Inland and coastal colonies of Northern Fulmar *(Fulmarus glacialis)*

*on the **Faroe Islands**: attendance patterns and links to marine ecosystem variability*

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Life in the inland colony in the period 1996-2021

NOV - MAY

Birds were first observed at the inland colony in November and numbers gradually increased to a maximum in the following April. The ratio between number of fulmars counted in April and May is close to 2:1, reflecting:

- *The honey-moon of pairs of fulmars in April*
- *One of the partner has left in May*

JUN -AUG

In June and August both parents deliver food to the chick.

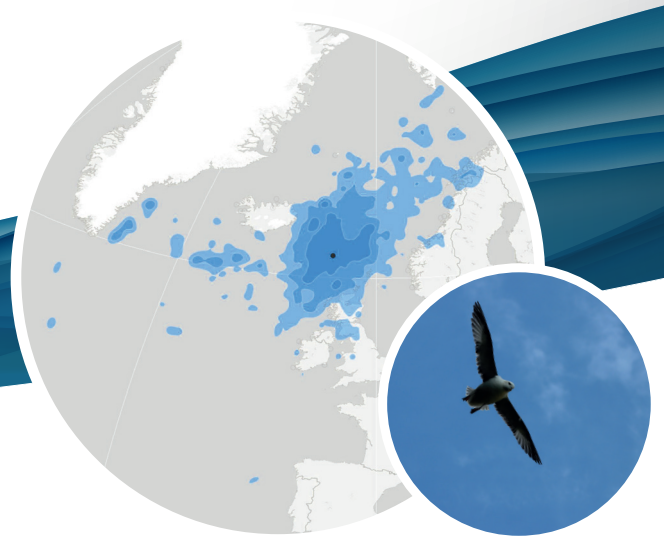
However, we do not present data on chick numbers per breeding pair as they are difficult to observe using binoculars.

SEP

All birds depart from the inland colony in September.

OCT

No birds were observed in October any year.



Mean Monthly Counts of Northern Fulmar *(Fulmarus glacialis L.)*

***Left:** Høvdin is a headland on the island Skúvoy.*
***Right:** Innari Tyril is a mountain peak on the island Eysturoy.*

CONCLUSION

Comparisons & Correlations

Comparisons between the **inland colony** and a **coastal colony** showed only a weak correlation (r=0,3) within the same month (June).

Chick productivity in the coastal colony (in August, 2003-2021) was correlated with the primary production (r=0,57) in the local marine environment.

CONCLUSION

Monthly counts of an inland fulmar colony, undertaken between 1996 and 2021, showed that the seasonal attendance began in November and reached a maximum in the following April.

Breeding took place from May to August, and birds departed in September (no birds were observed in October any year).

CONCLUSION

Nest site attendance in summer at the inland colony appeared to follow the annual variation in Modified East Icelandic Water that carries zooplankton, as well as the annual growth of ocean quahog *Arctica islandica*.

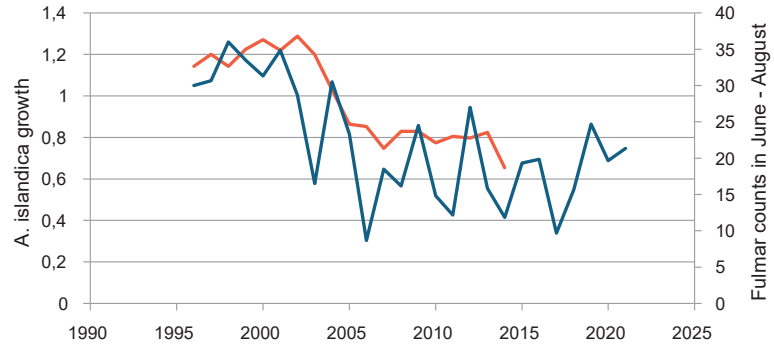


***Fig. 1:** Annual variation in the growth of Arctica islandica and the number of attending fulmars in June to August (1990-2021).*

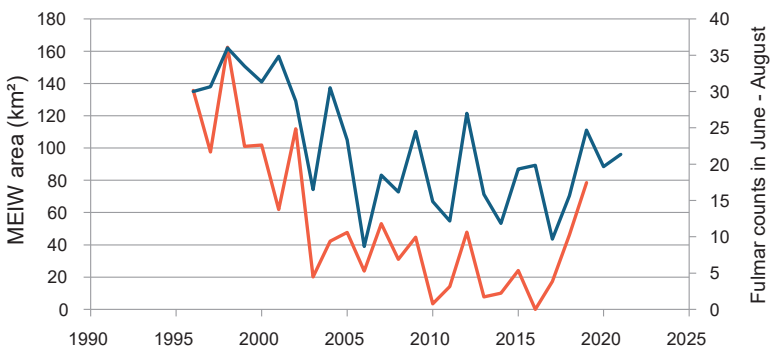


***Fig. 2:** Annual variation in Modified East Atlantic Water and number of attending fulmars in June to August (1990-2021).*