildlife, ecosystems, scientific research and conservation work.

Field and underwater cinematography: Surface, underwater and 360°/VR filming; remote, cold-water, under-ice and cave environments.

End-to-end production: Planning, filming, directing and script development where supported by project roles, editing, colour grading, sound, graphics and final delivery.

Scientific collaboration: Visual documentation of research and fieldwork; coordination with scientists and expedition teams; attention to factual accuracy.

Post-production: DaVinci Resolve, Premiere Pro, Fairlight, Fusion, After Effects, Audition and Photoshop; subtitles, audio processing and AI-assisted workflows.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Independent Filmmaker / Professional Development

Independent | Oct 2024 – Present

- Independent filming and editing projects; continued development of documentary and scientific-visual-communication practice.
- Volunteer video work for Archipelagos Institute on Samos, Greece (Sep–Oct 2025), producing short videos about the institute’s activities.
- Volunteer filming of field expeditions and rock-art sites for Petroglyph Hunters; filmed and edited a public science lecture on petroglyphs.

Video Operator / Editor

Institute of Ecology and Hydrobiology, Almaty, Kazakhstan | Oct 2022 – Oct 2024

- Worked on four films about Caspian Sea ecology and environmental issues: three episodes of The Sea of Marine Garbage and Fishing Nets and Across the Caspian Shallows: The Call of the Seal.
- Responsible for filming, full editing, colour grading and music; the institute director directed the films. Existing institute archive footage was also used.

Video Designer

Baikal Museum, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Irkutsk, Russia | Jun 2020 – Sep 2022

- Created VR/360° video content for museum exhibitions, including Secrets of Baikal Depths: Mysteries of Biodiversity.
- Contributed to research on summer haul-out sites of Baikal seals by drone-filming current and potential sites and processing/interpreting footage to estimate potential capacity and possible animal numbers.

Expedition Videographer

North West Pacific | May 2019 – Sep 2019

- Documented expeditions monitoring Steller sea lions at breeding rookeries in the Sea of Okhotsk and Pacific region, including the Kuril, Commander and Yamskie Islands.

Director / Cinematographer / Editor

Federal Centre for Information Support, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia, Moscow | Apr 2009 – Apr 2019

- Filmed and edited science, nature and environmental documentaries about protected areas across Russia, working both above and below water.
- Contributed to multiple films across the production cycle; specific roles varied by project.

Research Diver / Underwater Cameraman / Editor

Limnological Institute, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Irkutsk | Jan 2003 – May 2008

- Worked on scientific expeditions and underwater video monitoring; filmed and documented submerged technical objects and research sites.

International Relations Assistant / Research Diver / Underwater Cameraman

Baikal Museum, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Irkutsk | Jan 1998 – Jan 2003

- Translated correspondence and interpreted for international teams; participated in scientific expeditions and underwater research, photography and filming.

INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTION COLLABORATIONS

Im Reich der Wolga (2019) — AltayFilm — underwater cinematographer; filmed the underwater world of the Volga. Some previously filmed footage was also licensed for the production.

La Vie Secrète des Lacs: Baïkal d’eau et de glace (2014) — ZED, France — underwater cinematographer.

Wild Russia (2008) — NDR Naturfilm, Germany — assistant underwater cameraman and interpreter for underwater cameraman Florian Graner.

The Planet Earth (2003) — BBC — fixer/interpreter for series producer Mark Brownlow and underwater cameraman Didier Noirot.

Baikal – World Heritage Site (1999) — UNESCO / NHK, Japan — assistant diver.

Wild Asia (1998) — NHTV NZ, New Zealand — assistant diver and interpreter for camera and underwater teams.

Baikal. Beneath the Mirror (1996–1997) — Cousteau Society, France — fixer and interpreter for the filming crew.

Summer at the Icy Lake (1996) — Canal Azul, Brazil — fixer and interpreter for the filming crew; underwater cameraman Lawrence Wahba.

SELECTED RELEVANT PROJECTS

The Last Day of Raikoke (2020) — Documentary; roles included directing, scriptwriting, filming and computer graphics. Festival recognition in 2020–2022.

Secrets of Baikal Depths: Mysteries of Biodiversity (2022) — Museum VR/360° project; underwater VR filming, editing and computer graphics.

Across the Caspian Shallows: The Call of the Seal (2024) — Caspian seal and marine environment film; filming, colour grading and graphics.

The Sea of Marine Garbage and Fishing Nets (2023–2024) — Three episodes on marine debris and fishing nets; filming, editing, colour grading, music and graphics.

FIELD EXPERIENCE & SUBJECT AREAS

Lake Baikal and Baikal seals; Sea of Okhotsk and Pacific coast; Kuril, Commander and Yamskie Islands; Caspian Sea and Caspian seals; Novaya Zemlya; Russian protected areas from the Caucasus and Caspian region to the Far East; marine and freshwater biodiversity; wildlife research, ecological monitoring and expedition work.

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Irkutsk Institute of Foreign Languages — Spanish Department, Faculty of Romance Languages; completed 1995. Qualification: translator of foreign languages (English and Spanish).

Diving qualifications: C.M.A.S. Three Star Diver (2004); TDI Basic Nitrox Diver (2004); IANTD EANx Instructor (2005); IANTD Nitrox Diver (2005). More than 2,000 dives, including cold-water, under-ice and cave diving.

Selected training: DaVinci Resolve and Fusion; Fairlight; Adobe After Effects and Audition; sound recording and processing for video; marine biology; conservation communication; GIS basics and QGIS.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Video: DaVinci Resolve, Adobe Premiere Pro. Colour / sound: Fairlight, Audition, Auphonic. Graphics: Fusion, After Effects, Photoshop. AI-assisted workflows: transcription, subtitles, audio enhancement, voice processing and music generation. Other: 360°/VR production, drone filming, visual-archive management.

LANGUAGES

Russian — native | English — B1 | Spanish — A2

PROFESSIONAL MISSION

To tell the stories behind conservation outcomes: the people, research, fieldwork and sustained effort that make wildlife and marine biodiversity conservation possible. To use documentary filmmaking and visual storytelling to make this work visible, understandable and meaningful to wider audiences.