

NPF Survey February 2023

Collection area:	Weipa, Karumba, Mornington (east, north and west), Vanderlins and Groote Eylandt (north and south), Gulf of Carpentaria
Dates of trawling:	9 February to 1 March 2023
Vessels chartered:	FV "Admiralty Pearl" and FV "Territory Pearl" (Raptis P/L)
CSIRO staff:	2 scientists per vessel
Fishing gear used:	Two by 12-fathom prawn trawl nets per vessel. Nets were fitted with TEDs but not BRDs

This survey was carried out as part of the AFMA/CSIRO-funded NPF research project: "An integrated monitoring program for the Northern Prawn Fishery 2021-2024".

The main aim of the survey is:

- to provide a recruitment index of the main commercial prawn species in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

The Raptis vessels FV "Admiralty Pearl" and FV "Territory Pearl" were chartered to trawl pre-determined sites covering fishing grounds from Weipa to north of Groote Eylandt. A total of 305 trawls were completed between 9th February and 1st March 2023. These trawls were particularly aimed at prawns and byproduct, and were situated on and inshore of the trawl grounds. All trawls were made at night and were about 30 minutes in duration. The catches were standardized to a catch per hour trawled.

Two schools of banana prawns were encountered during the survey.

In addition to project-targeted prawn and byproduct data being recorded, other information was collected for synergistic scientific projects. This includes:

- Data and photographs of TEPs (turtles, sawfish, seasnakes, syngnathids, hammerhead sharks) and at-risk species (porcupine ray and two mantis shrimp species) for species identification for NPFIs CMO program.
- Collection of five prawn species (tigers, endeavours, banana) for trace metal samples for a Curtin University study.
- Collection of sawfish tissue for the 'FRDC population estimates of narrow sawfish using close kin mark recapture methods' project.

CAUTION

The following figures show the catches of tiger, banana, endeavour and king prawns from each site sampled in the survey. Catches are presented as the number of prawns caught per hour trawled and, in separate figures, as the weight of prawns caught per hour.

There are also figures showing the size of prawns caught as count per pound. In these size figures, **the size and colour of each bubble refers only to the size of prawns and gives no indication of the actual catch at each site.** These figures need to be read with reference to the catch figures.

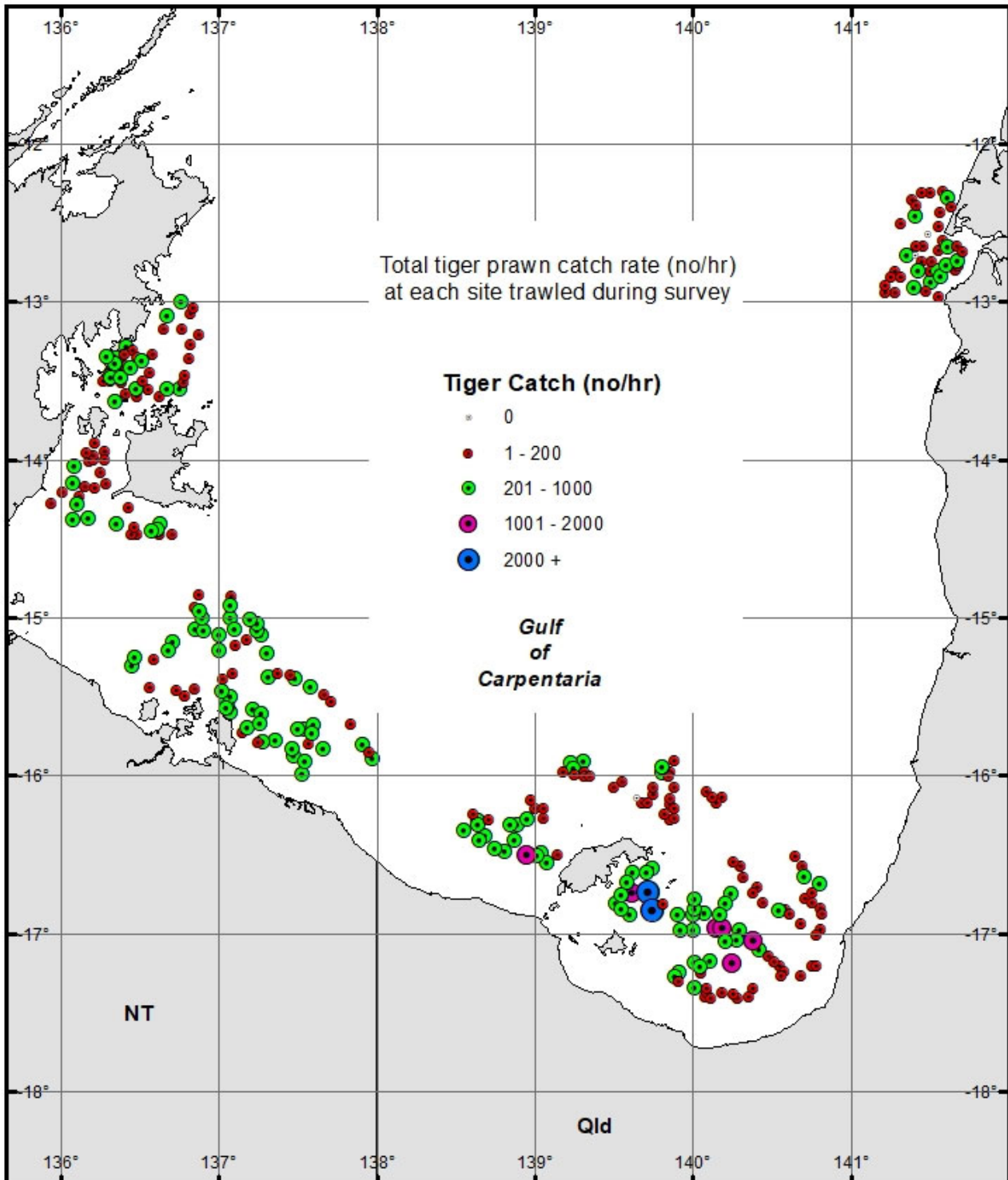
NB This is preliminary data only and further error checking is being conducted.



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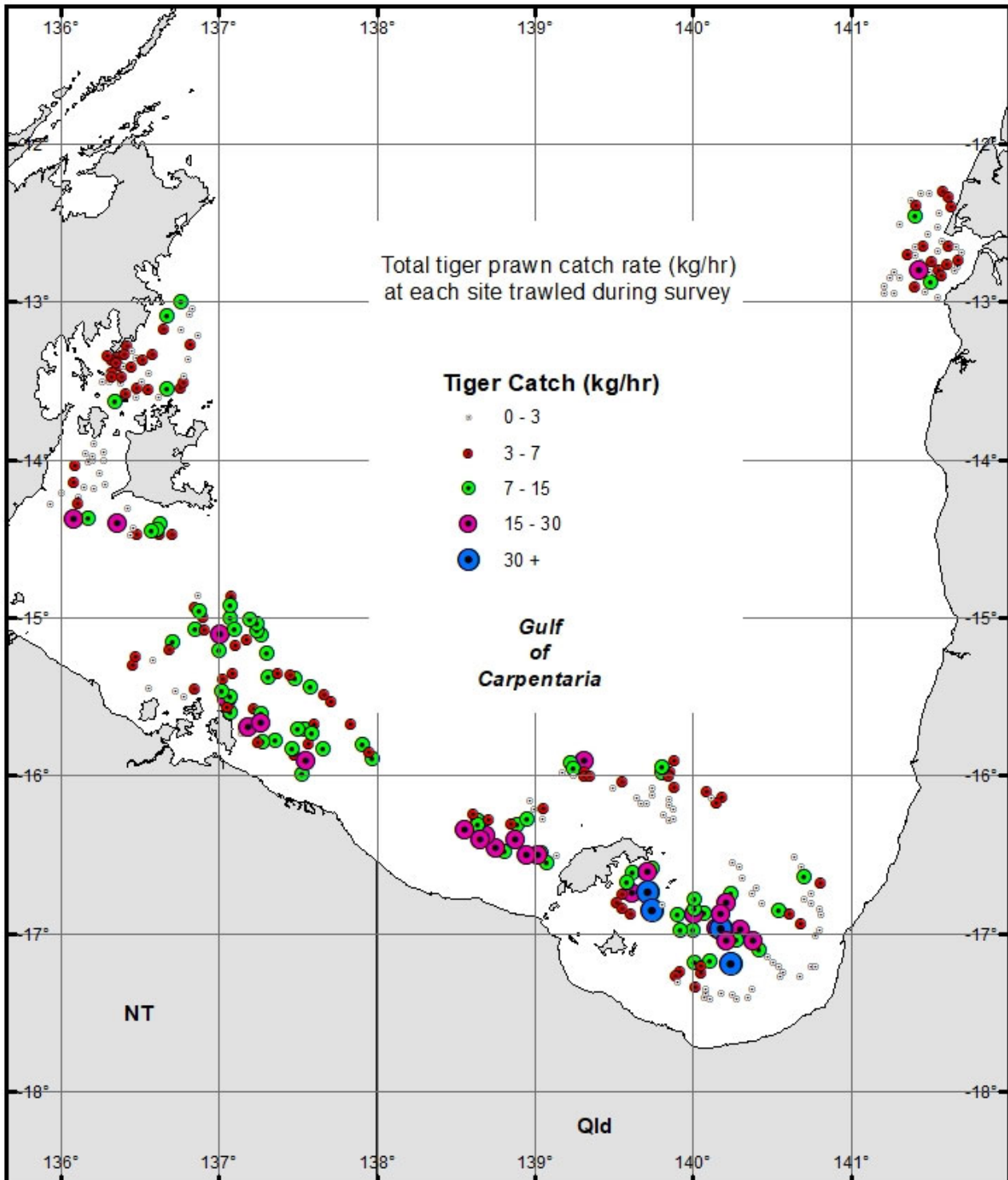




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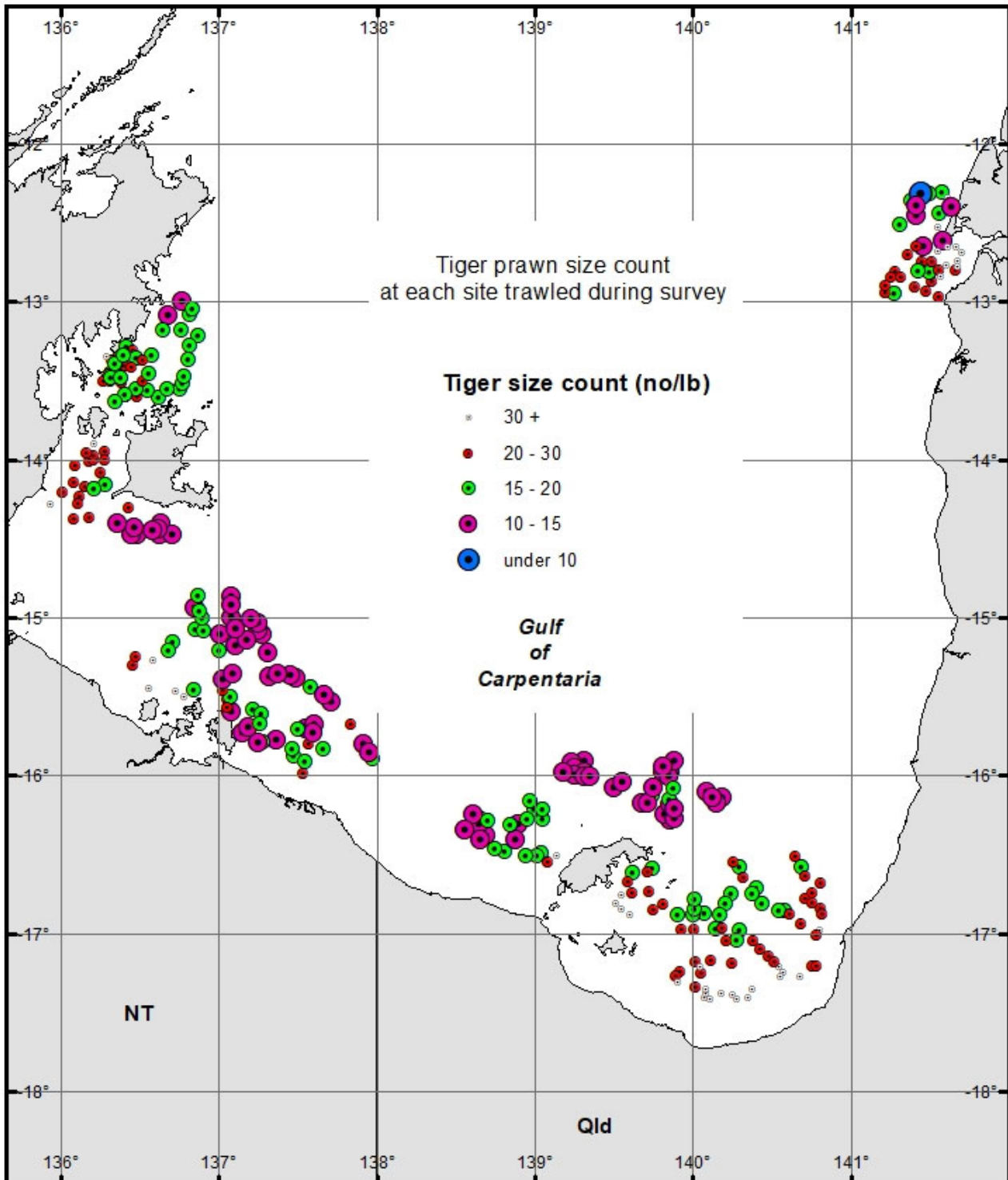




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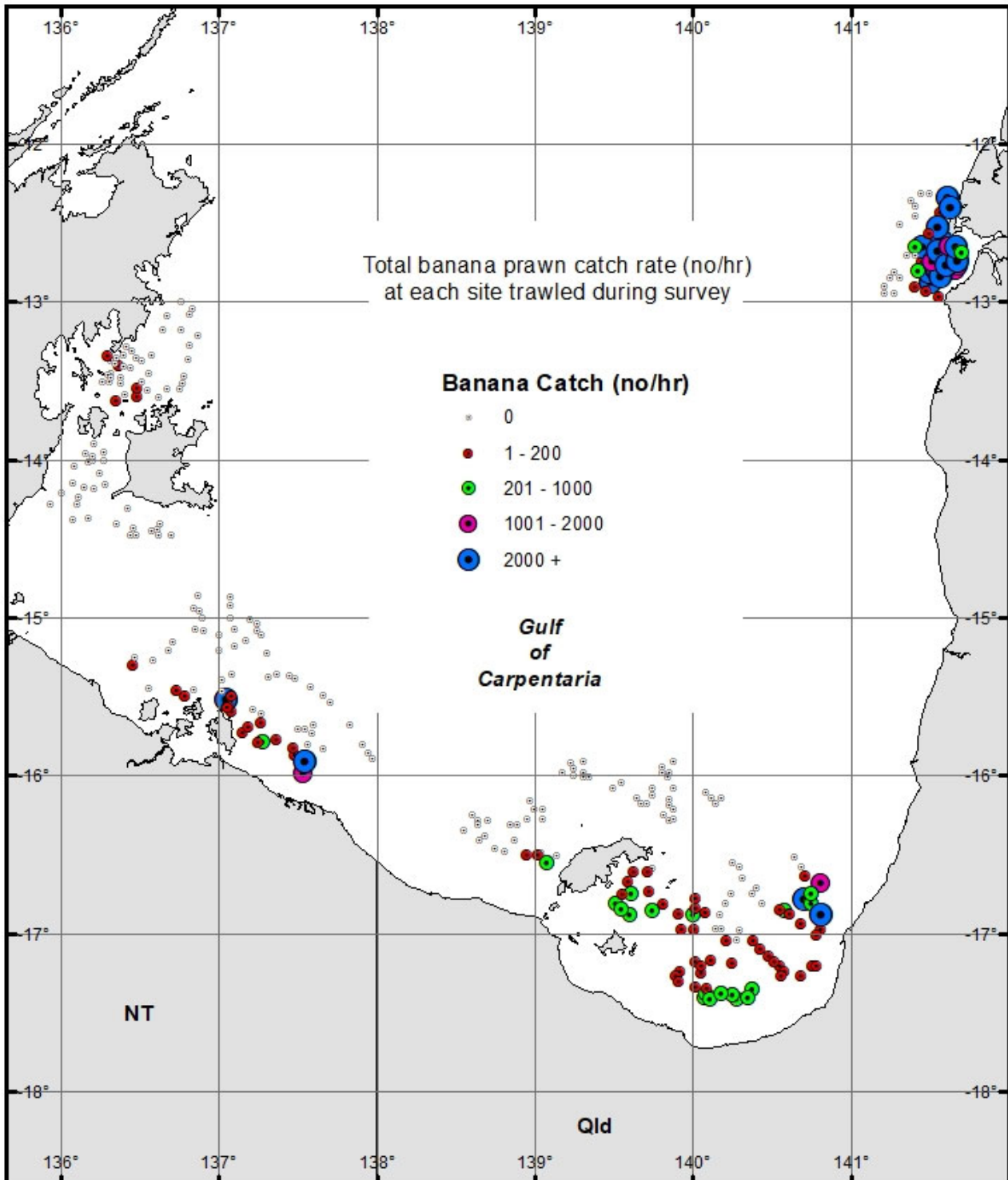




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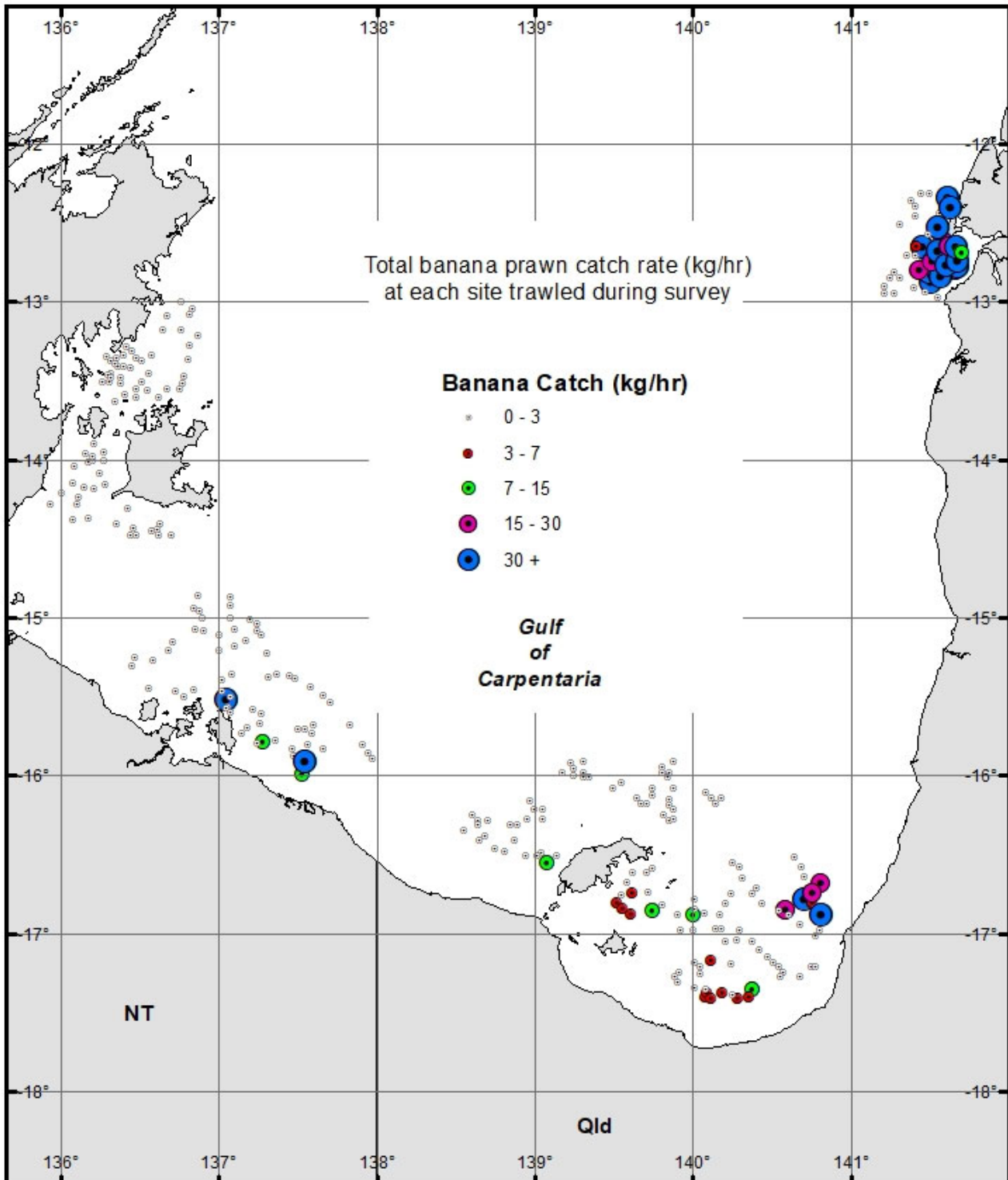




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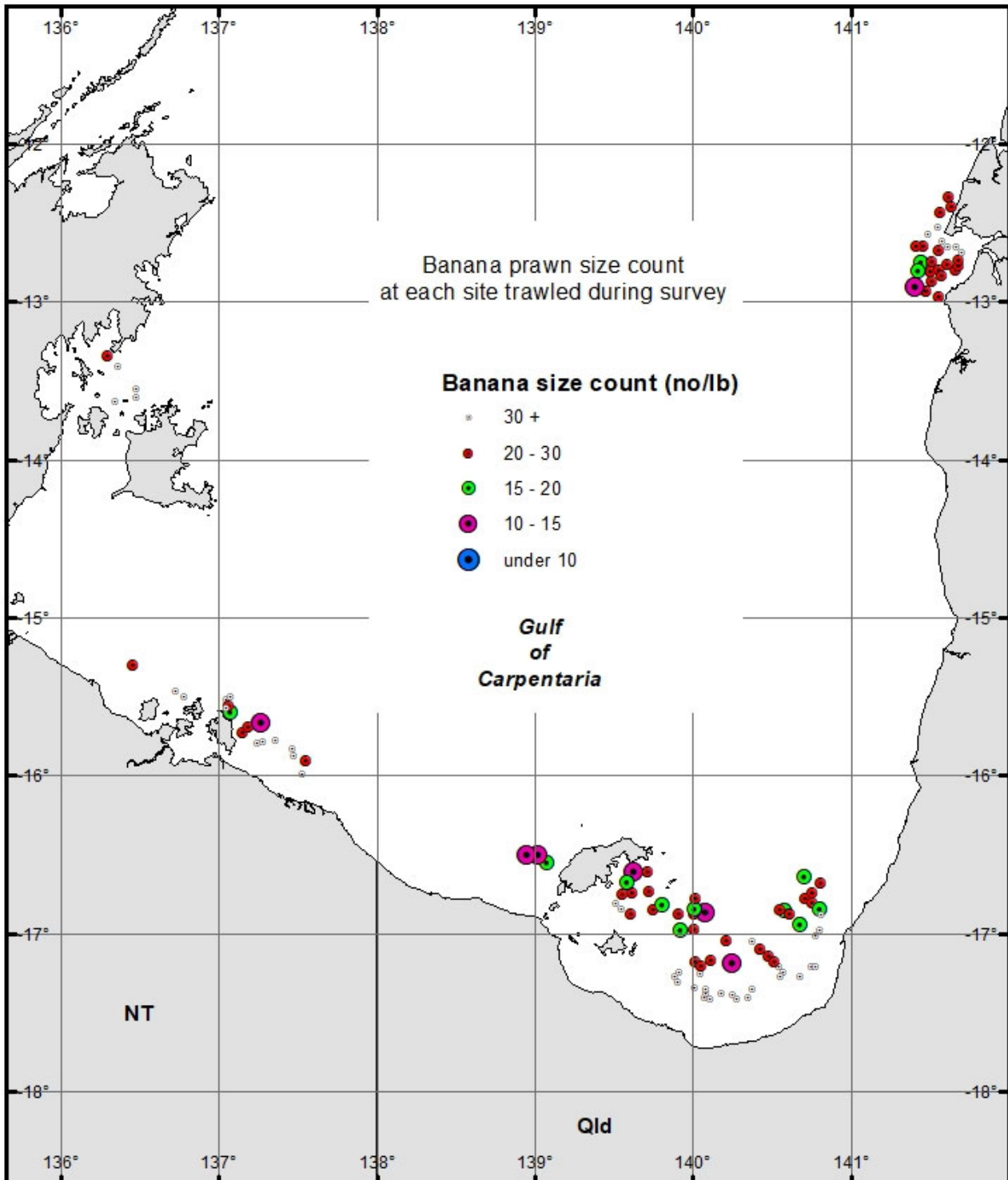




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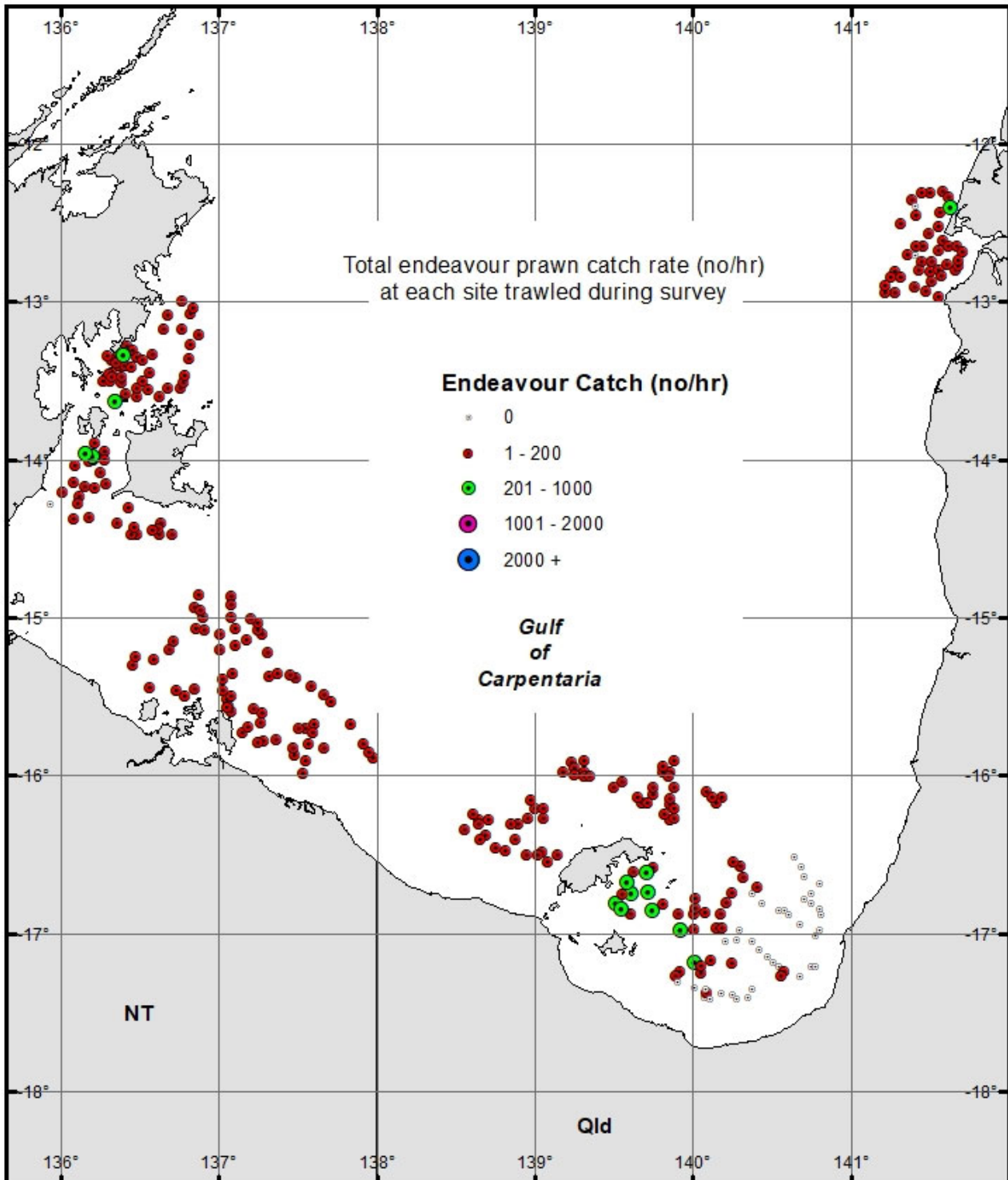




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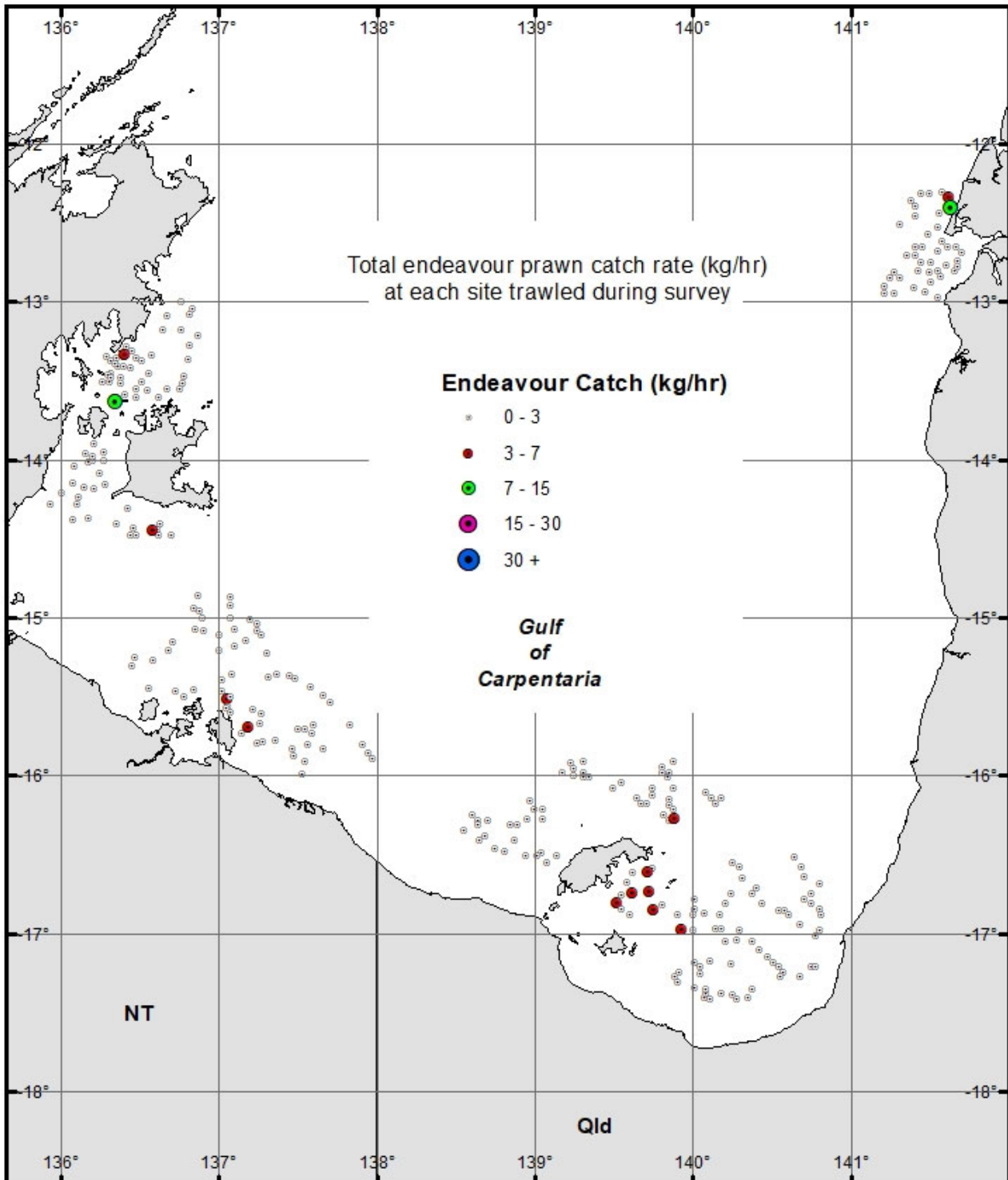




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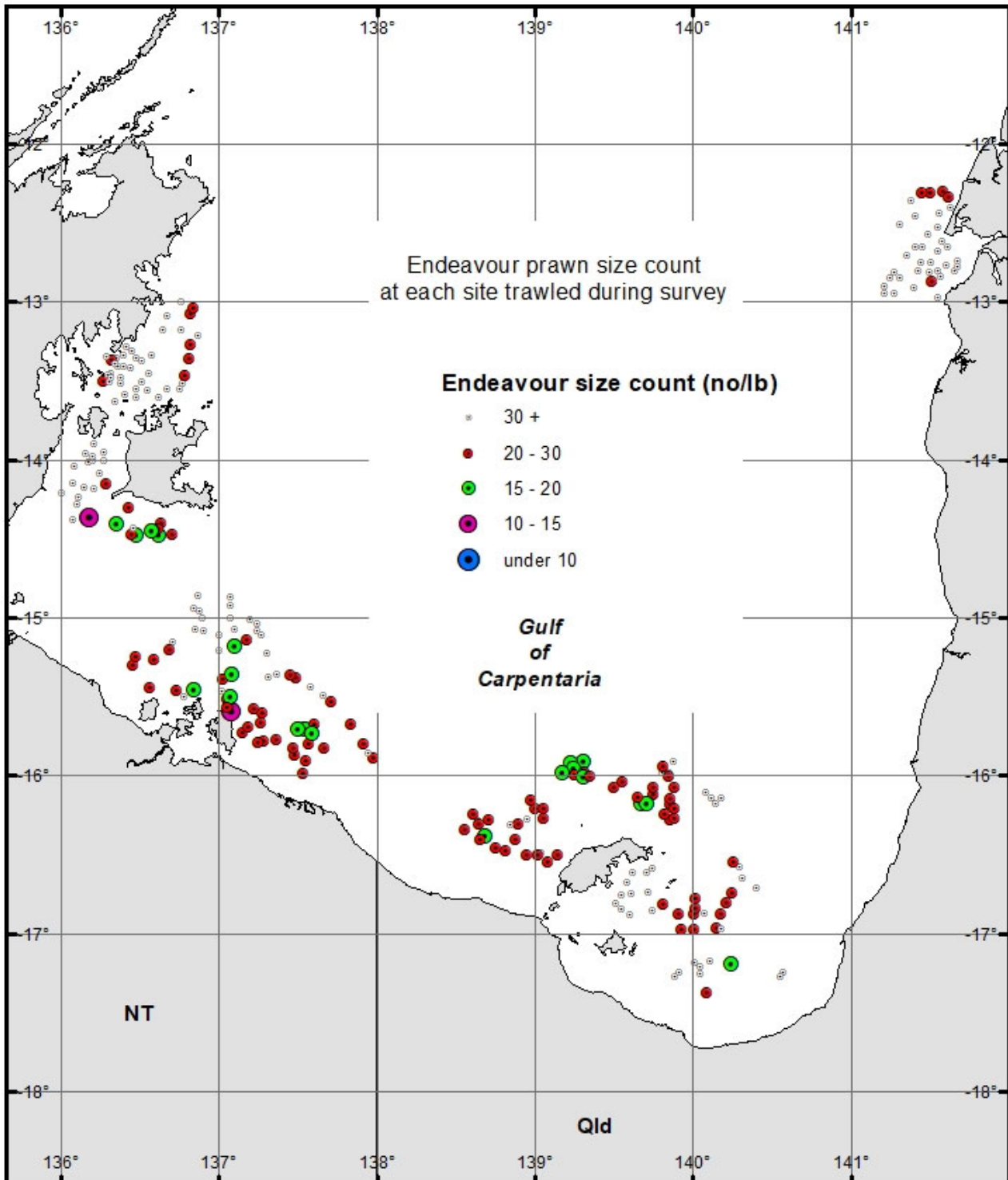




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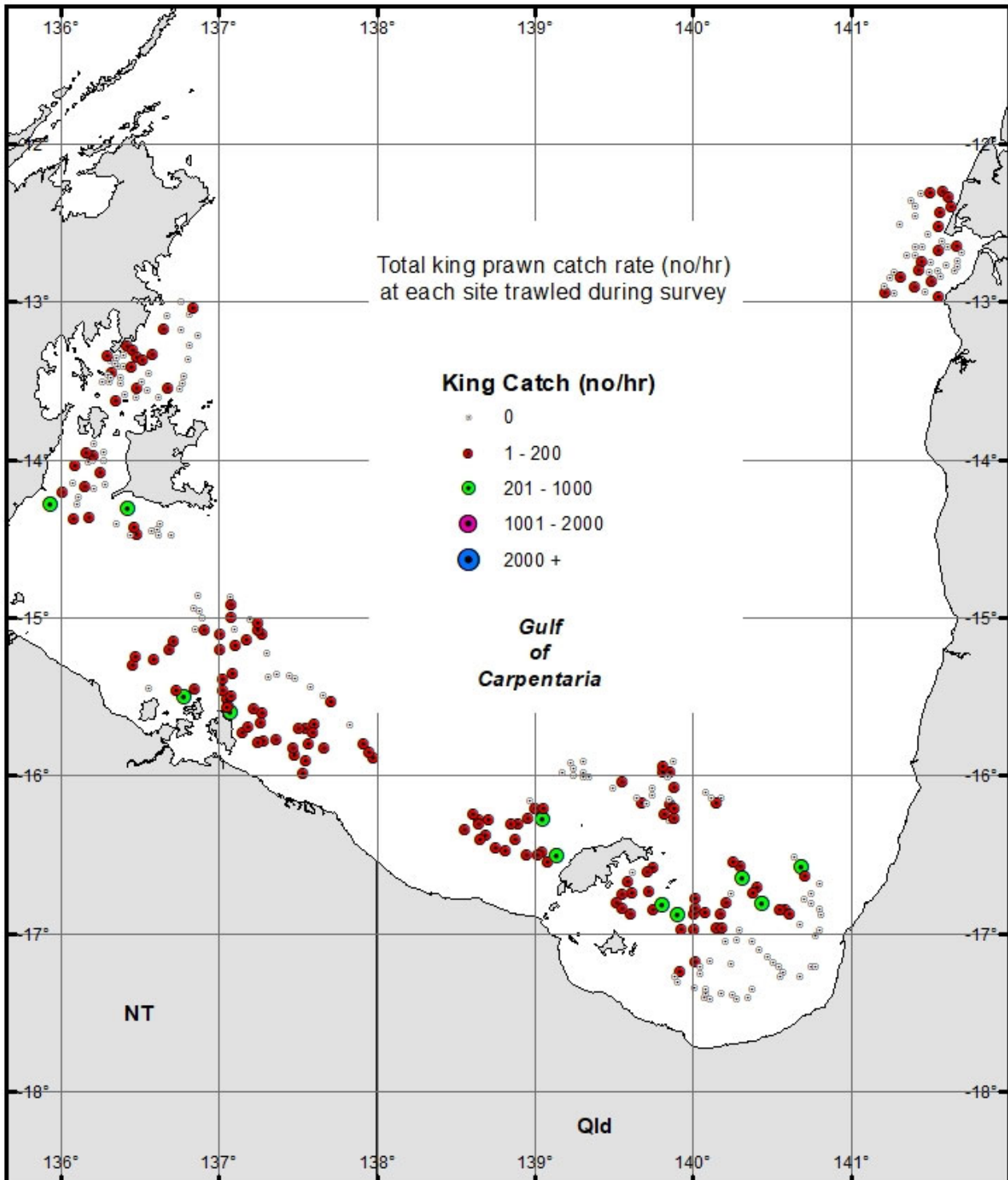




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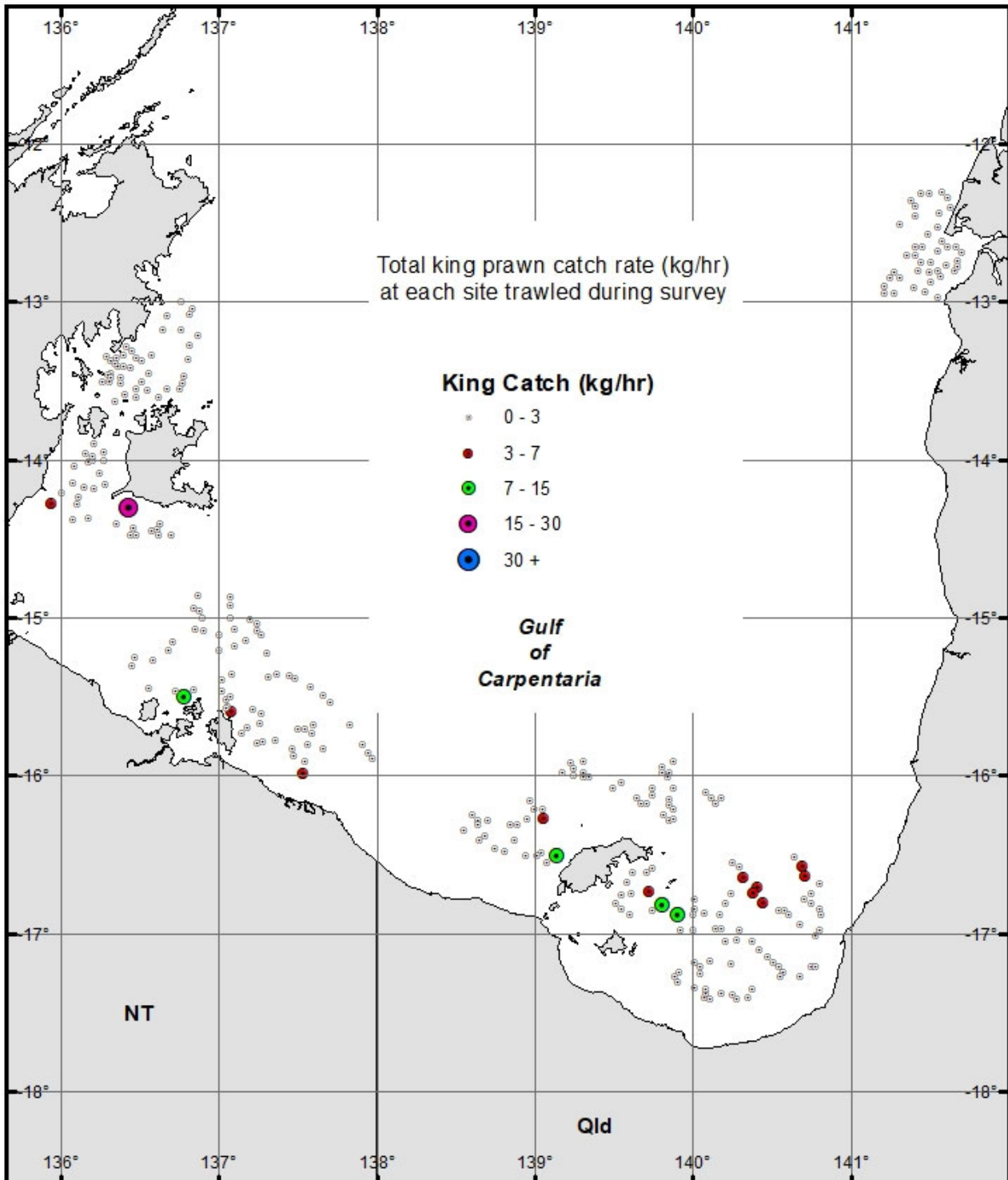




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