

Vasiliy Baranyuk graduated from the Lomonosov University in Moscow, Russia in 1981 and went to Wrangel Island, Russia the same year. He lived in a small village of 200 to study arctic ecology. Its landscape is rich in polar bears, musk ox, Arctic fox, Arctic wolves, walrus, lemmings, snowy owls and snow geese. In 1988 he followed the snow geese to Washington to work with the State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife as part of an international effort to manage the population. There was a critical low number. From that time Vasiliy has been working with US and Canadian biologist to perform many different scientific projects including banding, satellite telemetry and satellite imagery of the snow geese colony on Wrangel Island, Russia. His nearly 40 years of research has looked at the impact of recent global warming on the Wrangel Island ecosystem and particularly the snow geese. For many years his research has been supported by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Stillaguamish Tribe, the Washington Brant Foundation, and the Washington Fish and Wildlife Department. He is a gifted photographer and has won national awards in Russia for his photography.