

NPF Survey July 2020

Collection area: Mornington (east, north and west), Vanderlins and Groote Eylandt (north and south), Gulf of Carpentaria
Dates of trawling: 24 June to 14 July, 2020
Vessels chartered: 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 2018–2021".

The main aim of the survey is:

- to provide an index of abundance during the effective spawning season for the main commercial prawn species in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

The survey was not designed to provide an accurate indication of the distribution of prawns immediately prior to the fishing season, although the information will obviously be of interest to the fleet as they prepare for the season.

The Raptis vessel FV "Territory Pearl" was chartered to trawl pre-determined sites covering fishing grounds at Mornington Island, Vanderlins and Groote Eylandt. We carried out 215 trawls between 24 June and 14 July 2020. All trawls were made at night and were about 30 minutes in duration. The catches were standardized to a catch per hour trawled.

No 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) 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.
- Collection of prawns for preservative trials. Samples of five groups of prawns (grooved tiger, brown tiger, endeavour, banana, king) were treated with varying concentrations of PrawnFresh, CFresh and Meta for a range of dipping durations, to determine the potential of preservative alternatives to Meta.

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.

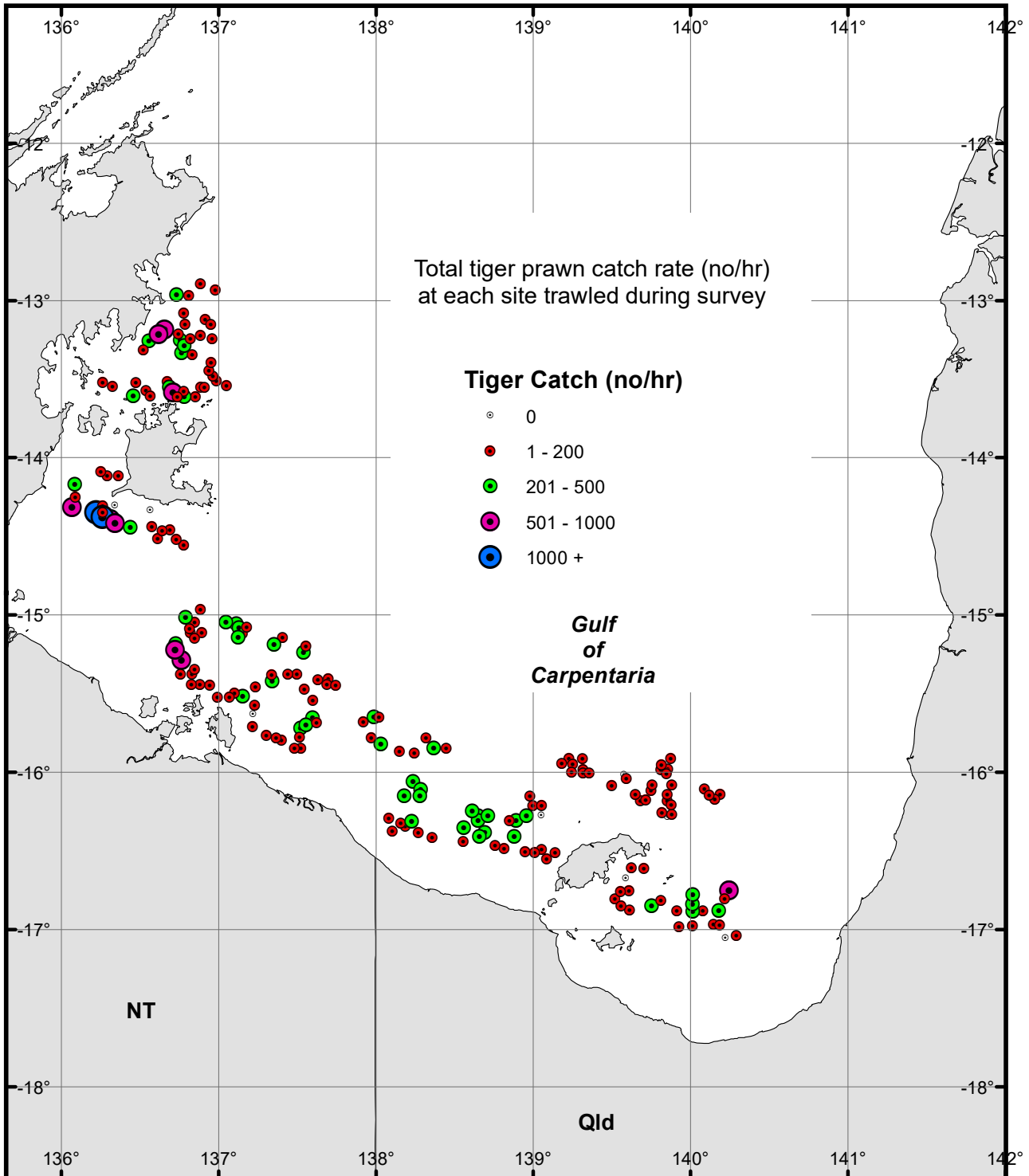
NB This is preliminary data only and further error checking is being conducted.



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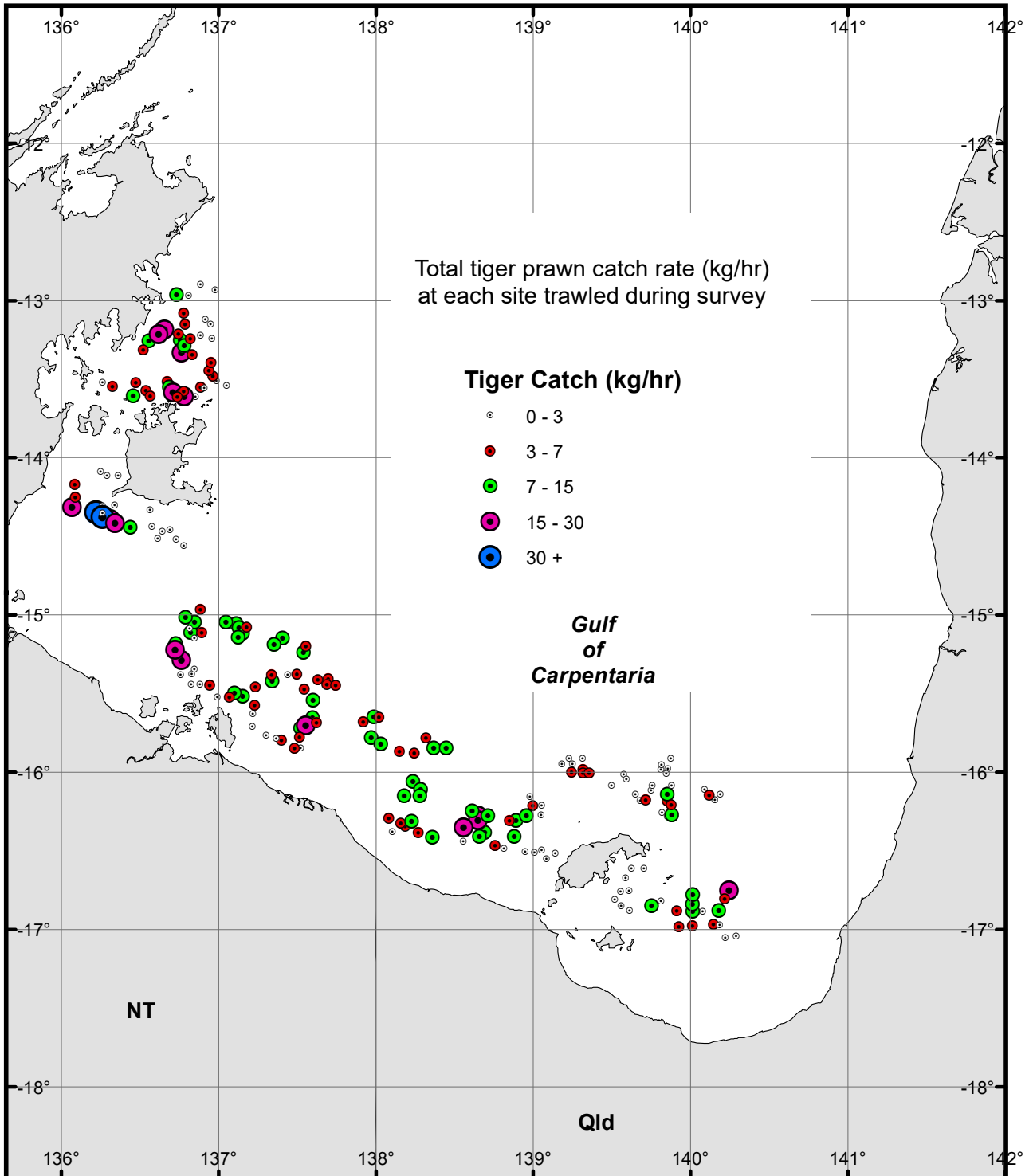




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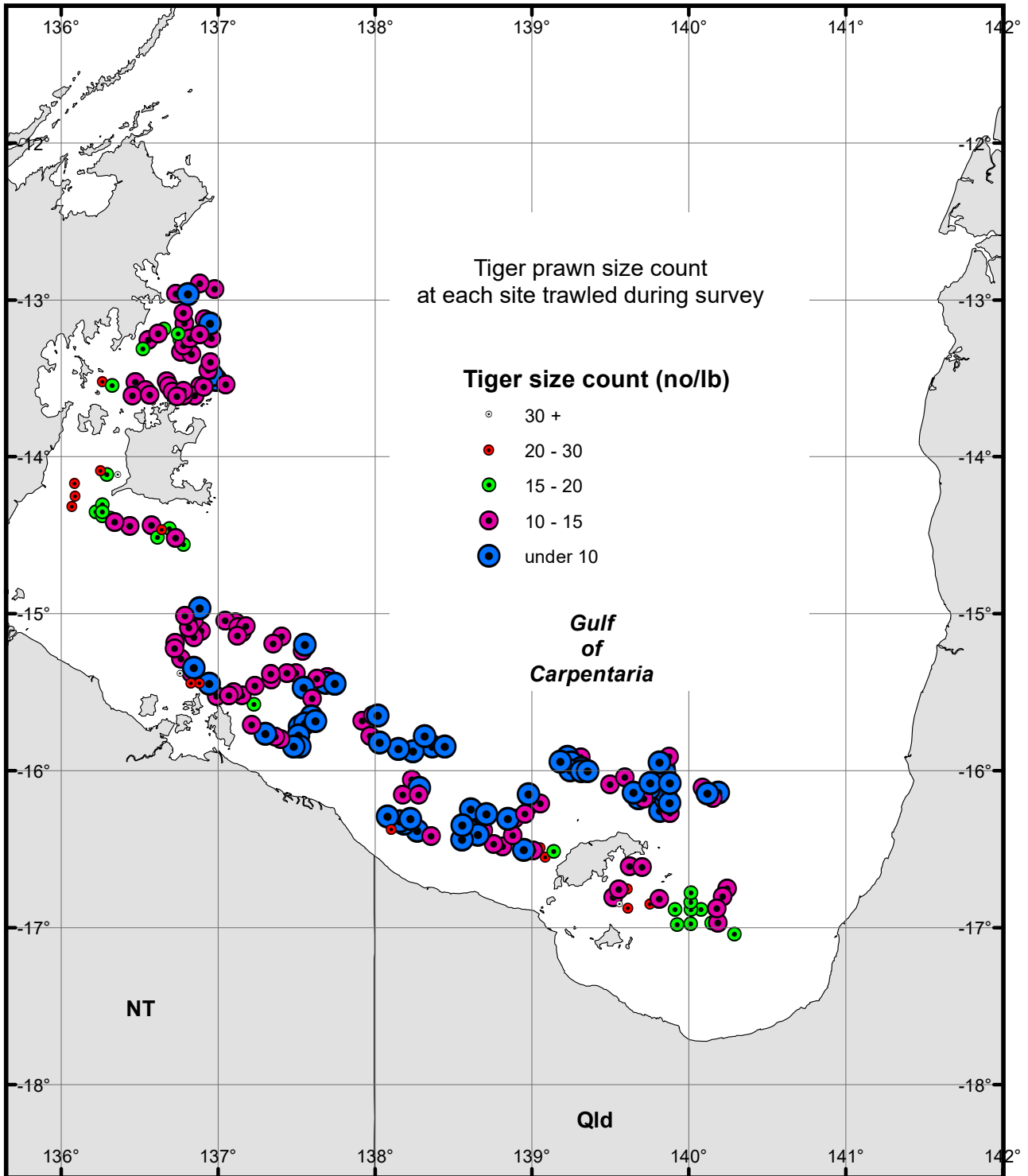




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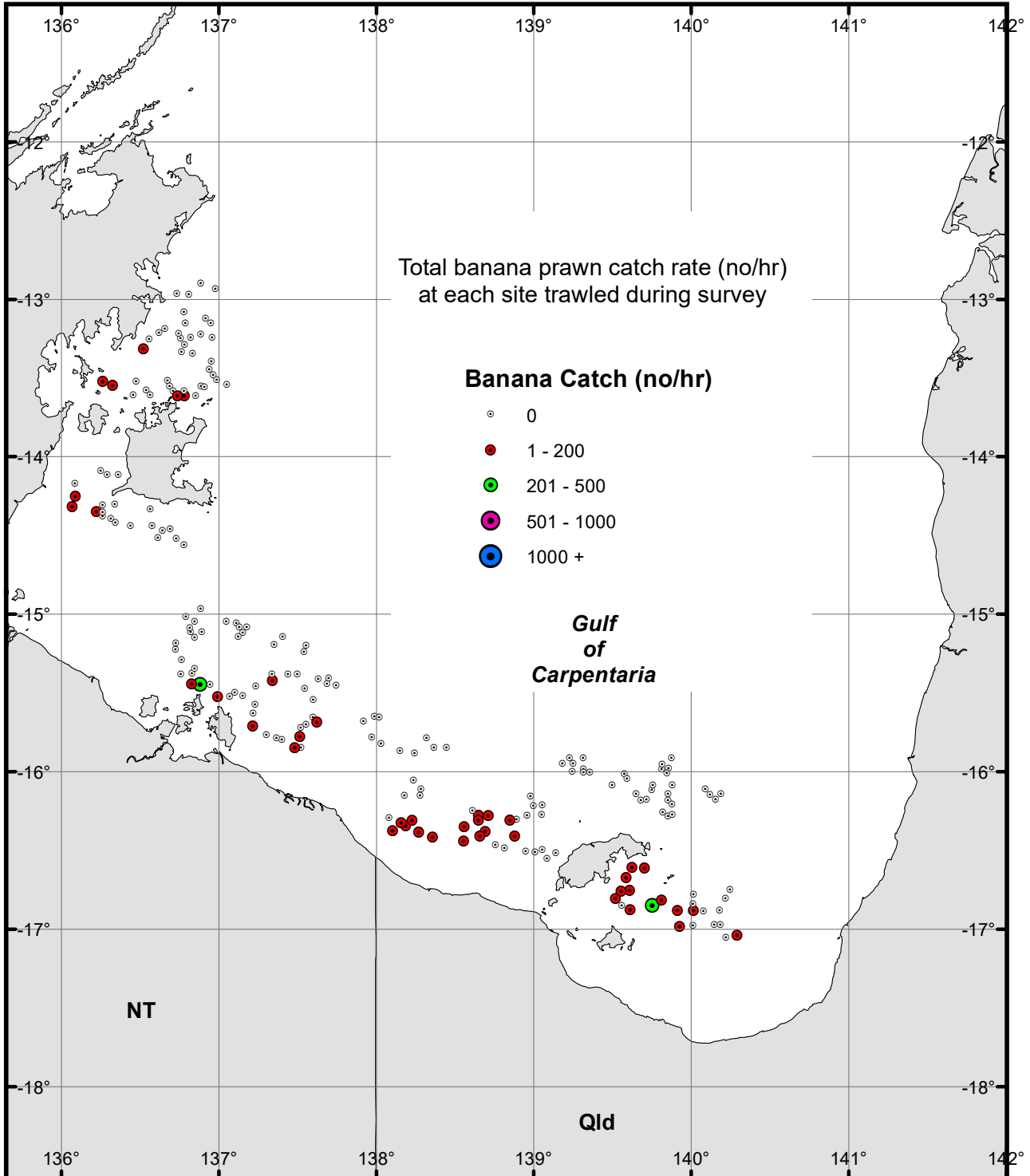




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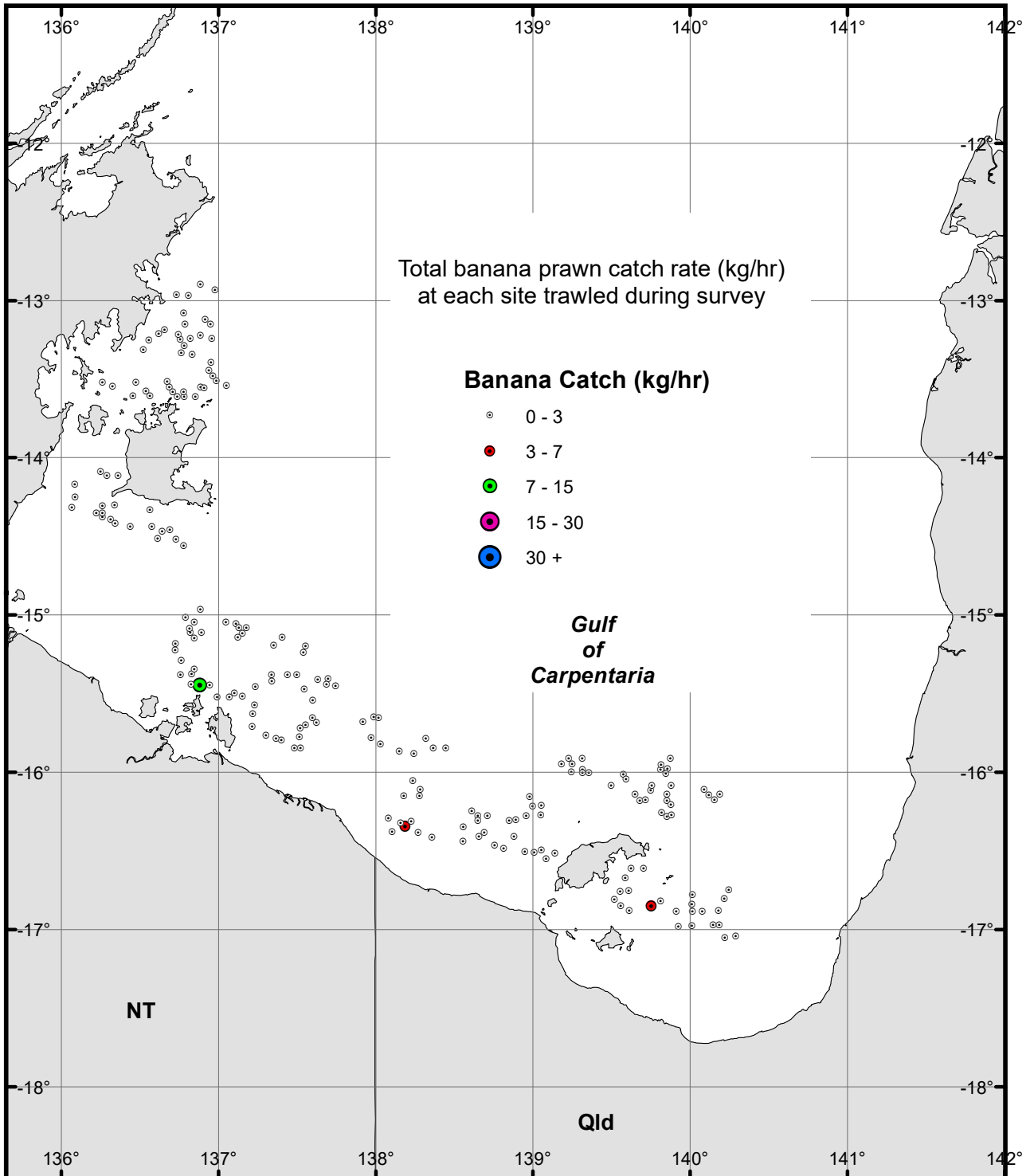




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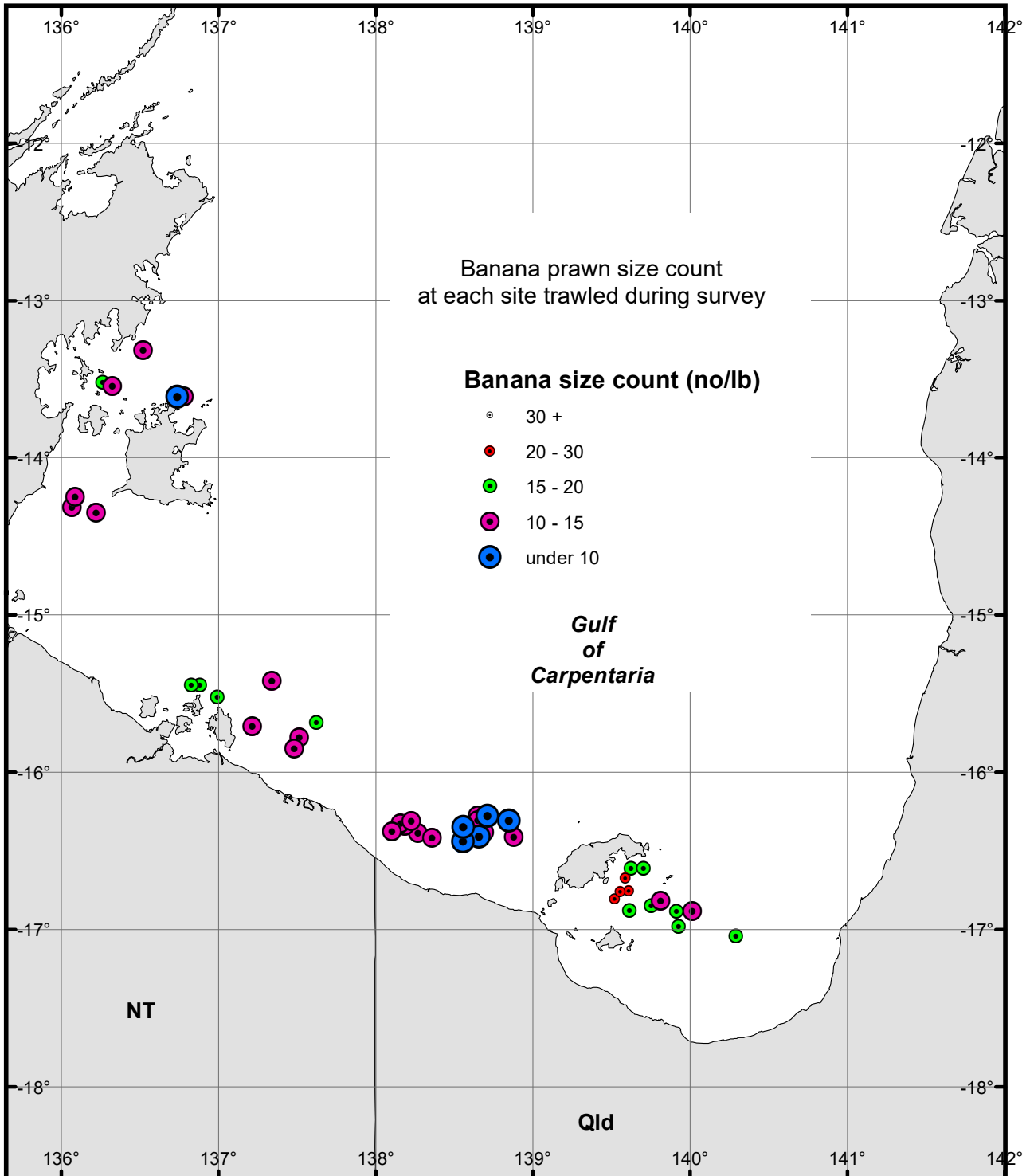




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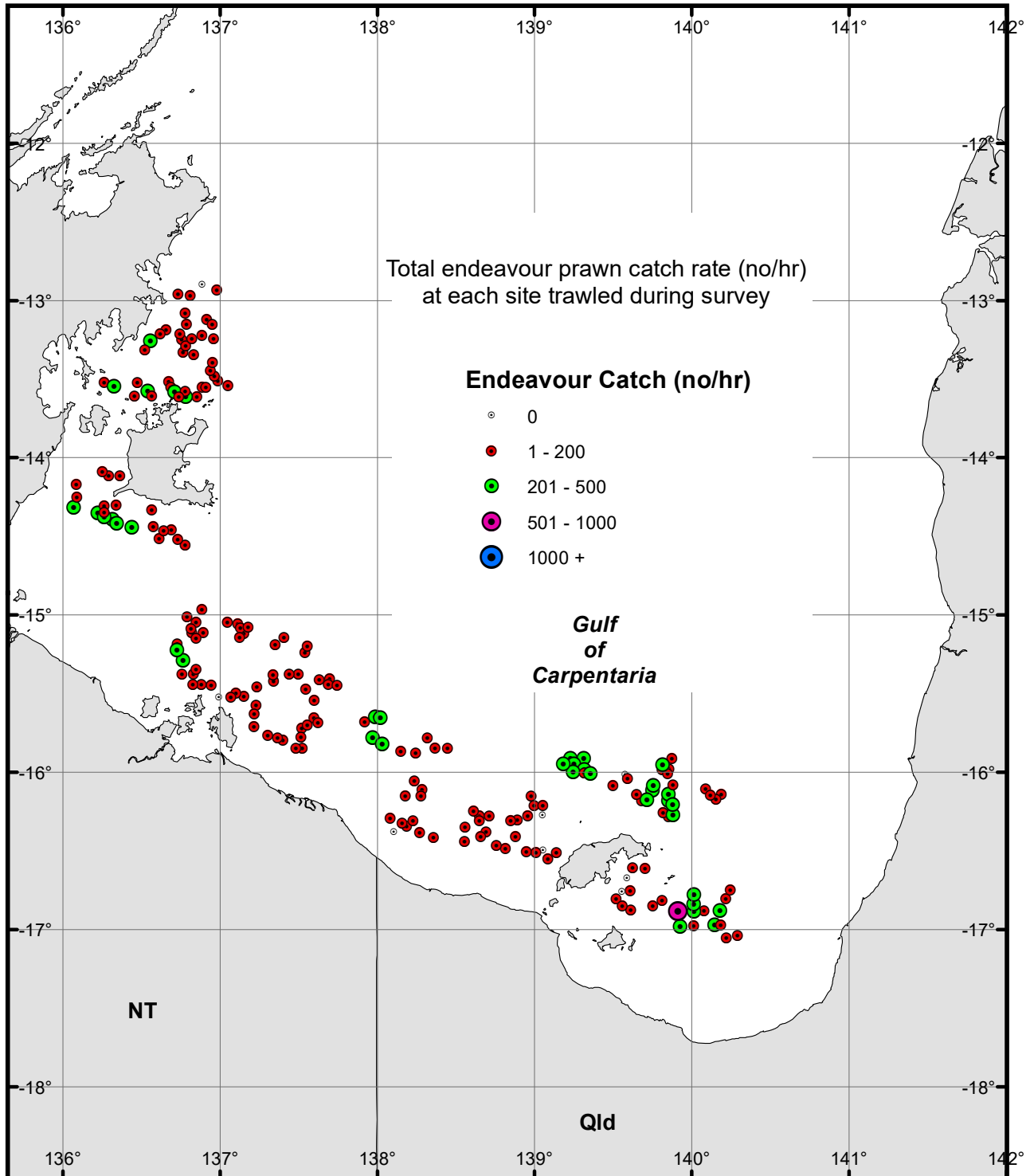




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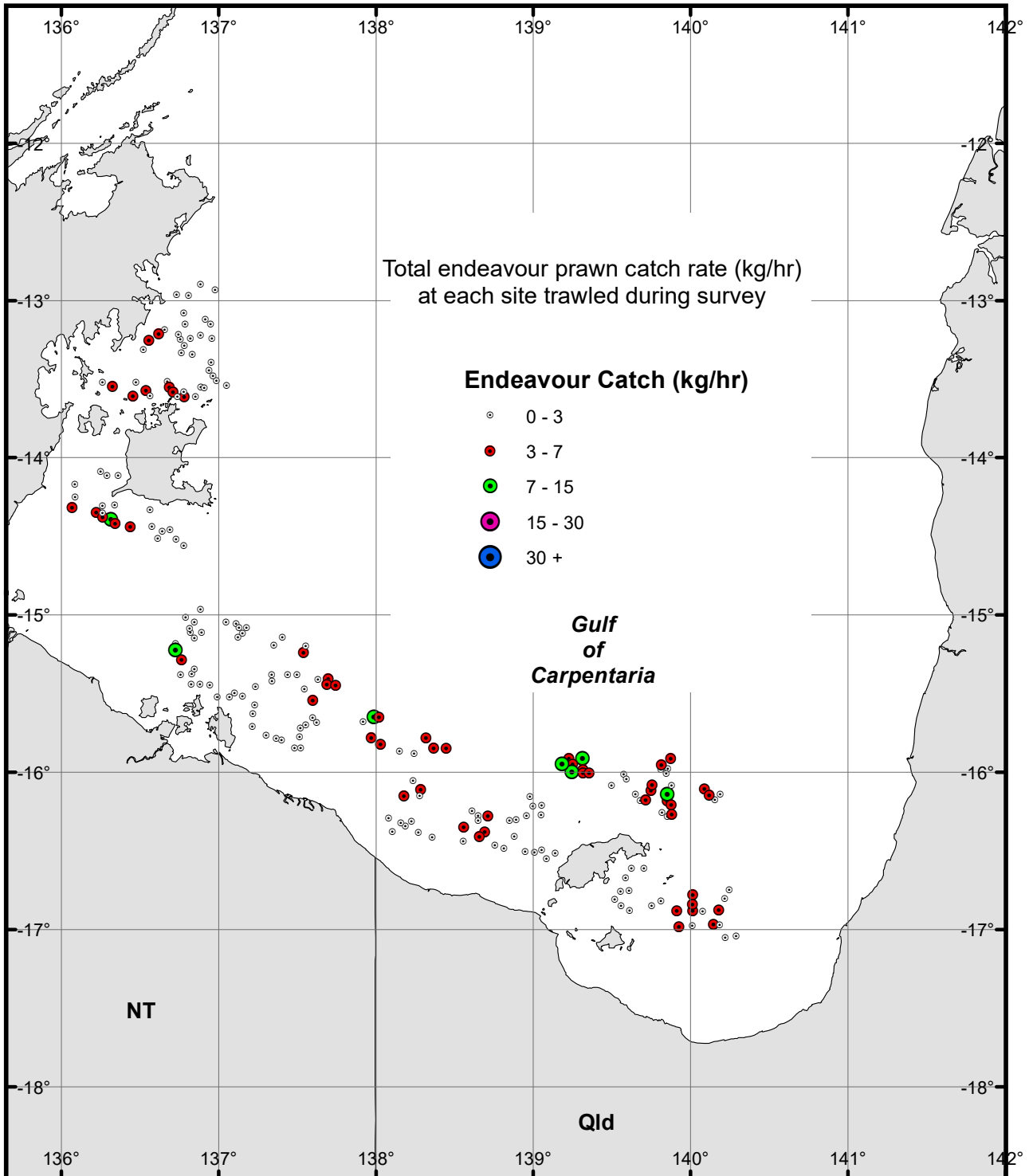




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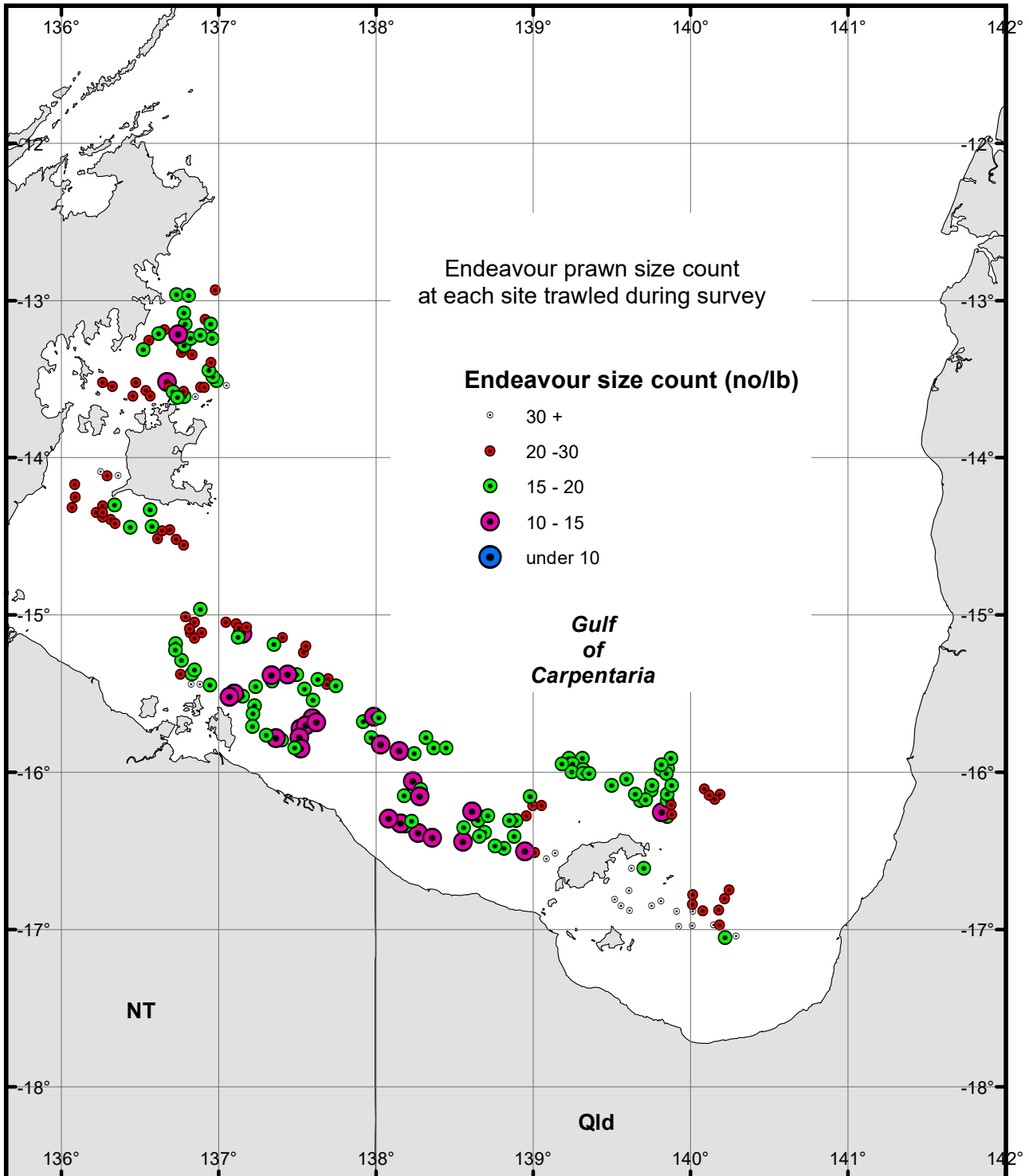




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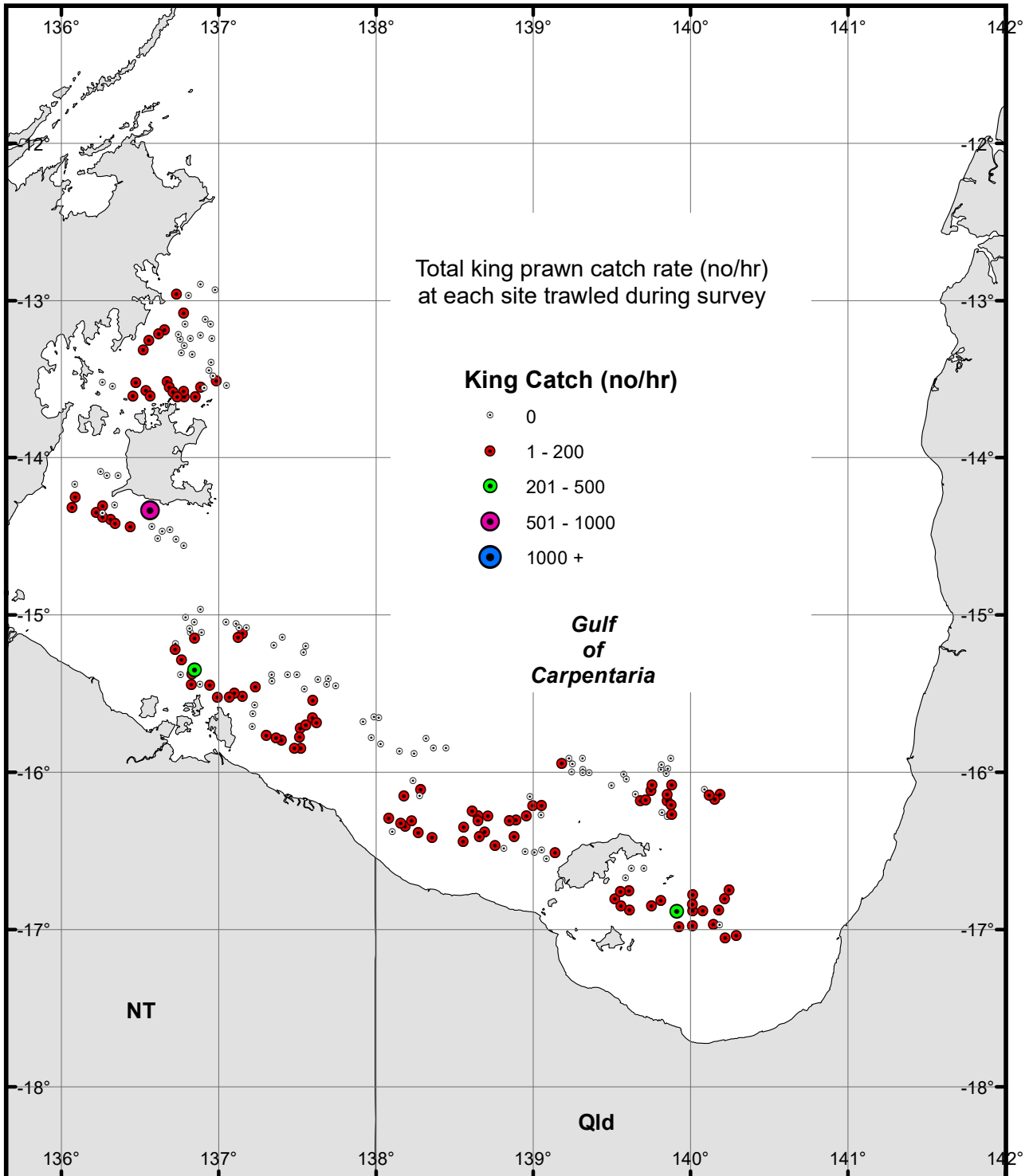




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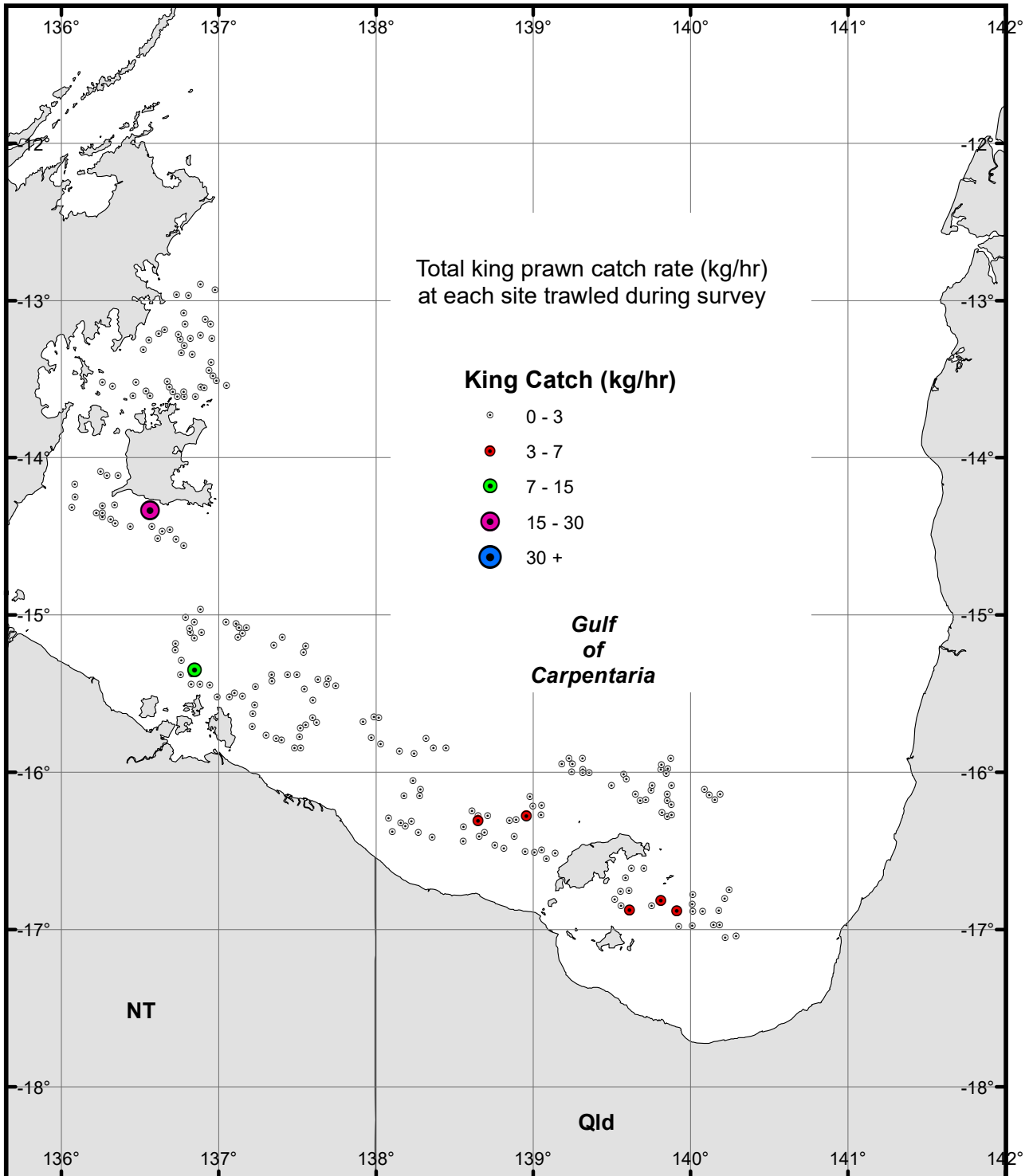




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