
Machias Seal Island

Feeding Behaviour Summary 1995 - 2025

Feeding watches and prey items brought to chicks



UNB's research program on MSI is directed toward the overall objective of understanding seabird responses to long-term changes in their marine ecosystem. This requires annual monitoring of the demographics (population size, productivity, and survival) and feeding behaviour (feeding rate and quantity of individual diet species delivered to chicks) of each species.

This document provides summary data related to our feeding behaviour data collection on MSI, including a summary of our feeding watches and the prey species delivered to chicks.

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----------|
| Feeding Watches | 3 |
| Atlantic Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>):..... | 3 |
| Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>): | 4 |
| Common Murre (<i>Uria aalge</i>): | 5 |
| Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>):..... | 6 |
| Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>):..... | 7 |
| Prey Species..... | 8 |
| Atlantic Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>):..... | 8 |
| Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>): | 9 |
| Common Murre (<i>Uria aalge</i>): | 10 |
| Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>):..... | 11 |
| Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>):..... | 12 |

Feeding Watches

Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*):

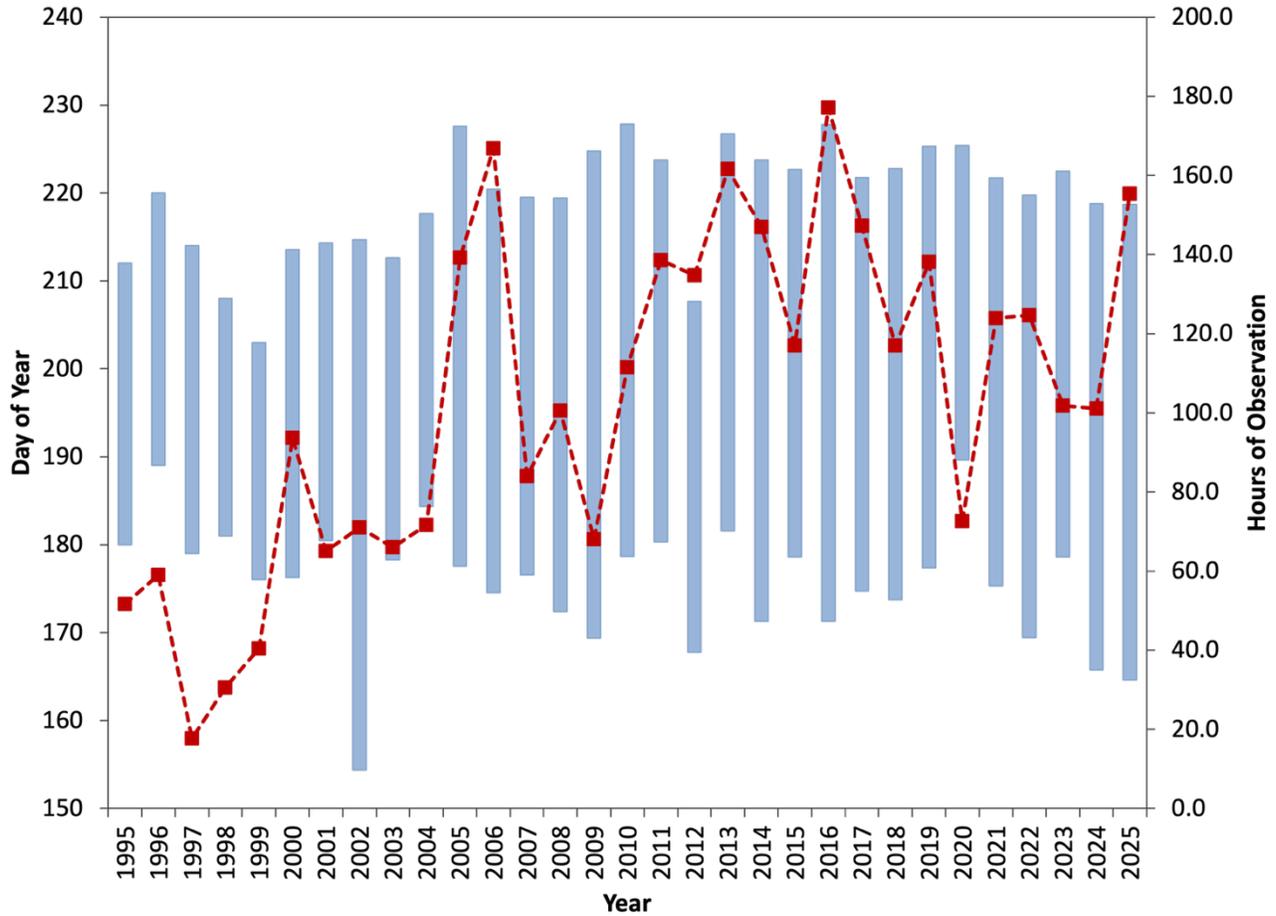


Figure 1. Comparison of **Atlantic Puffin** feeding watch start and end date (as Day of Year; blue bars) and total number of hours (red line) completed between 1995 - 2025 at Machias Seal Island.

Razorbill (*Alca torda*):

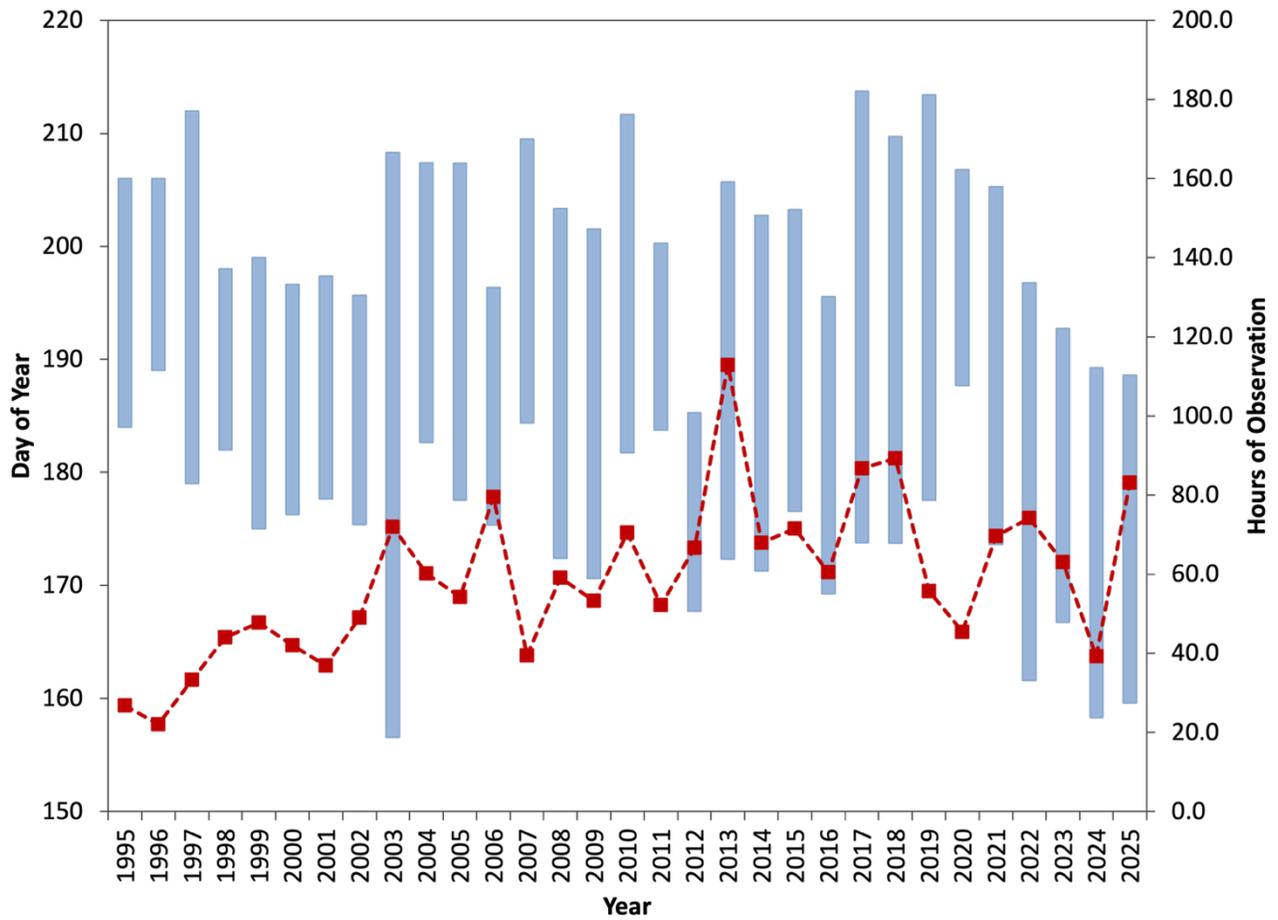


Figure 2. Comparison of **Razorbill** feeding watch start and end date (as Day of Year; blue bars) and total number of hours (red line) completed between 1995 - 2025 at Machias Seal Island.

Common Murre (*Uria aalge*):

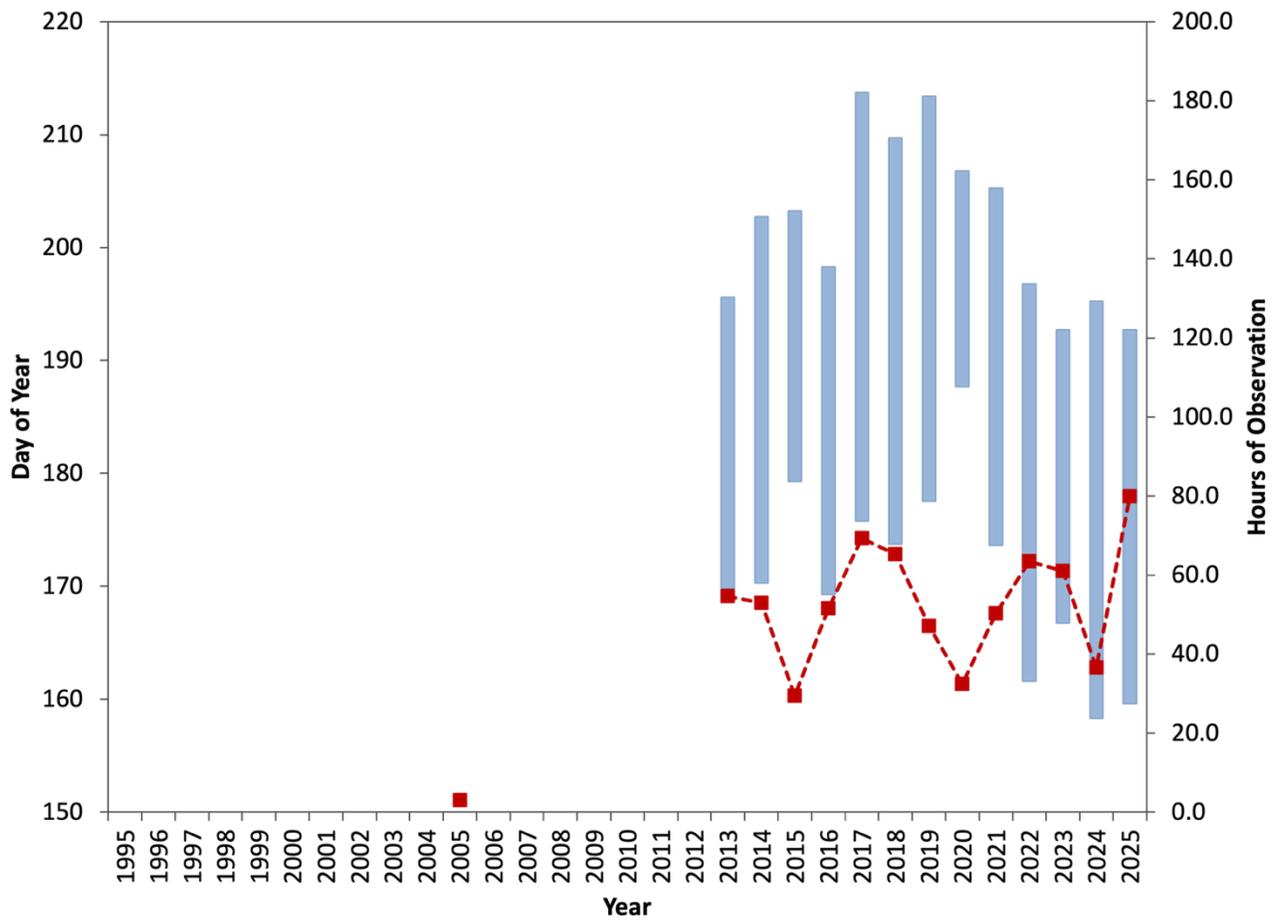


Figure 3. Comparison of **Common Murre** feeding watch start and end date (as Day of Year; blue bars) and total number of hours (red line) completed between 1995 - 2025 at Machias Seal Island.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*):

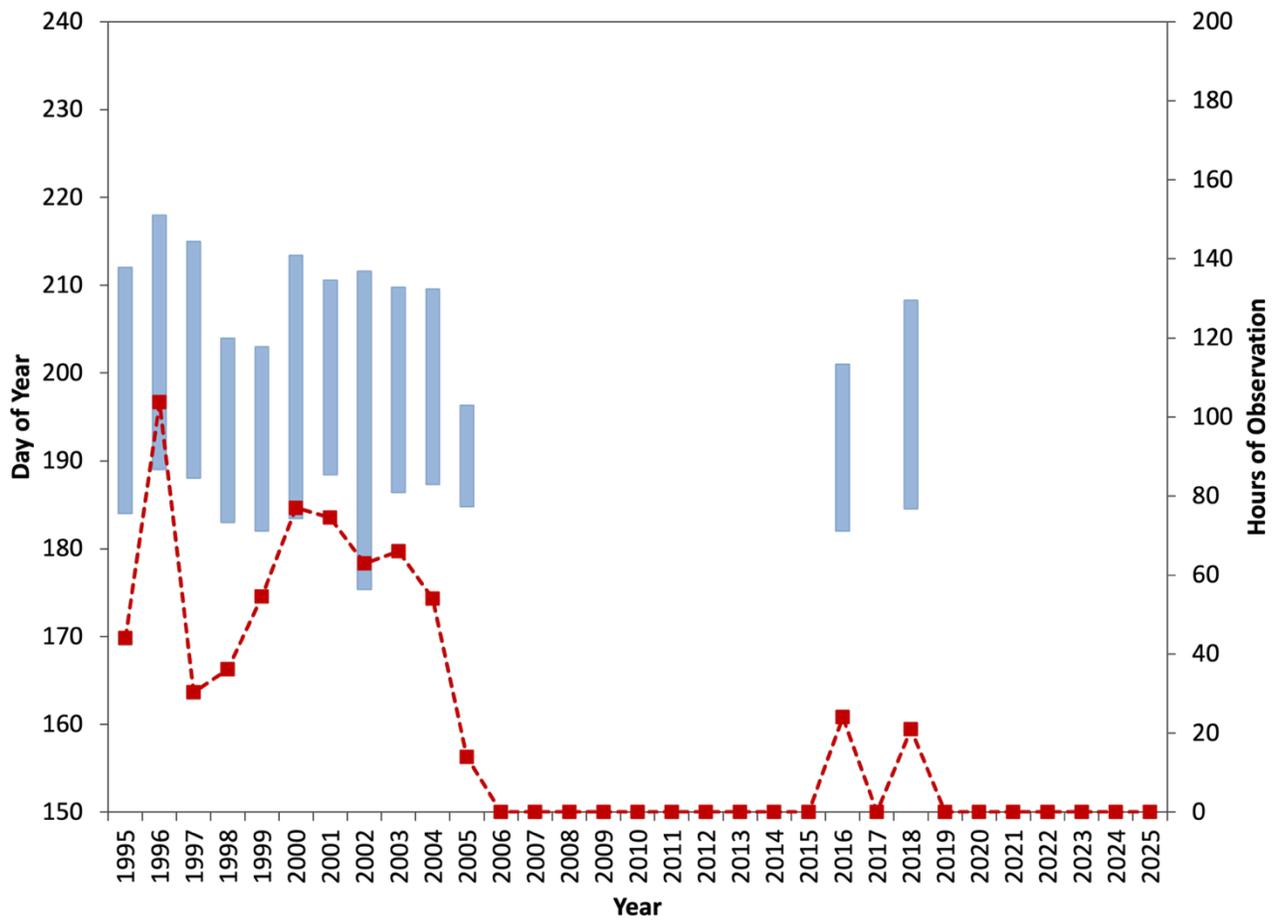


Figure 4. Comparison of **Common Tern** feeding watch start and end date (as Day of Year; blue bars) and total number of hours (red line) completed between 1995 - 2025 at Machias Seal Island.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*):

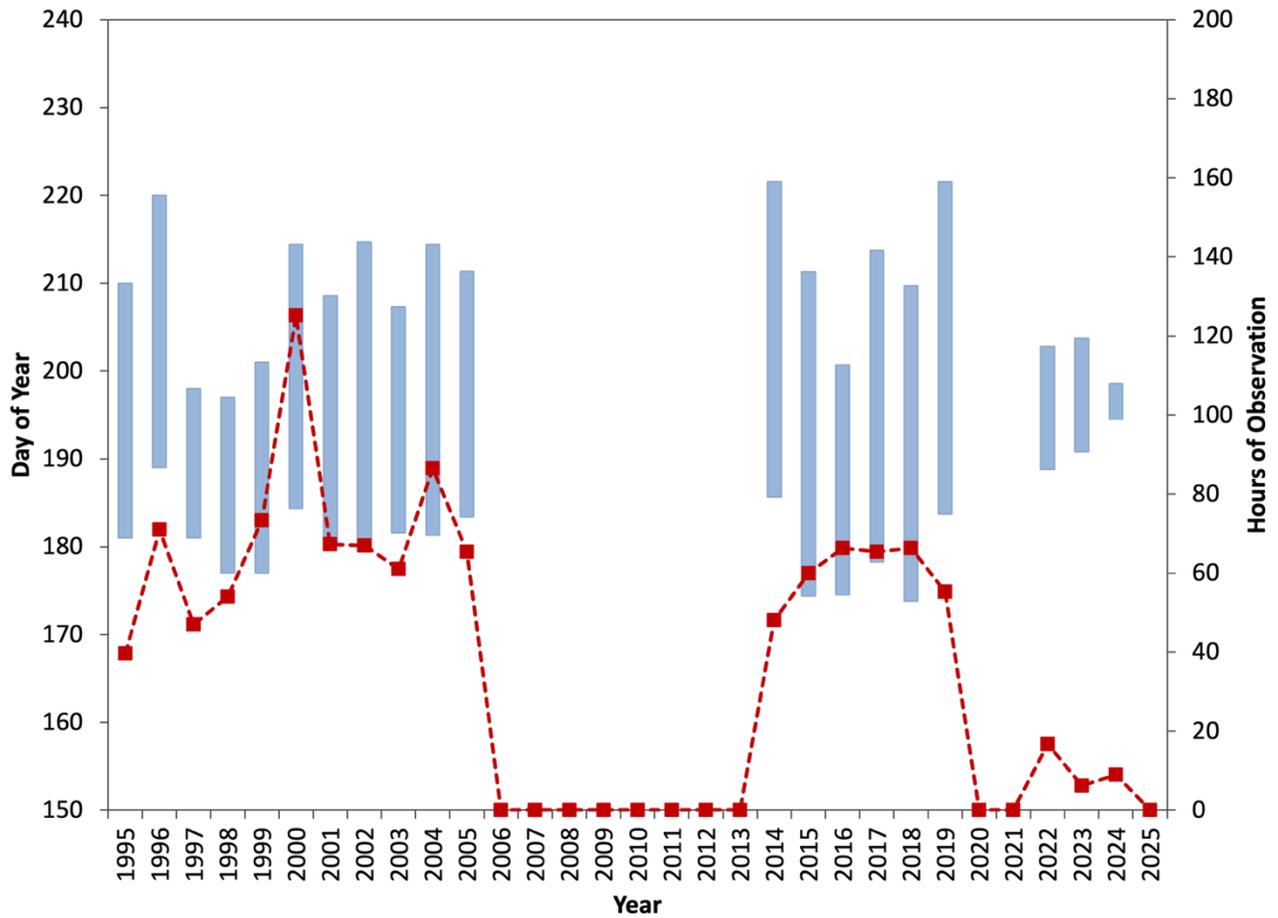


Figure 5. Comparison of Arctic Tern feeding watch start and end date (as Day of Year; blue bars) and total number of hours (red line) completed between 1995 - 2025 at Machias Seal Island.

Prey Species

Atlantic Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*):

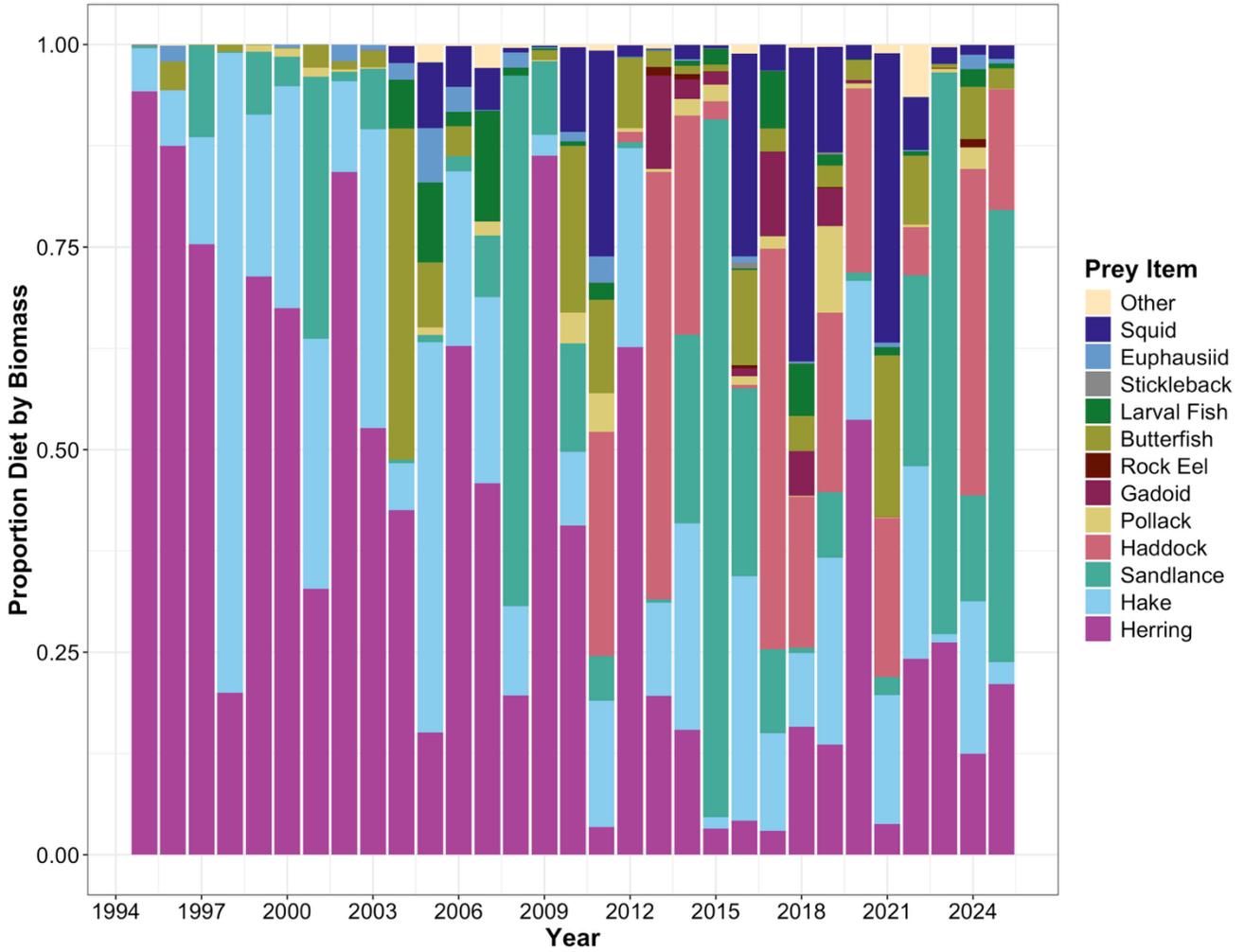


Figure 6. Summary of percent by biomass of prey items in the diet of Atlantic Puffin chicks between 1995 - 2025 at Machias Seal Island.

Razorbill (*Alca torda*):

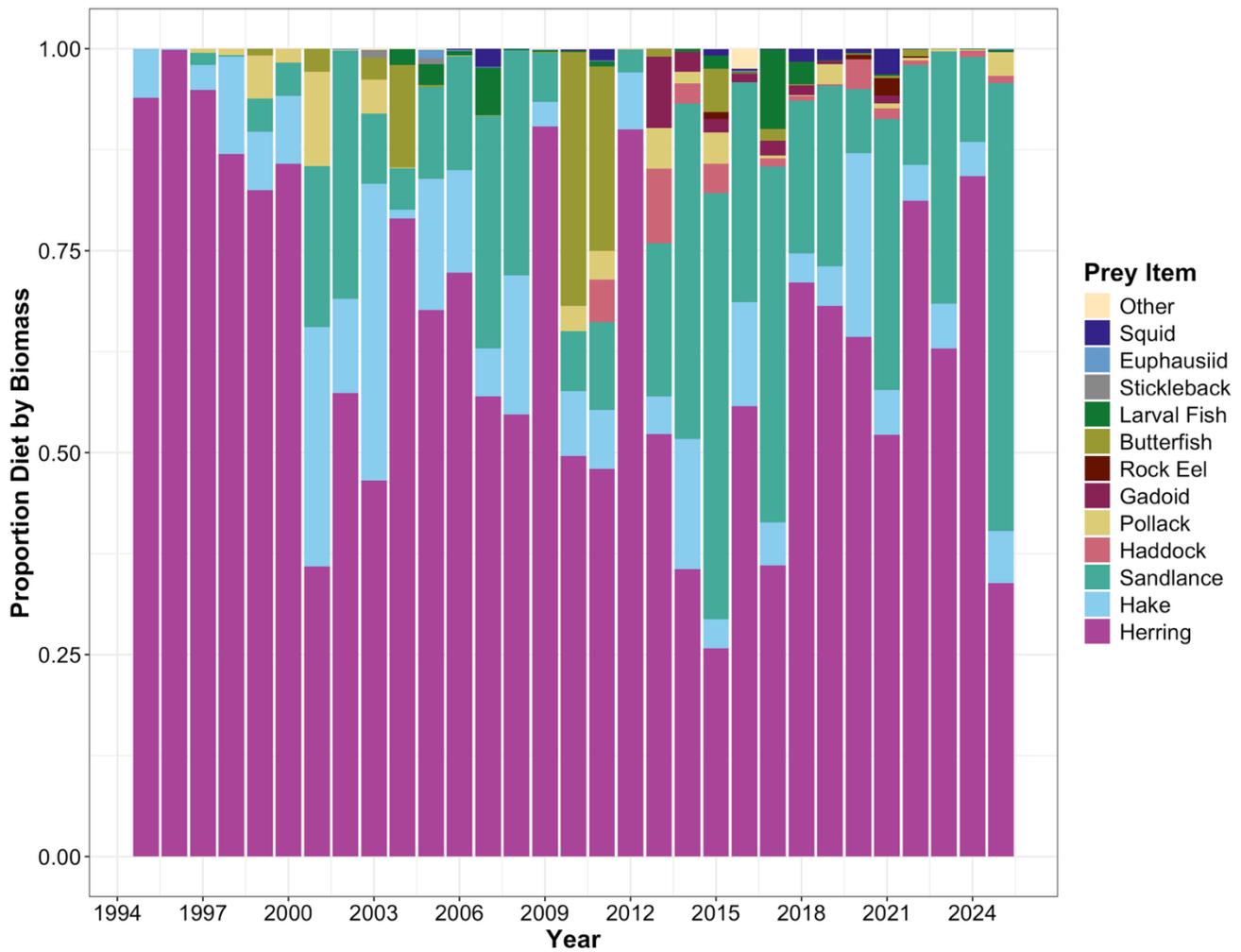


Figure 7. Summary of percent by biomass of prey items in the diet of **Razorbill** chicks between 1995 - 2025 at Machias Seal Island.

Common Murre (*Uria aalge*):

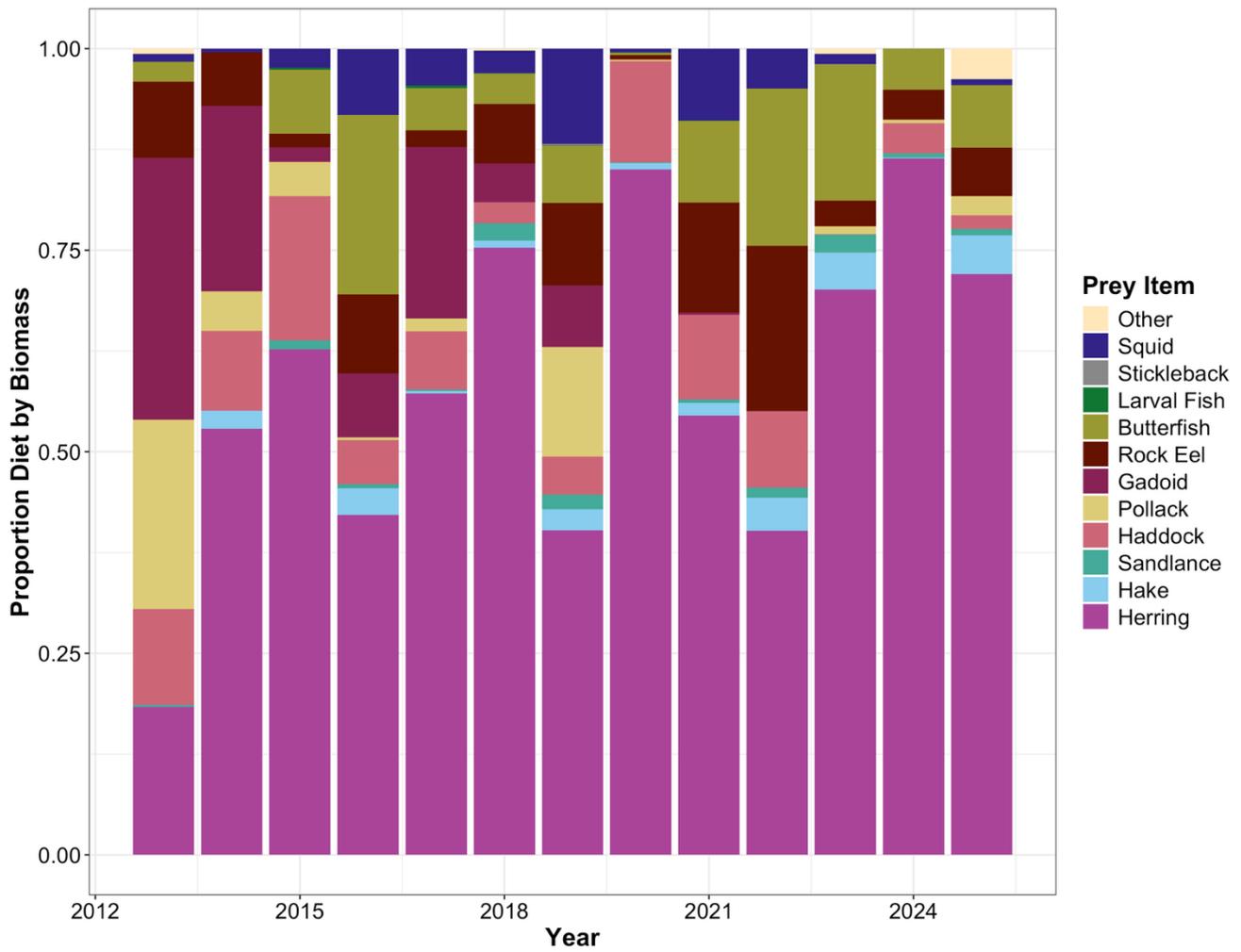


Figure 8. Summary of percent by number of prey items in the diet of **Common Murre** chicks between 2013 - 2025 at Machias Seal Island.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*):

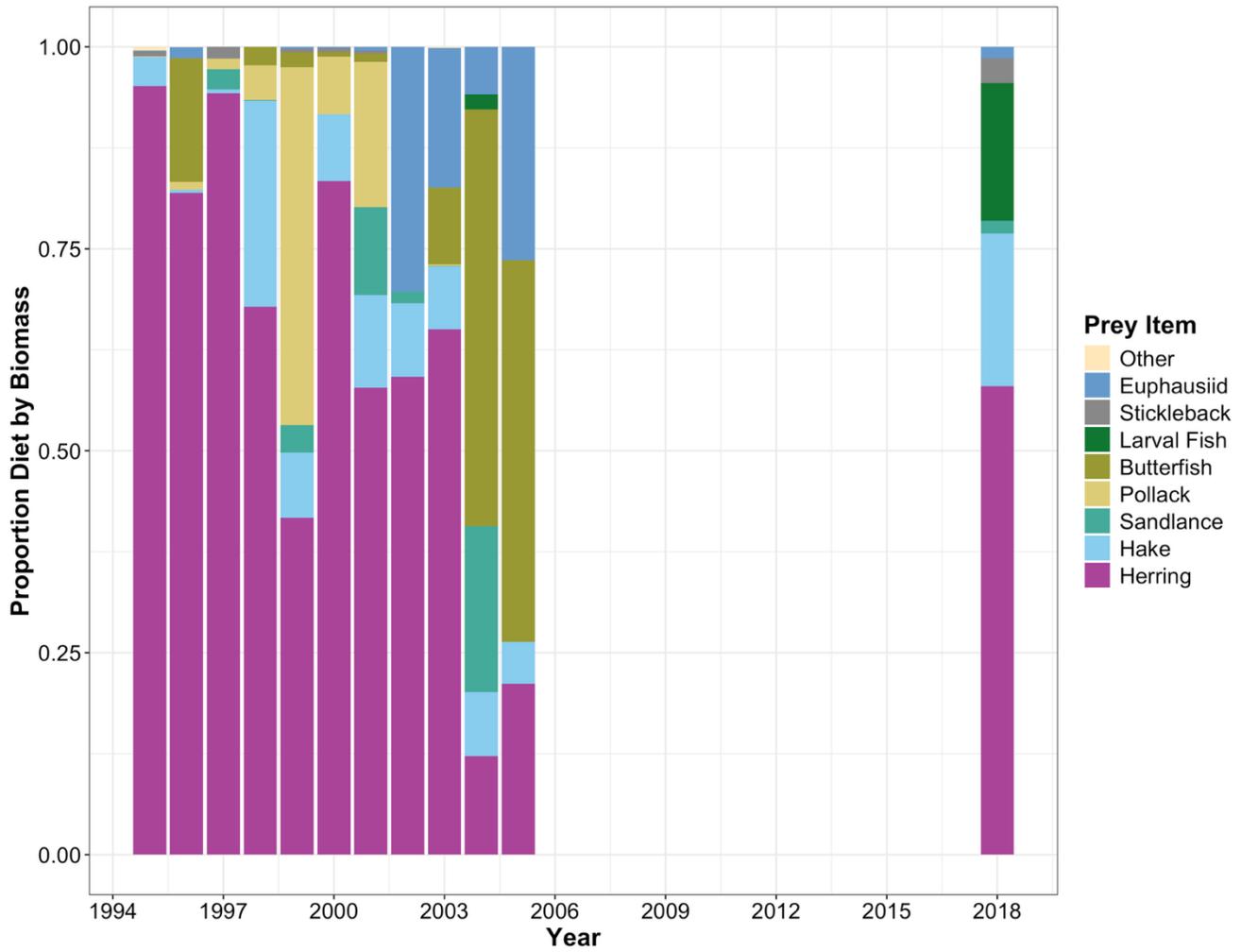


Figure 9. Summary of percent by number of prey items in the diet of **Common Tern** chicks between 1995 - 2025 at Machias Seal Island.

Note: no diet data between 2019 – 2025.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*):



Figure 10. Summary of percent by number of prey items in the diet of **Arctic Tern** chicks between 1995 - 2025 at Machias Seal Island.