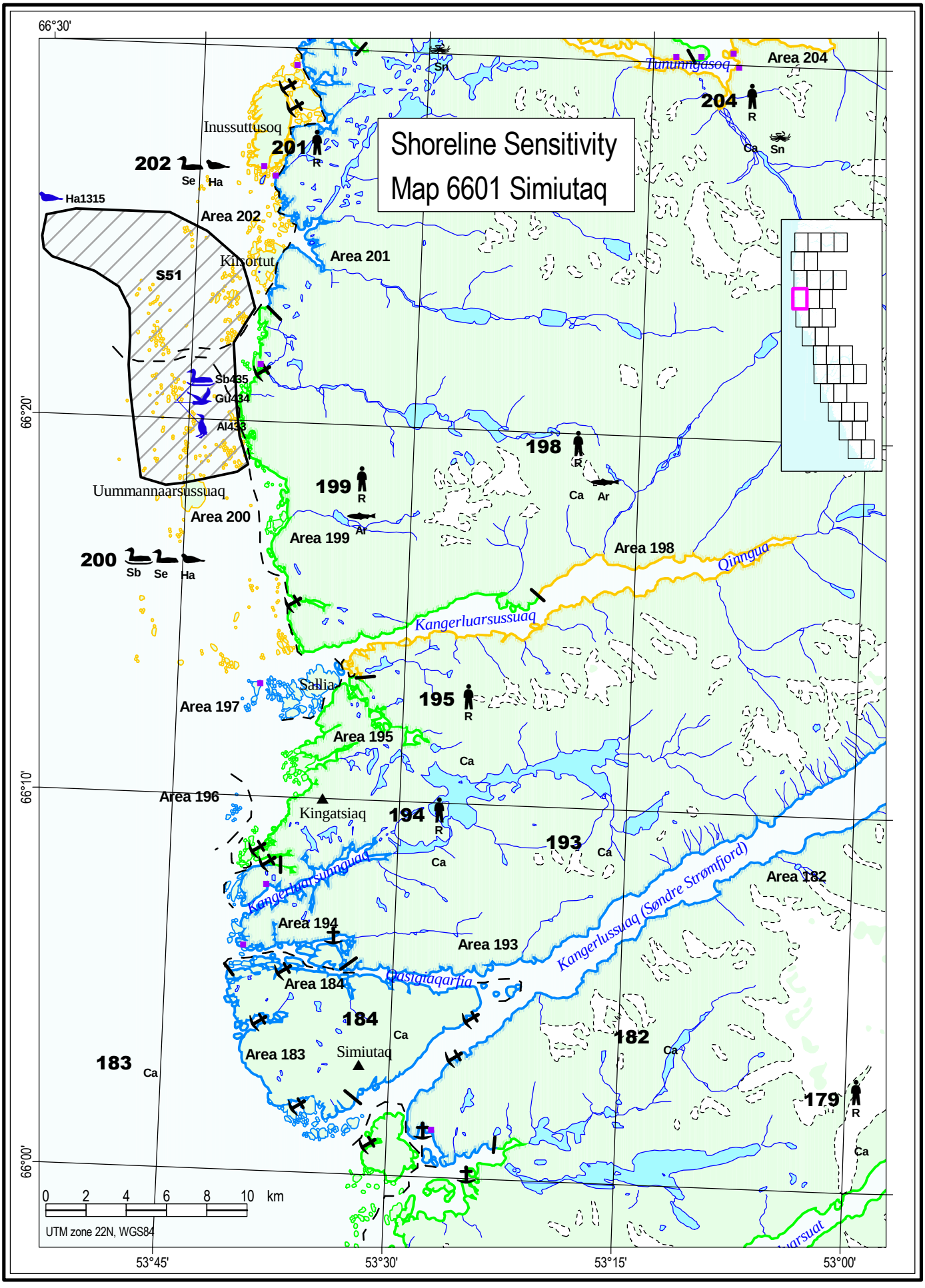


Shoreline sensitivity — Map 6601 - Simiutaq

Environmental Description

Resource use

R 179	Important coastal fishing areas for capelin, pound net fishing area for cod, occasional hunting.
R 194	One river outlet with important fishery for Arctic char, coastal fishing areas for Arctic char, capelin and lumpsucker, occasional hunting.
R 195	One important fishing site for Arctic char, coastal fishing areas for capelin and lumpsucker (important), occasional hunting.
R 198	Three river outlets with important fishing for Arctic char, coastal fishing area for capelin, fishing area for scallop, important hunting area for seals.
R 199	Two river outlets with important fishery for Arctic char, coastal fishery for capelin, areas with fishery for halibut, important hunting area for seals and seabirds.
R 201	One river outlet with important fishery for Arctic char, coastline with important fishery for lumpsucker, occasional hunting.
R 204	Coastal fishing areas for capelin (one important) and for lumpsucker (important), fishing areas for salmon, halibut, redfish and snow crab, important area for hunting (mainly seals).

Species occurrence

Ar198	Three river outlets with important Arctic char fishery.
Ar199	Two river outlets with important Arctic char fishery.
Ca179	Important capelin fishery along all coasts.
Ca182, Ca183	Capelin fishery along all coasts.
Ca184, Ca193	Capelin fishery along all coasts.
Ca194, Ca195	Capelin fishery along all coasts.
Ca198	Capelin fishery along all coasts.
Ca204	Important capelin fishery very locally in Tunungassoq, small capelin fishery along coasts.
Ha200, Ha202	Important summer and winter area (**S51**).
Se200	Mainly common eiders, most numerous during summer.
Se202	Mainly common eiders, most numerous during summer (**S51**).
Sb200	Breeding colony with common eiders and red-breasted mergansers.
Sn204	Moderate snow crab fishery off the coast.

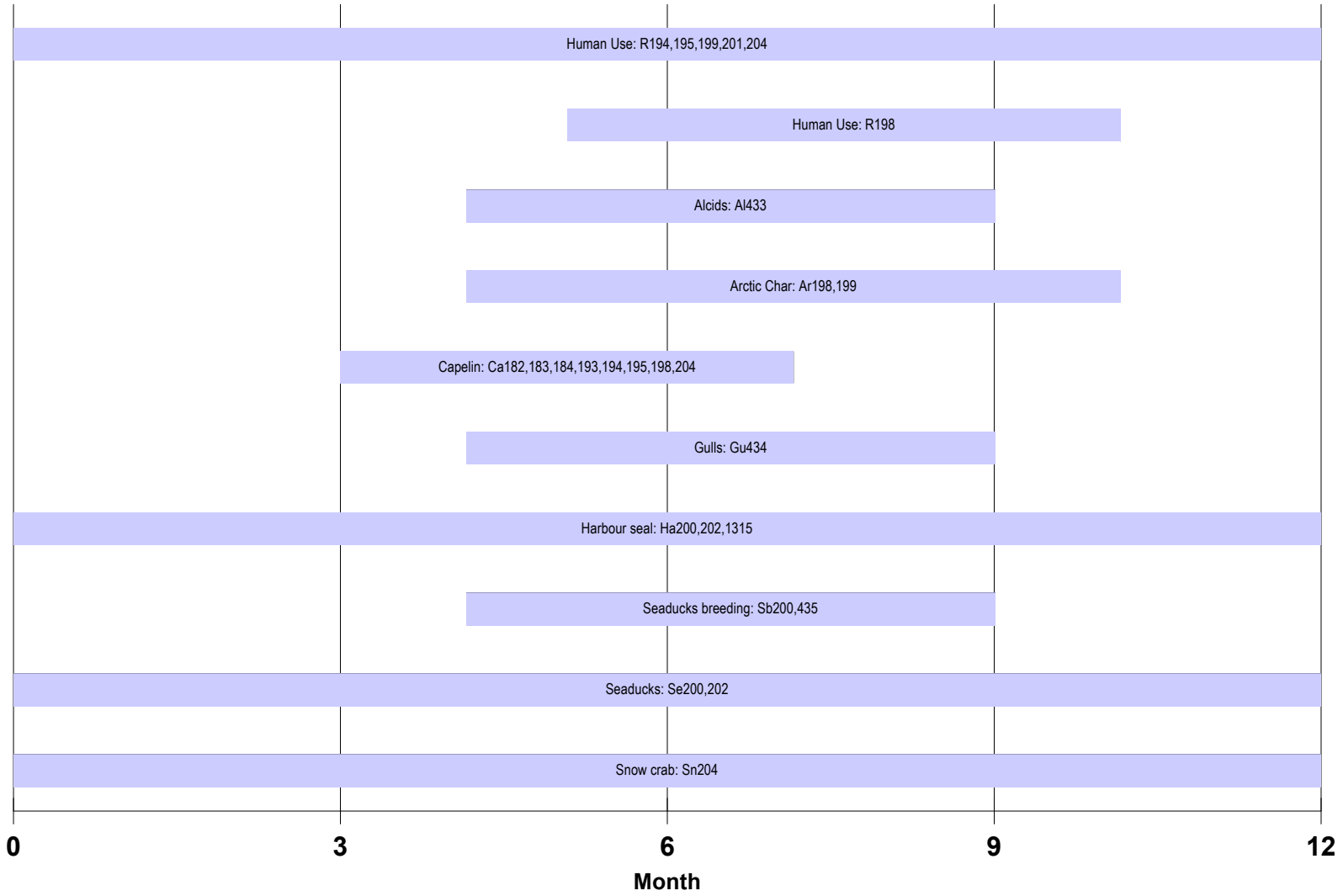
Site specific species occurrence indicated with blue icons on map (seabird breeding colonies and harbour seal sites)

Al433	Black guillemots (**S51**).
Gu434	Great black-backed gulls and Arctic terns (**S51**).
Ha1315	Important summer and winter site for harbour seal (**S51**).
Sb435	Common eiders and red-breasted mergansers (**S51**).

Shoreline sensitivity summary

Area	Sensitivity value	Ranking
179	27	Moderate
182	19	Low
183	16	Low
184	18	Low
193	14	Low
194	22	Low
195	25	Moderate
196	6	Low
197	15	Low
198	34	High
199	23	Moderate
200	42	High
201	17	Low
202	41	High
204	39	High

Map 6601 Species and Resource Occurrences



Physical Environment and Logistics MAP 6601 - Simiutaq

Countermeasures

In ice concentrations down to six tenths, *in situ* burning of oil in conjunction with tracking oiled ice is recommended. In open water conditions in offshore and nearshore areas, containment for recovery or burning is recommended. Dispersant application to protect waterfowl should be considered in the offshore and nearshore waters but is cautioned against in the shallow nearshore waters northwest of the entrance to Kangerlussuaq.

Although no current information is available for the many inlets and fjords on this map, the tidal range (3 to 4 m), the geometry of the inlets, and the high reported tidal velocities in a few fjords, suggest that exclusion booming (applicable in currents up to 0.4 m/s to 0.75 knots) of these features would not likely be successful, and is thus not recommended. If local knowledge suggests areas where tidal velocities are less than a knot, exclusion booming could be attempted across fjords or inlets that are up to a kilometre or less in width. Alternatively, diversion booming could be attempted to protect sensitive areas, but even this will not likely succeed in currents exceeding 1.5 m/s (3 knots), due to the excessive lengths of boom and the number of intermediate anchors required to maintain the required angle of the boom to the current. The requirement to constantly change boom angle with changing tidal stream direction would further complicate diversion booming operations.

Offshore countermeasures represent the only practical method of protecting most shoreline, including the selected area (**S51**) shown on the map.

Deploying 1000 m of boom across the entrance to Kangerluarsussuaq could protect the extensive backshore area, given low enough currents. Similarly, 1000 m of boom deployed across the entrances to Kangerluarsunnguaq and Qasigiaqarfia could protect their backshore areas, in low currents.

Shorelines shown on this map are entirely exposed rock which may not require active cleaning efforts unless heavily contaminated with heavy oils.

Physical Environment and Logistics MAP 6601 - Simiutaq

Access

The nearshore waters in this area are largely uncharted and caution should be exercised. In general, the waters offshore, nearshore, and within the fjords are deep, however, uncharted dangers may exist due to shoaling and islets.

Ice from Baffin Bay affects the coast south to 66° N, which it reaches in February. First-year ice forms in fjords and sheltered waters, however, tidal stream and stormy weather often break up the ice or prevent its formation except at the inner ends of fjords.

The prevailing current is ½ knot, setting to the NW in waters along the coast.

In Kangerlussuaq (Søndre Strømfjord), except near the entrance and above Angujaartorfik (67 miles in, Map 6653) there are no reported anchorages although it is possible to anchor within the first 50 miles close to shore in glacial mud and gravel.

Strong tidal streams are reported across the approach to the fjord, up to 7 knots setting to northeast on the flood and southwest on the ebb. The maximum rate decreases to 3 knots some 20 miles in. From 30 miles in, the fjord freezes over completely and is regarded as unnavigable from early January to the end of June.

Anchorage can be made 1/4 mile west of Cruncher Island, in an inlet between Simiutaq and the offlying islets, in depths of 42 to 46 m.

On the south side of Kangerlussuaq, at the end of the peninsula, anchorage is made in Fiskemesterens Havn, off the entrance to the cove at the northeast corner of the bay in a depth of 40 m. A strong tidal stream is present. Close south, anchorage can be made in Paa Havn in the southwest corner of the basin in depths of 40 to 60 m. There are numerous islets and below-water rocks in the middle and east part of the basin.

North of Kangerlussuaq, a good anchorage can be found in Kangerluarsunnguaq, depths not reported.

Farther north, anchorage can be made on the east side of Inussuttusoq in depths of 42 m. The south entrance of the channel is shallow and rocky and is not used. Water is available at a stream close south of the entrance.

An all-season, asphalt surface airport (799 x 30 m) is available at Sisimiut (Map 6651).

Safe havens

There are no safe havens on this map. The nearest is on Map 6551 to the south.

Maps

Geodetic map: 66 V.1 Holsteinsborg. Nautical chart: 1413, 1411, 1410.