

# NPF Survey February 2020

<b>Collection area:</b>	Weipa, Karumba, Mornington (east, north and west), Vanderlins and Groote Eylandt (north and south), Gulf of Carpentaria
<b>Dates of trawling:</b>	15 February to 5 March, 2019
<b>Vessels chartered:</b>	FV “Eylandt Pearl” and FV “Admiralty Pearl” (Raptis P/L)
<b>CSIRO staff:</b>	2 scientists per vessel
<b>Fishing gear used:</b>	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 2018–2021”.

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 “Eylandt Pearl” and FV “Admiralty Pearl” were chartered to trawl pre-determined sites covering fishing grounds from Weipa to north of Groote Eylandt. A total of 283 trawls were completed between 15 February and 5 March, 2020. 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.

The survey was impacted by Cyclone Esther that created rough seas conditions that were not safe to trawl. This resulted in both vessels retreating to a safe haven. Although a 2-night extension was granted, a number of sites were not trawled. This included 8 sites in North Mornington, 6 sites in East Mornington and 4 sites in East Karumba (indicated on the following page). In addition to this, four sites in the Weipa region were also lost due to vessel breakdown. These conditions resulted in 25 fewer sights trawled than usual.

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:

- Photographs of TEPs (turtles, sawfish, seasnakes, syngnathids) and at-risk species (porcupine ray and two mantis shrimp species) for species identification for NPFIs CMO program.
- Information on the short-term post-trawl survival of a range of fish, invertebrates and elasmobranchs in an onboard survival tank trial.

## 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.

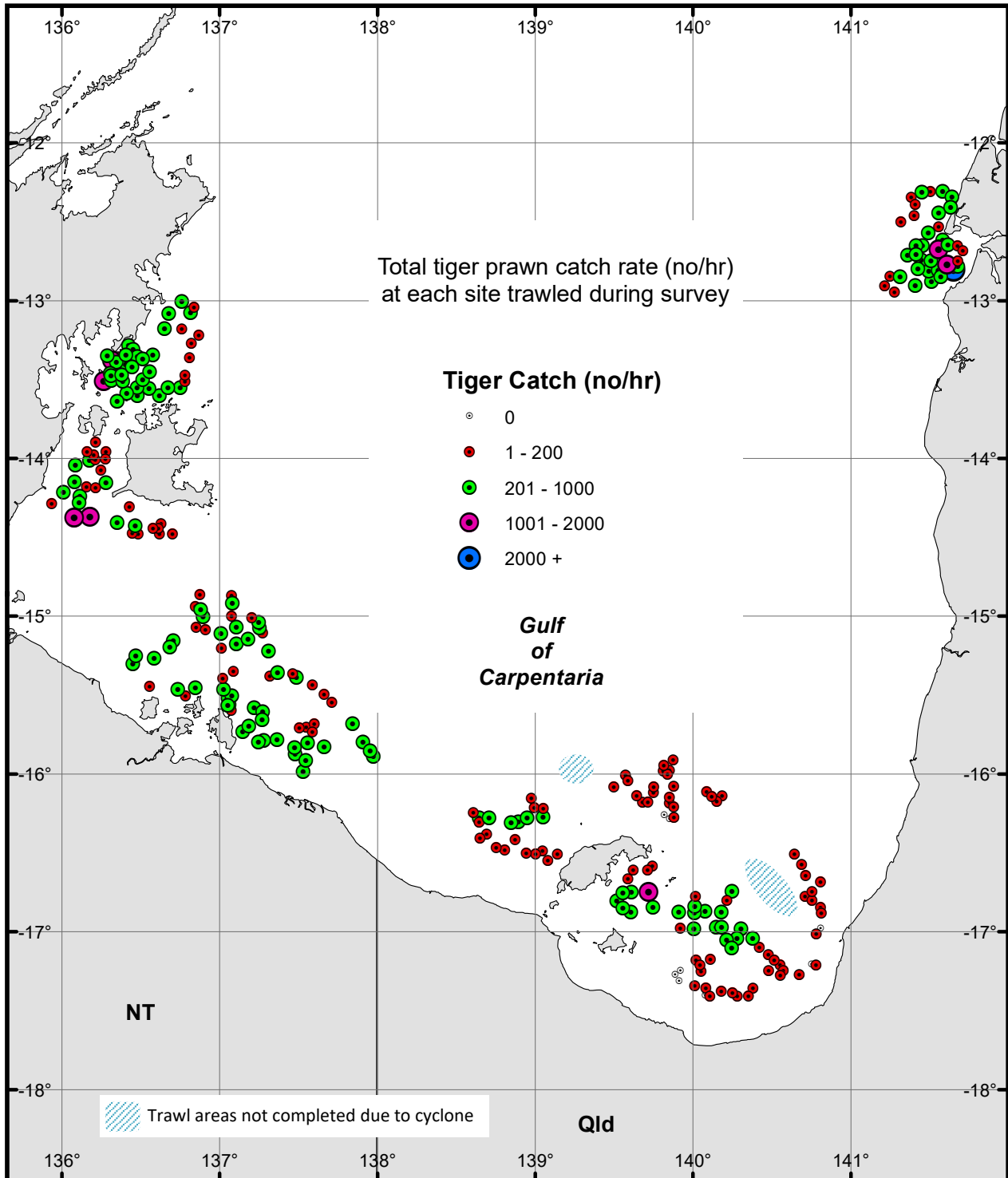
**NB** This is preliminary data only and further error checking is being conducted.



# CSIRO Oceans & Atmosphere NPF Monitoring Survey – February 2020 Preliminary Results



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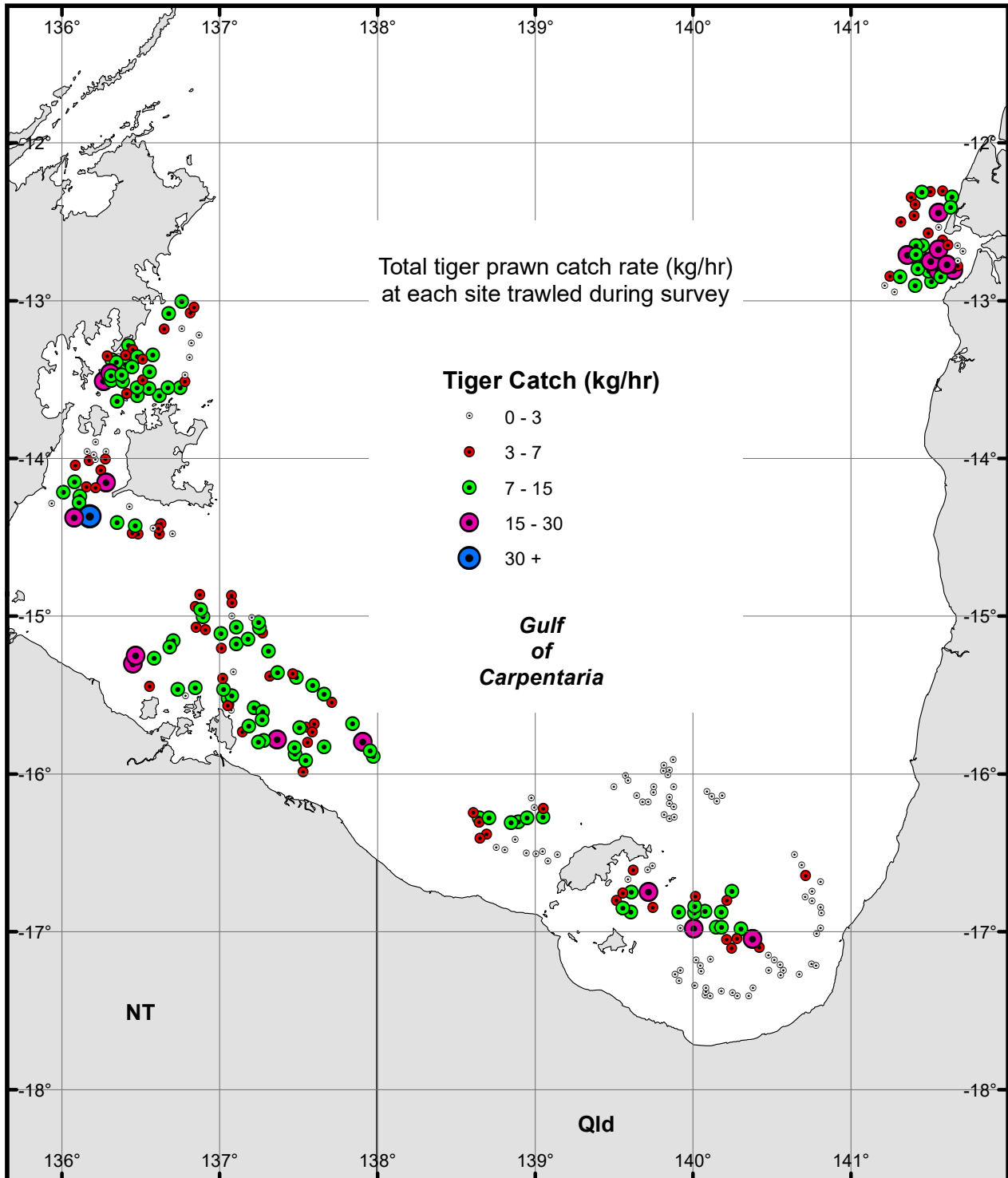




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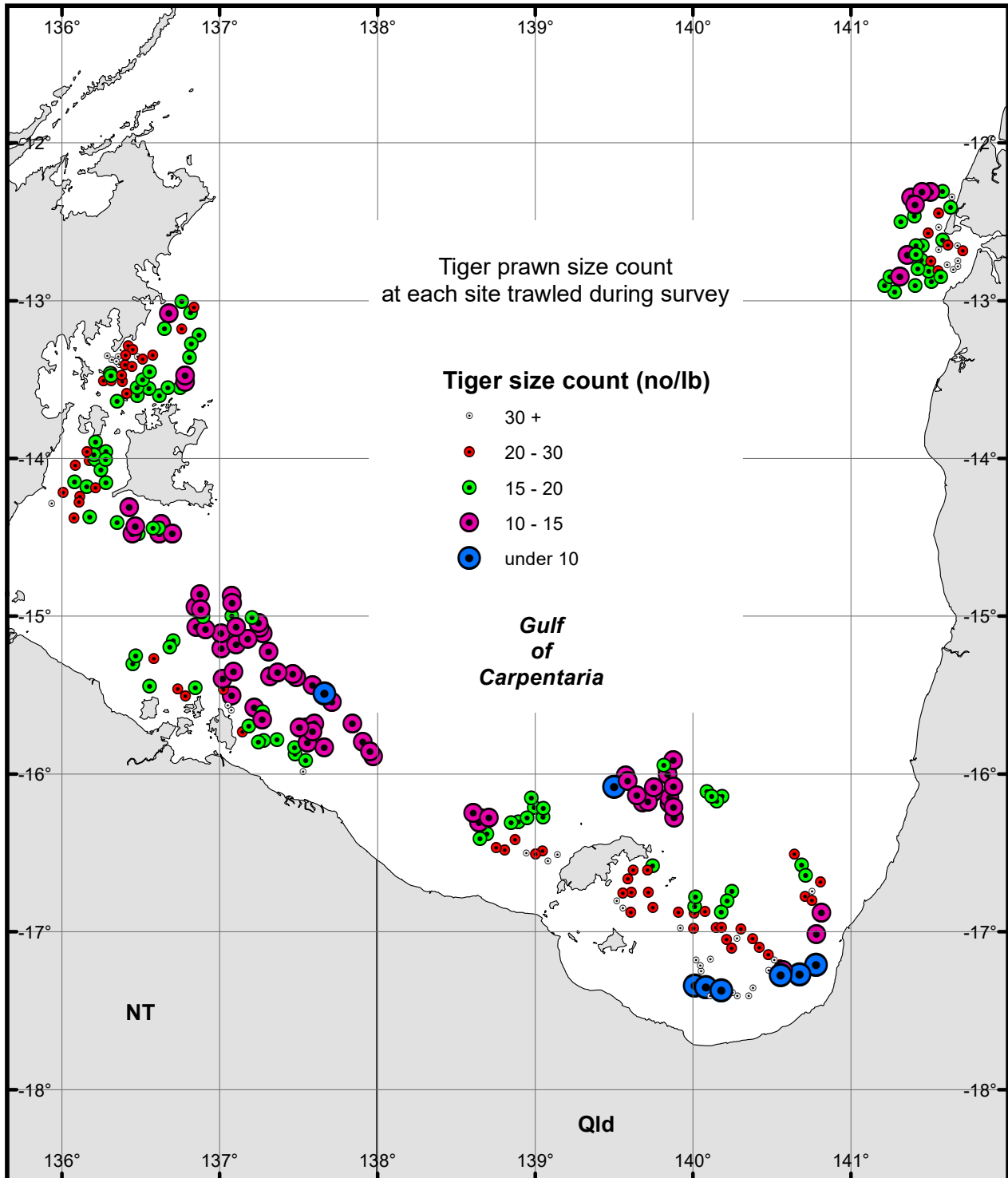




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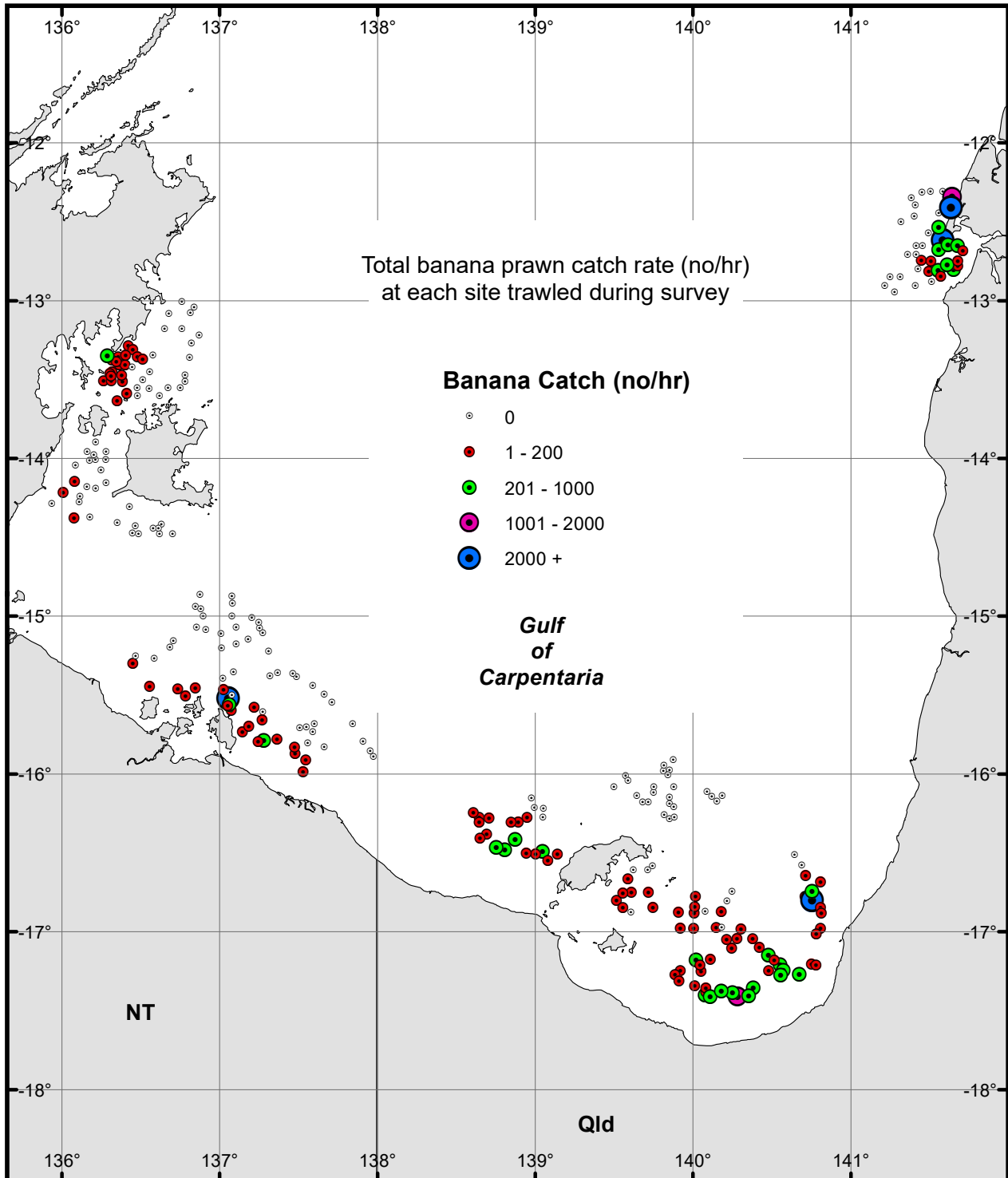




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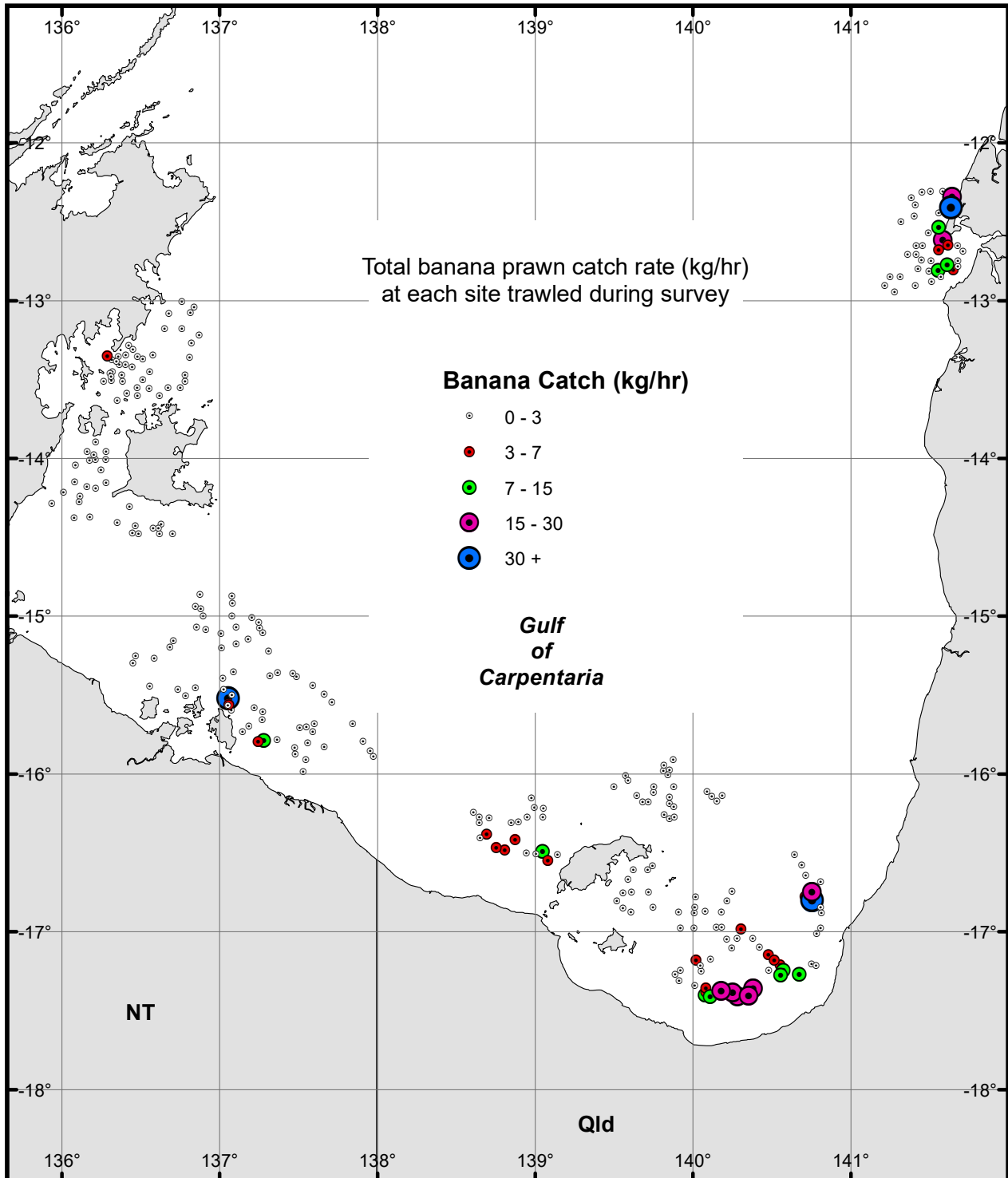




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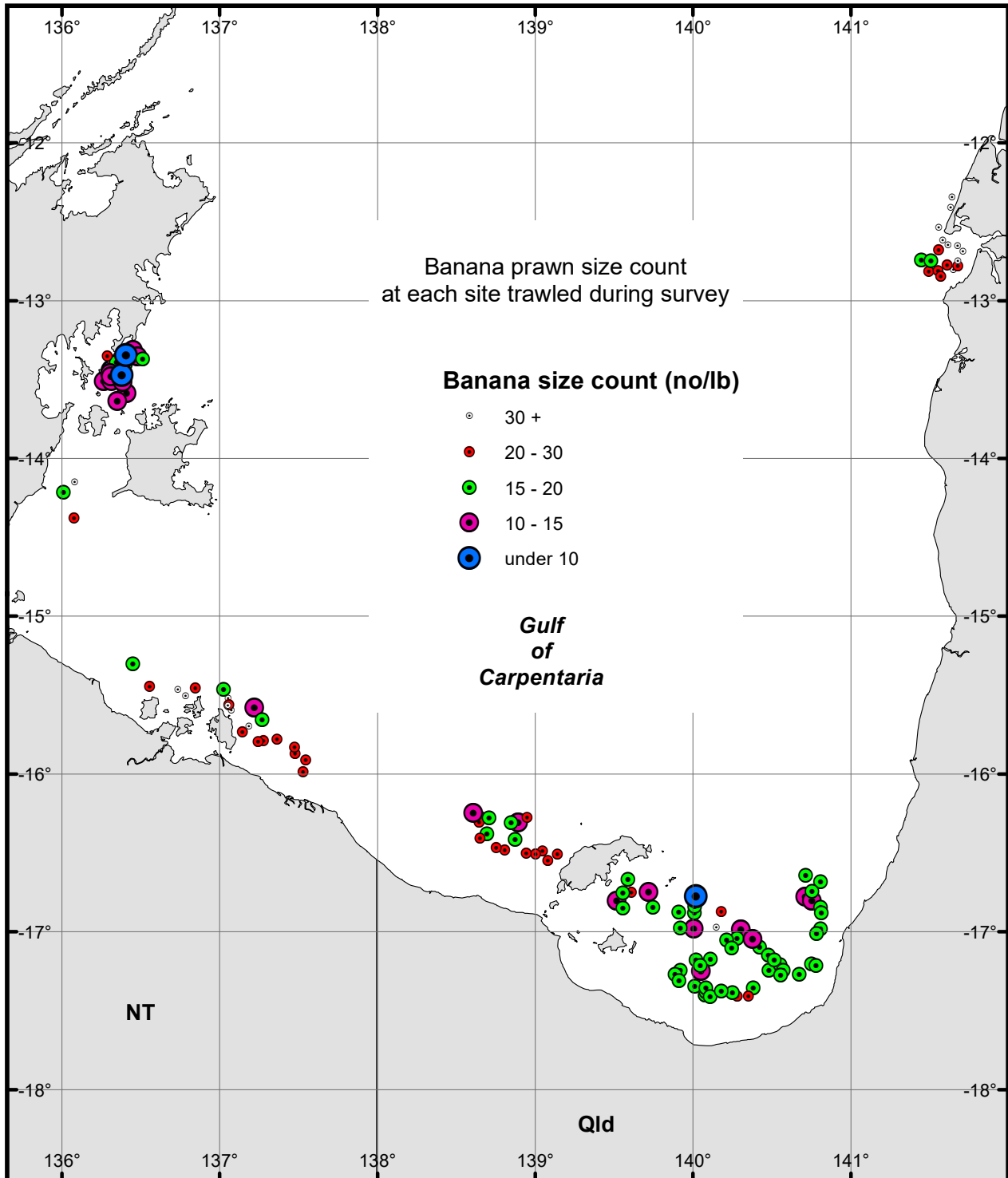




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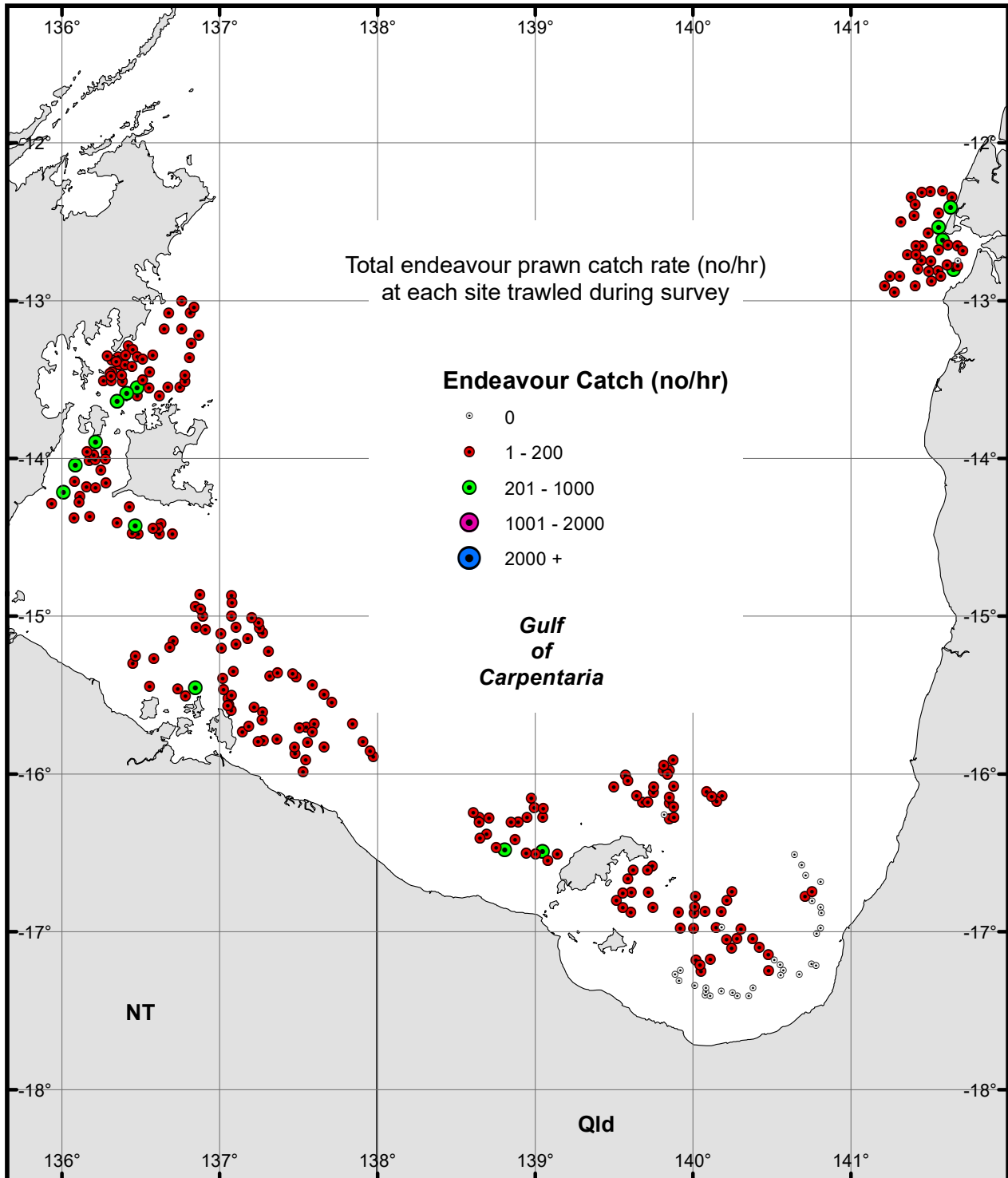




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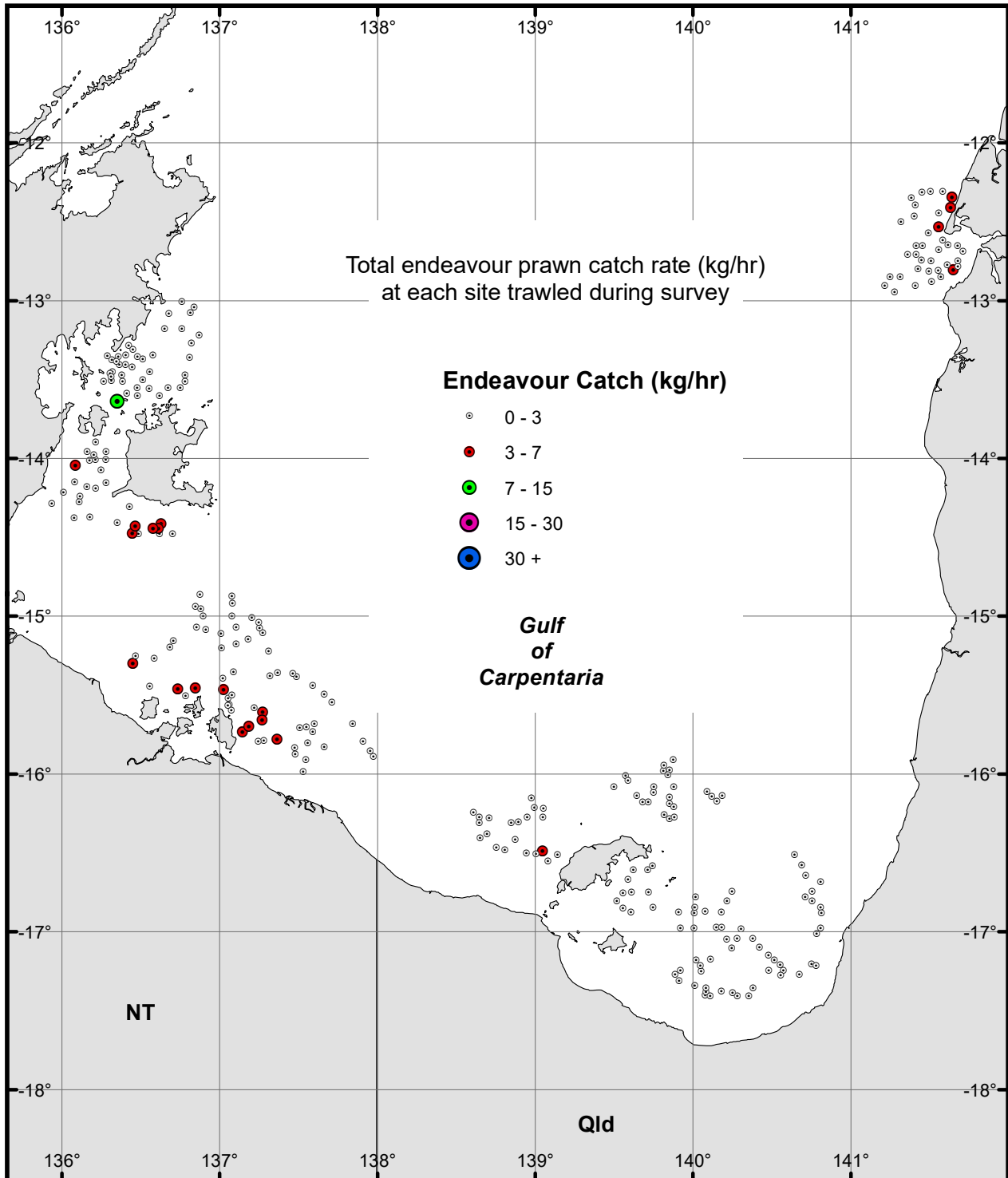




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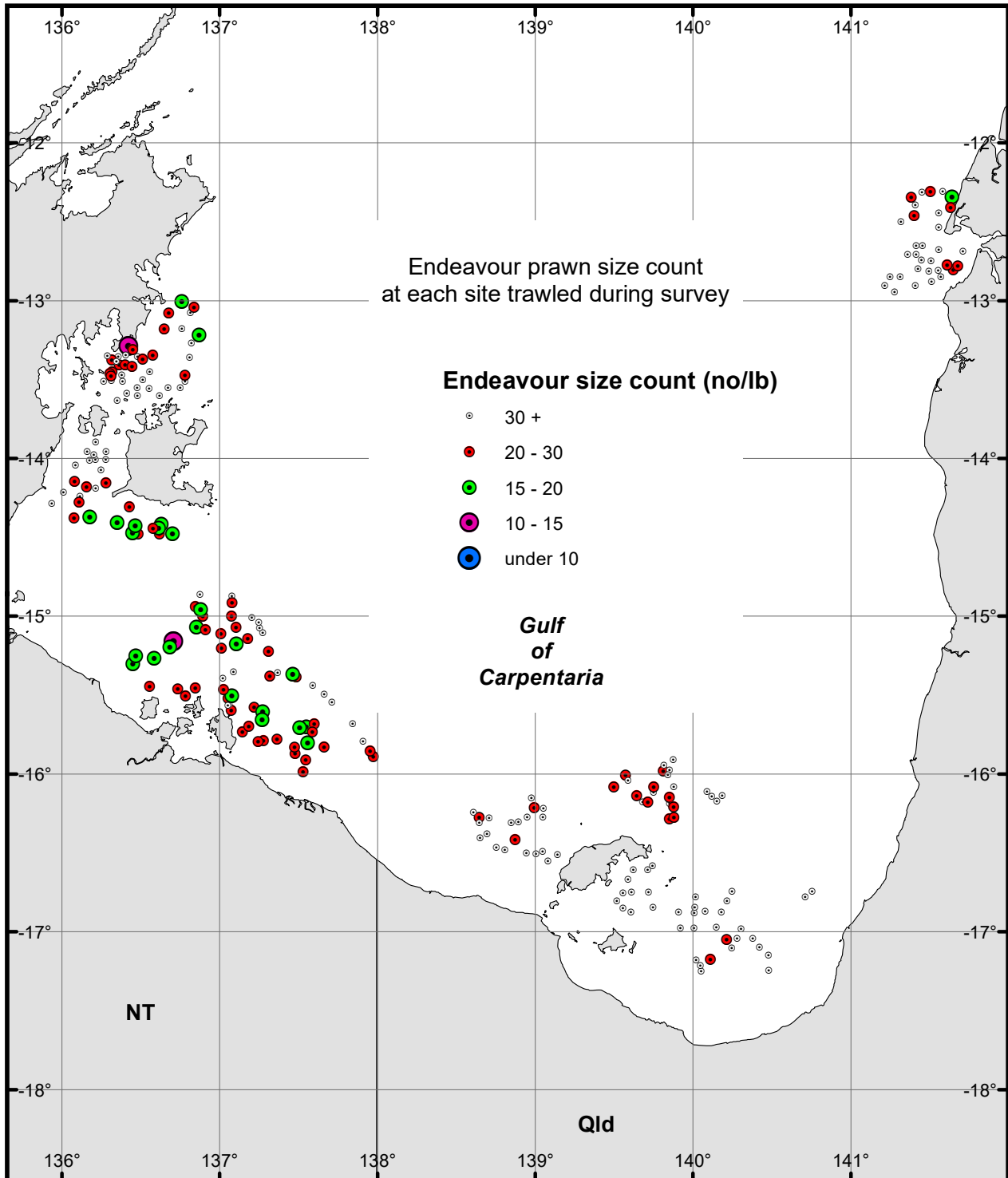




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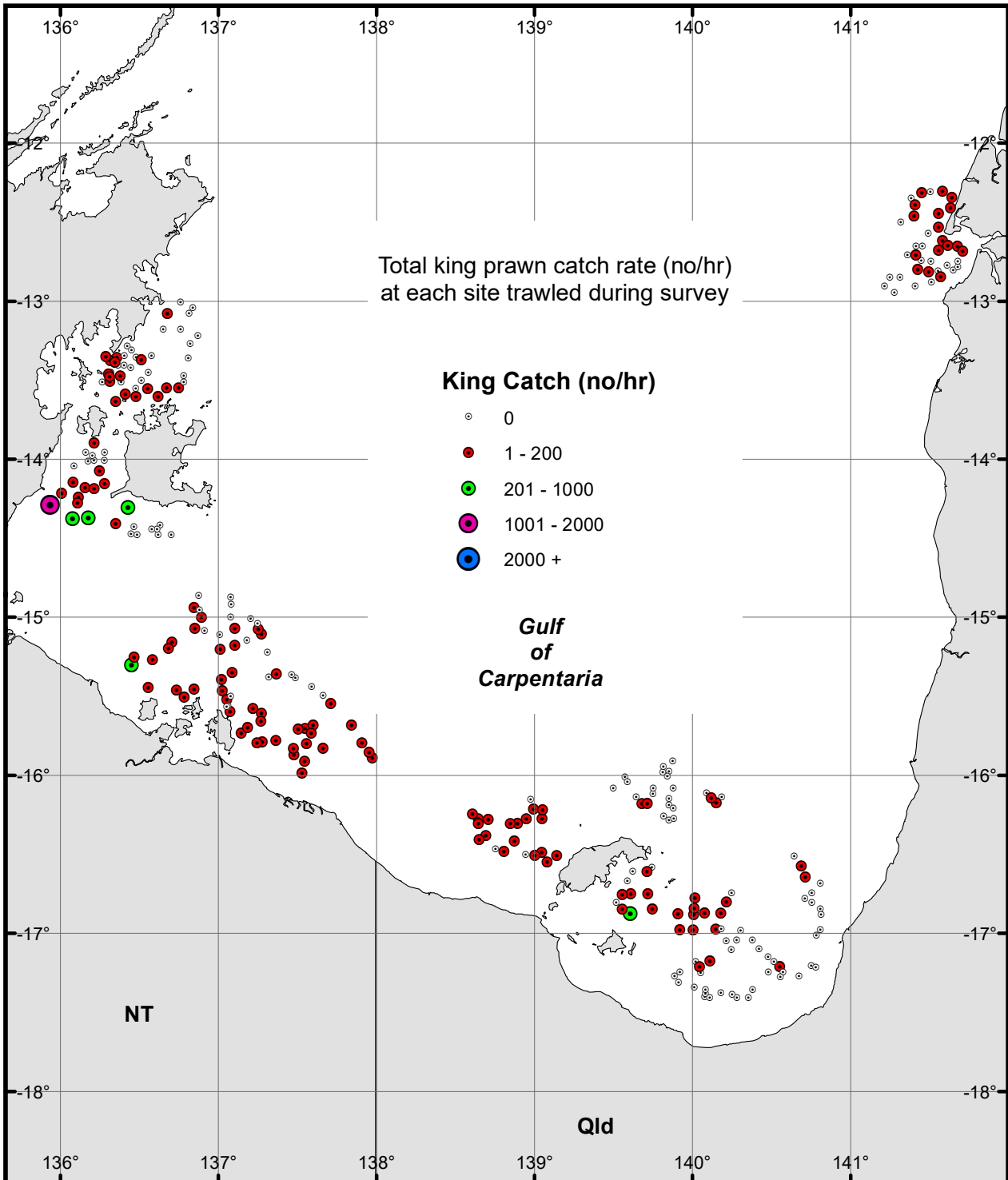




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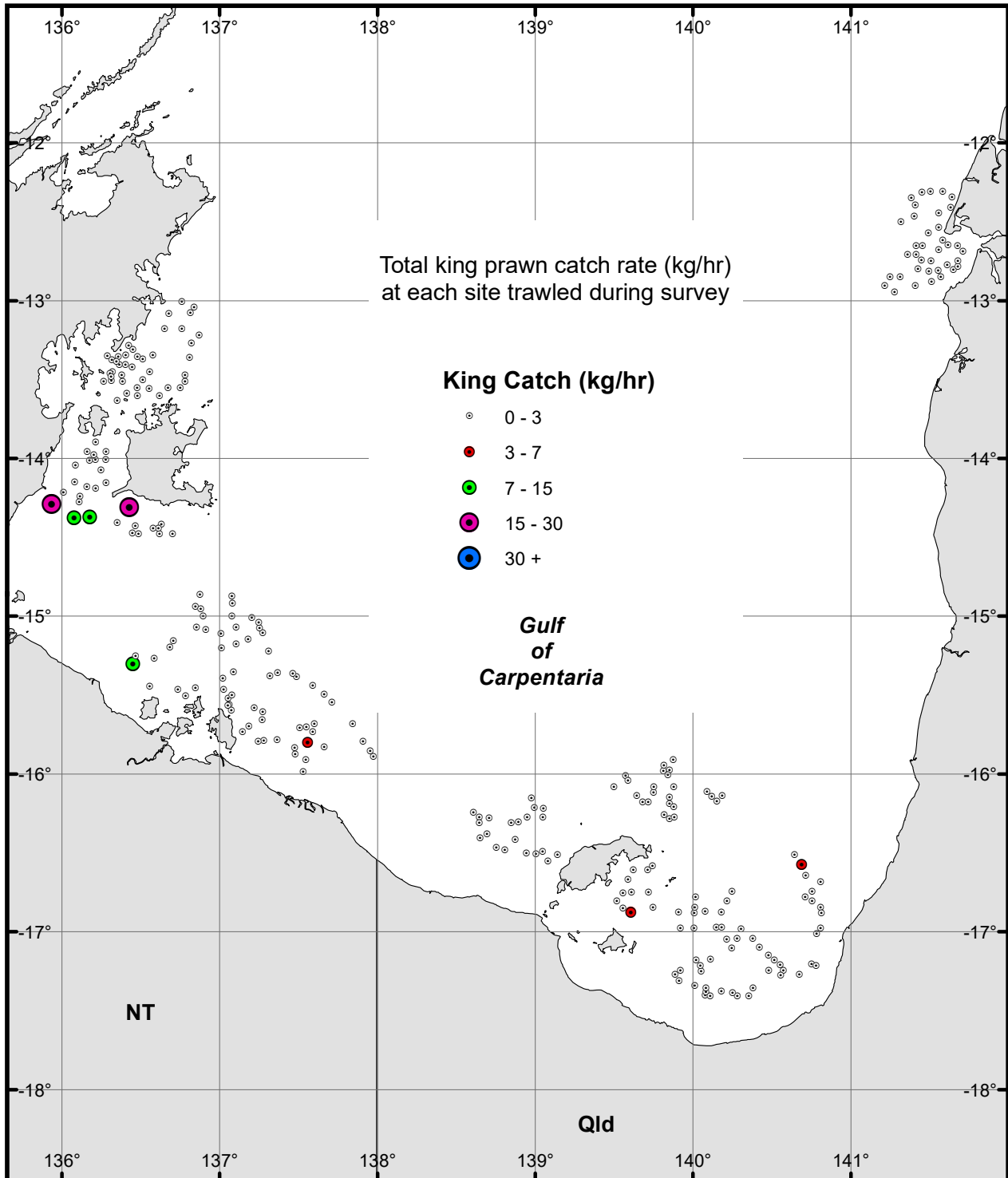




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