

NPF Survey August 2024

Collection area: Mornington (east, north and west), Vanderlins and Groote Eylandt (north and south), Gulf of Carpentaria
Dates of trawling: 4 to 23 July 2024
Vessels chartered: FV “Northern Pearl” (Raptis P/L)
CSIRO staff: 2 scientists
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: “Integrated fishery-independent data for the Northern Prawn Assessment: 2024–27”.

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 “Northern Pearl” was chartered to trawl pre-determined sites covering fishing grounds at Mornington Island, Vanderlins and Groote Eylandt. We carried out 216 trawls between 4 and 23 July 2024. All trawls were made at night and were about 30 minutes in duration. The catches were standardised to a catch per hour trawled.

One school of banana prawns was 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 (one 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.
- Collection of tissue samples to support DNA extraction from a number of species relevant to aquaculture for a CSIRO Agriculture and Food project.
- Collection of fish specimens to assist the Australian National Fish Collection with genetic material for taxa not currently in their collection from that region.

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.

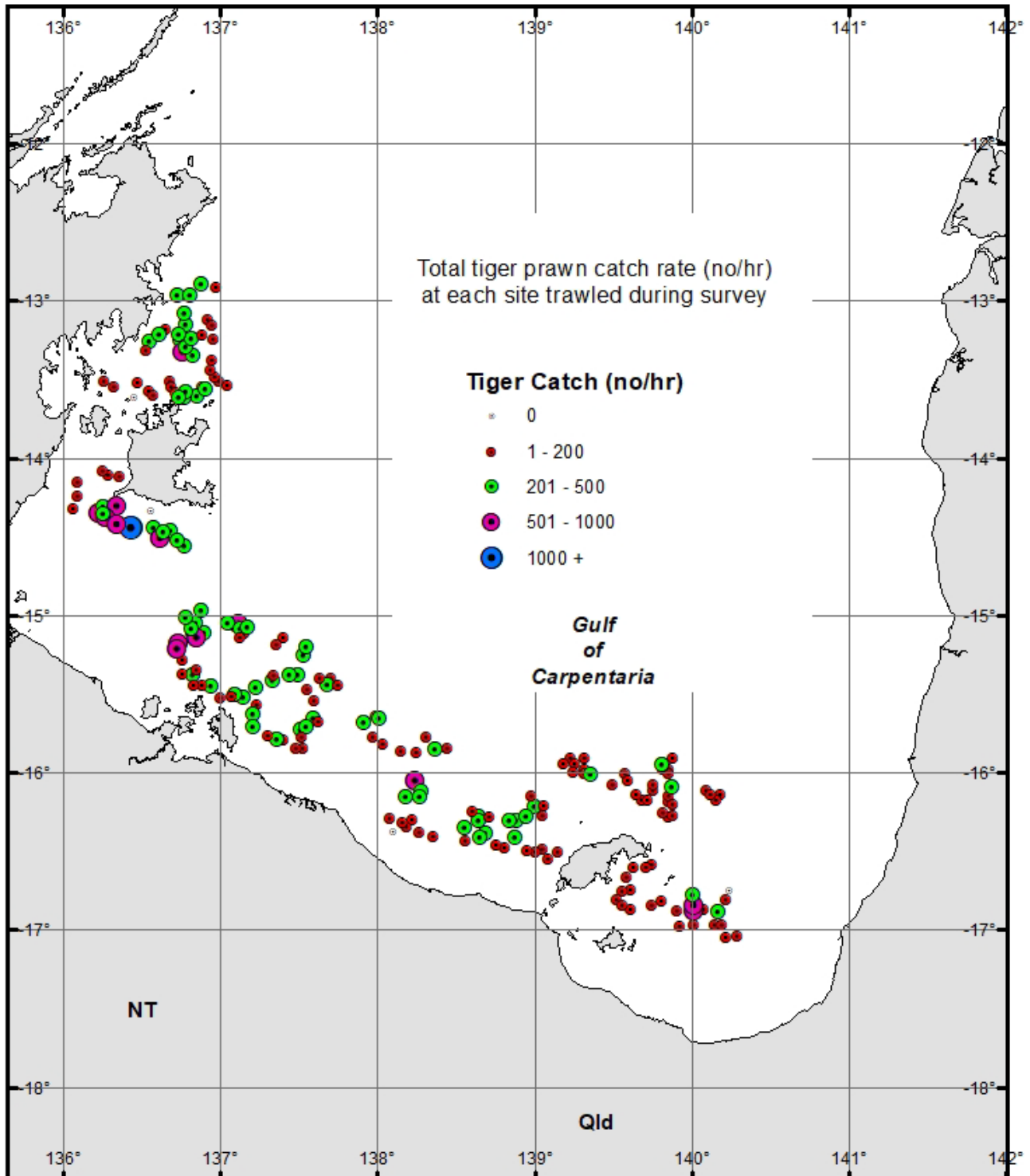
NB This is preliminary data only and further error checking is being conducted.



CSIRO Oceans & Atmosphere NPF Monitoring Survey – July 2024 Preliminary Results



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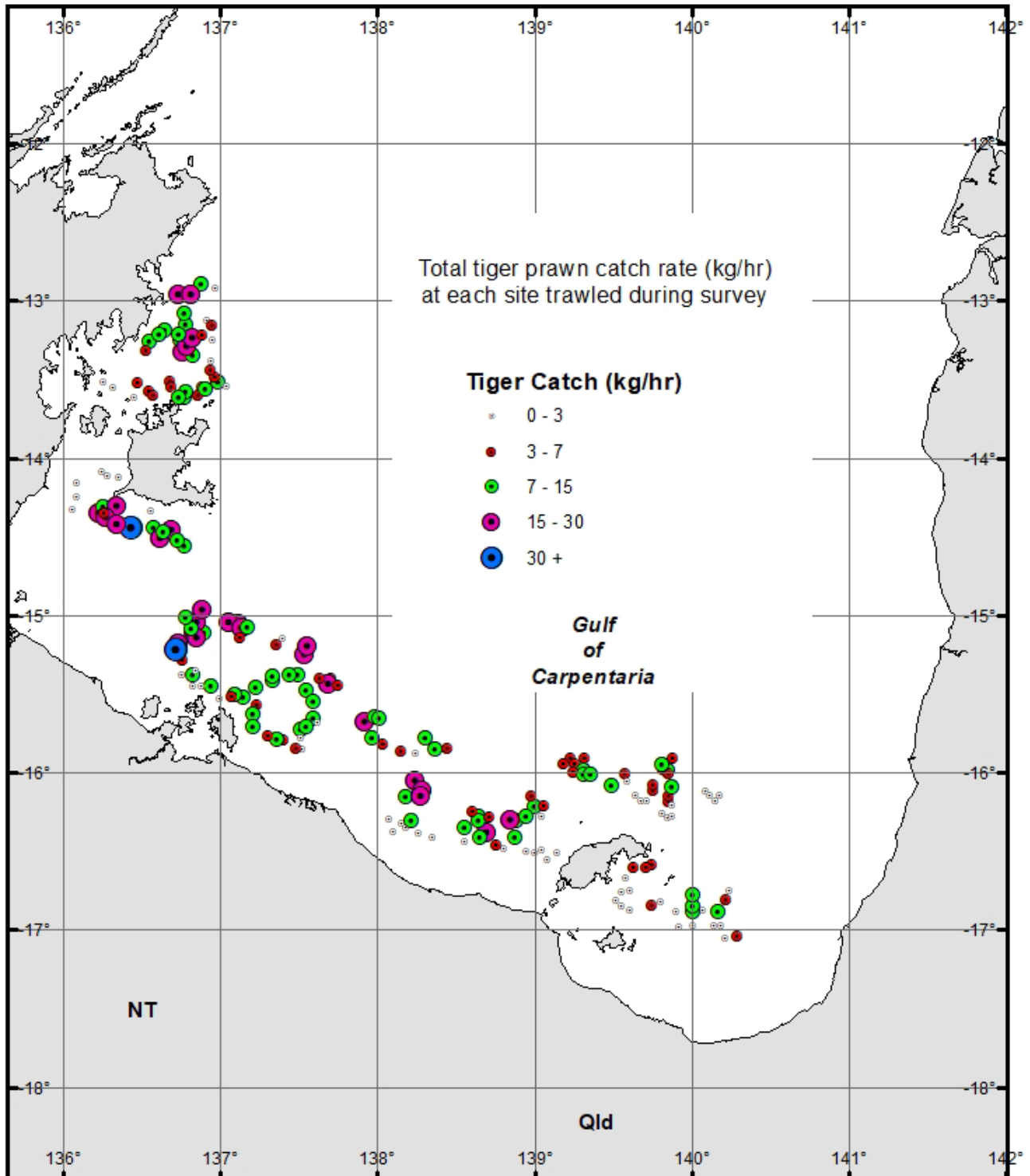




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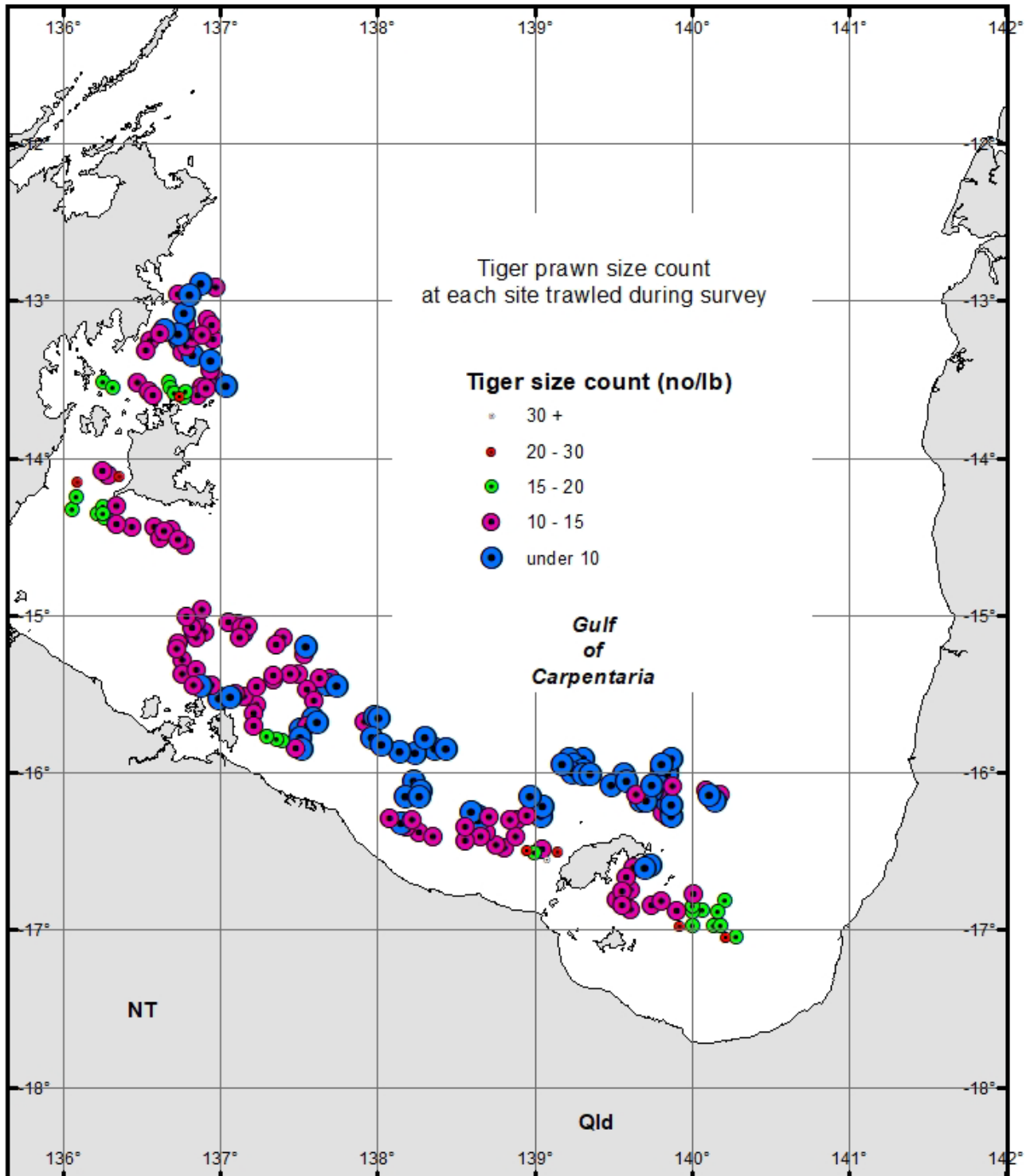




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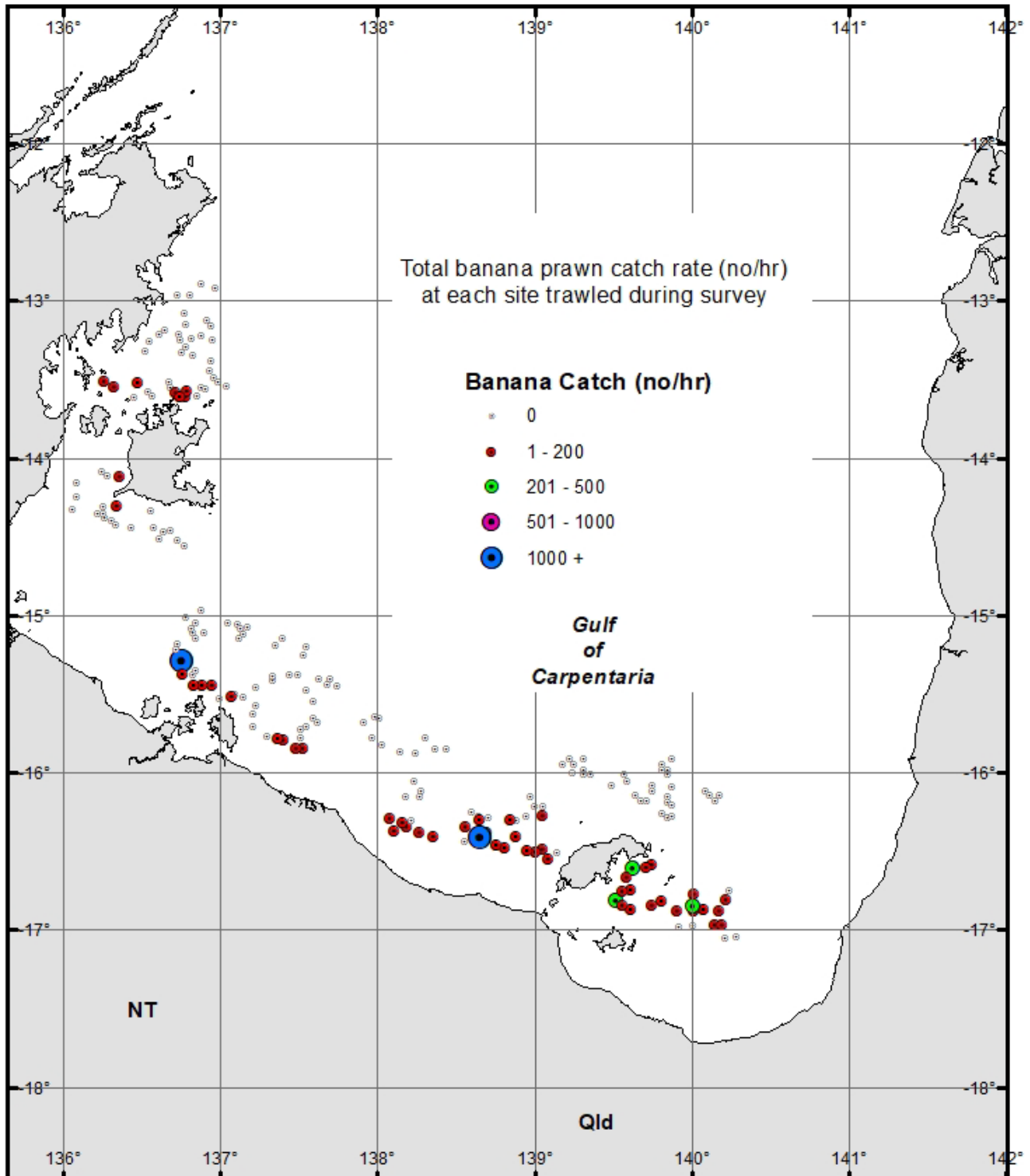




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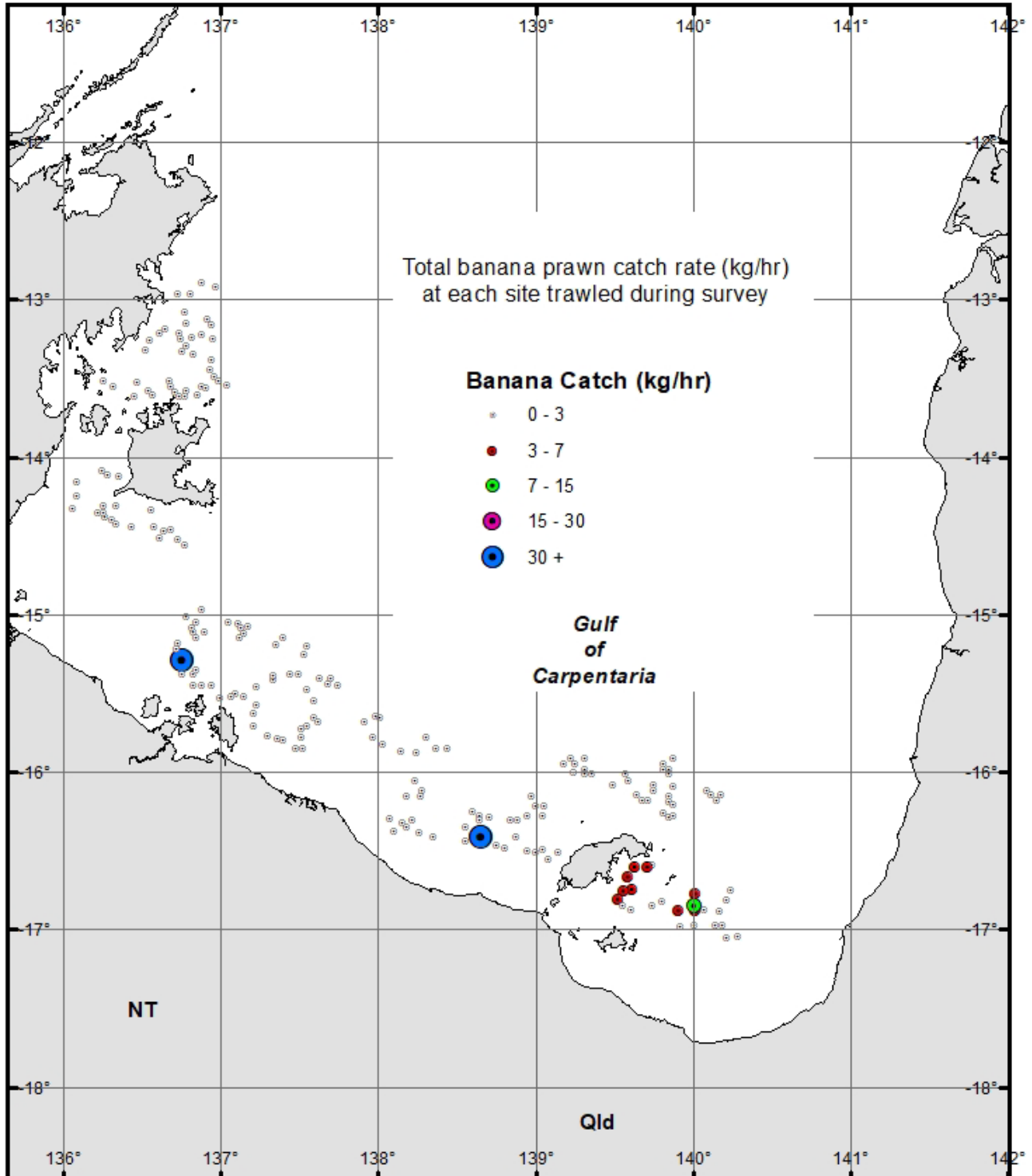




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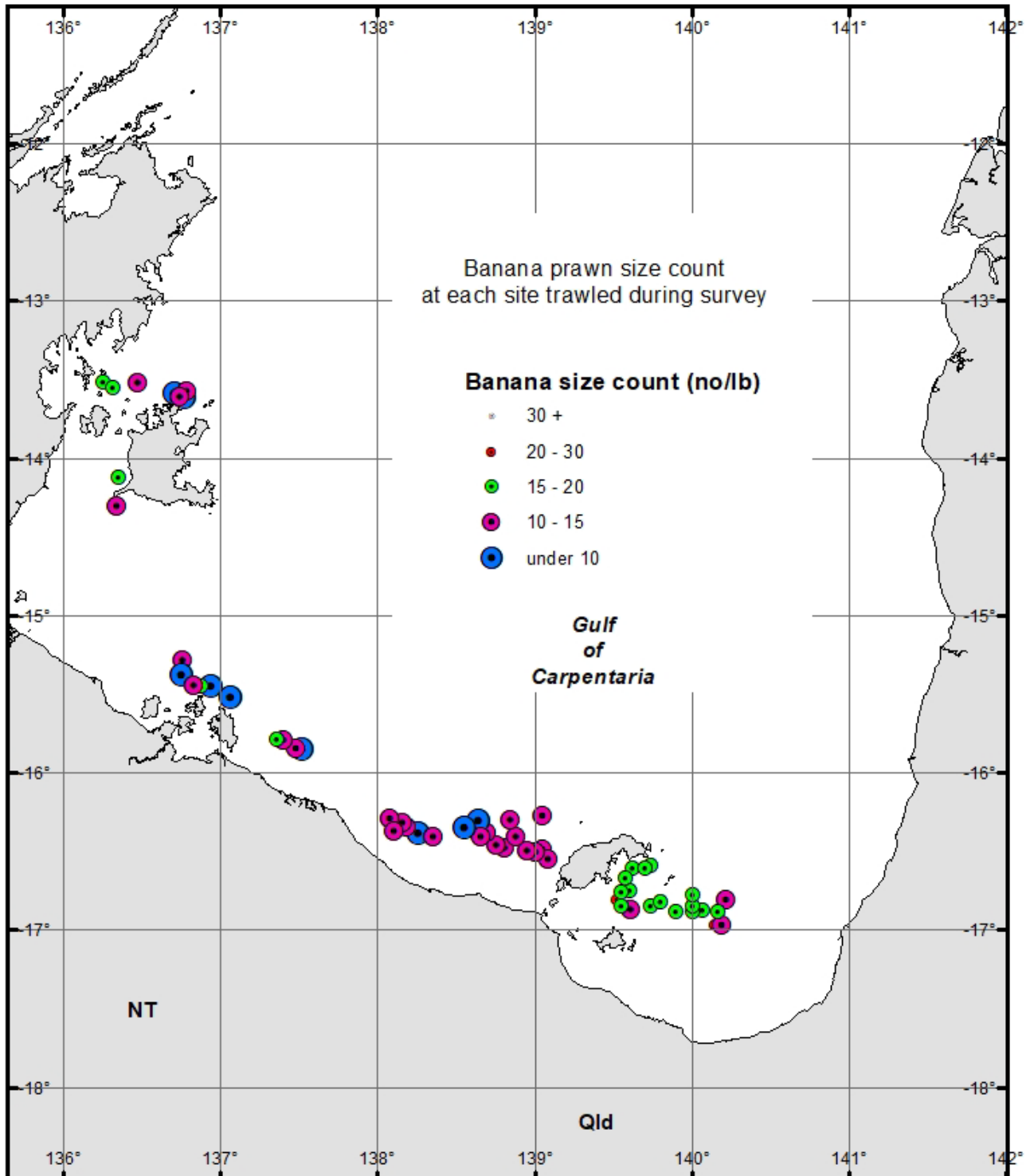




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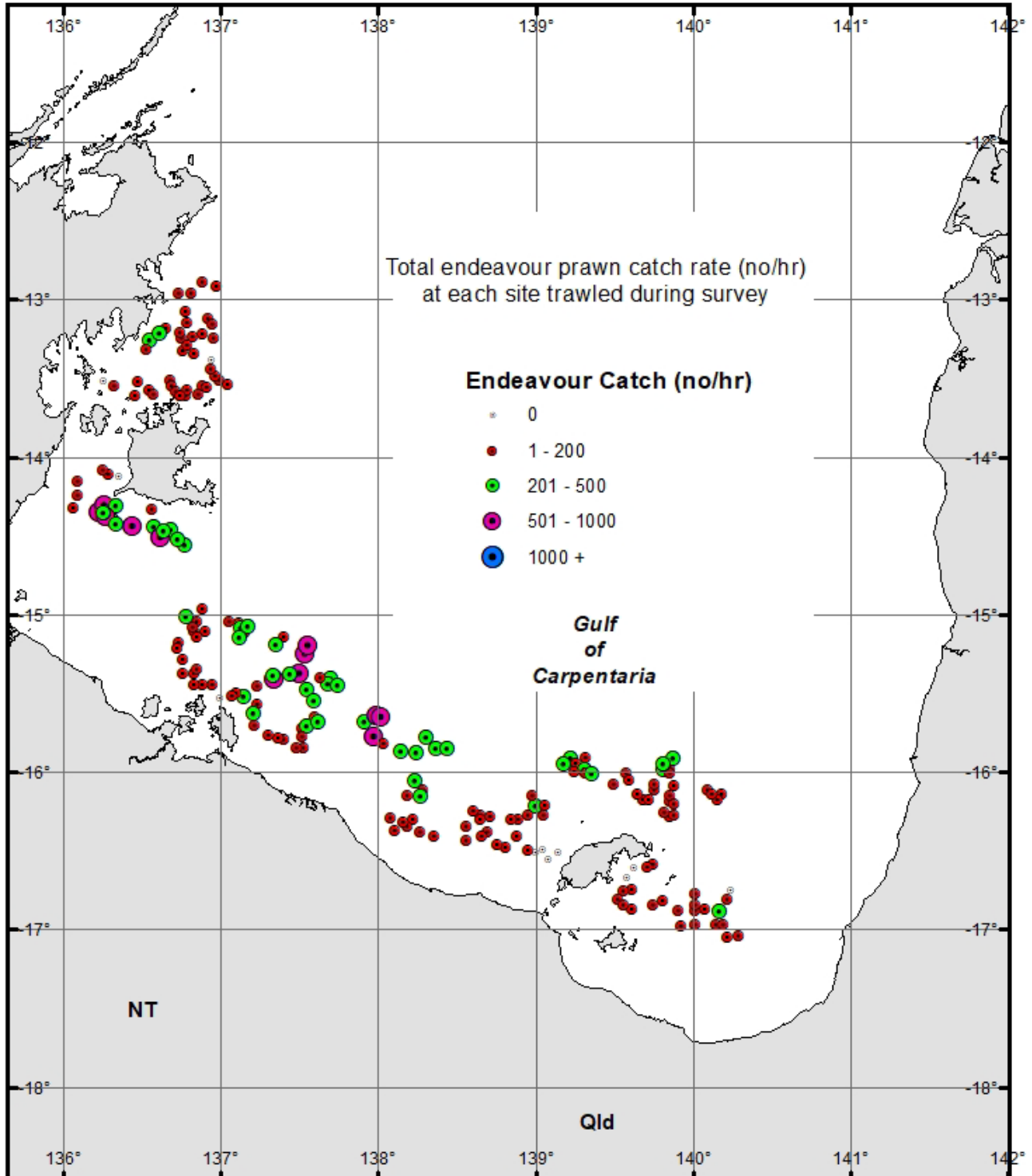




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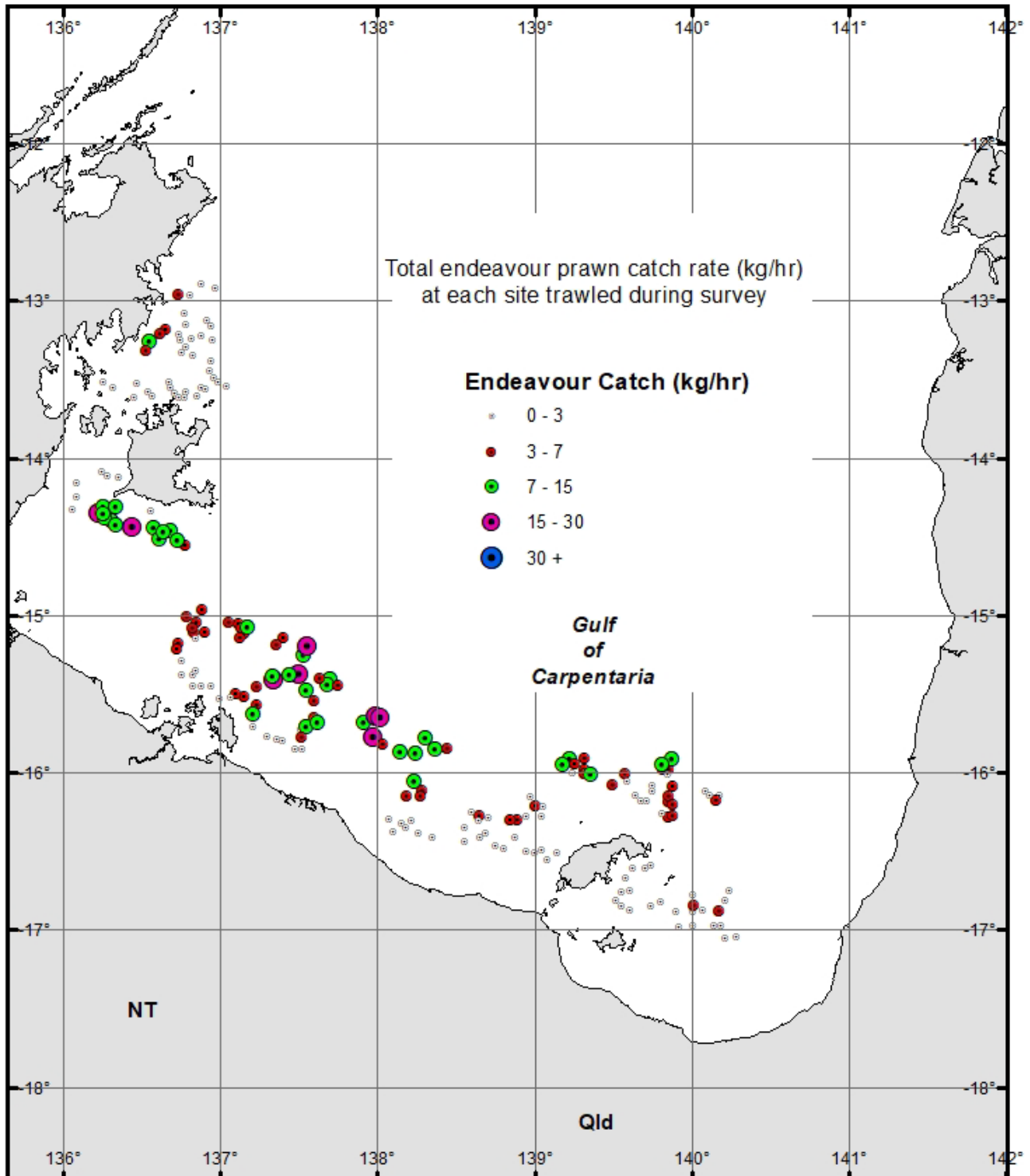




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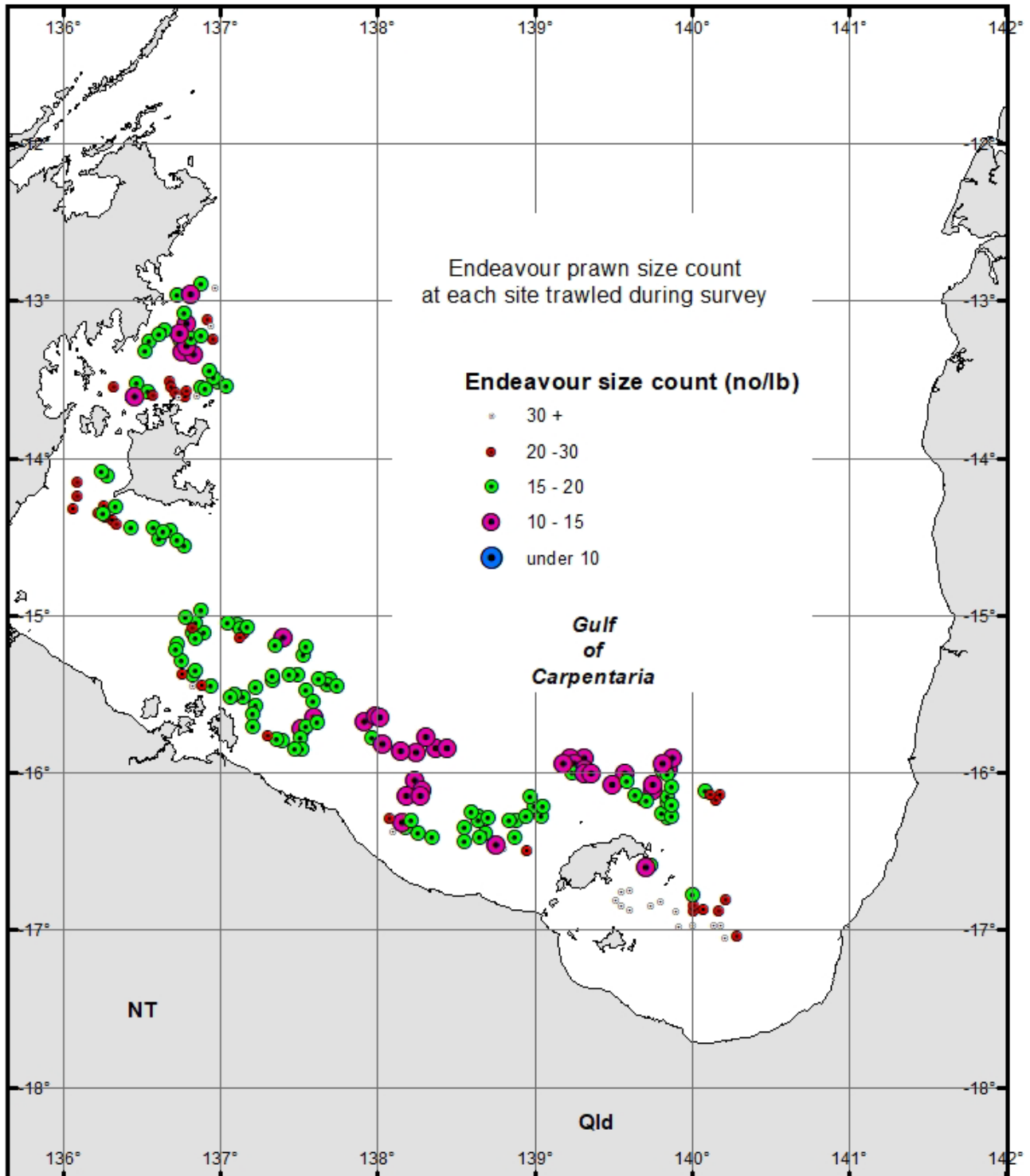




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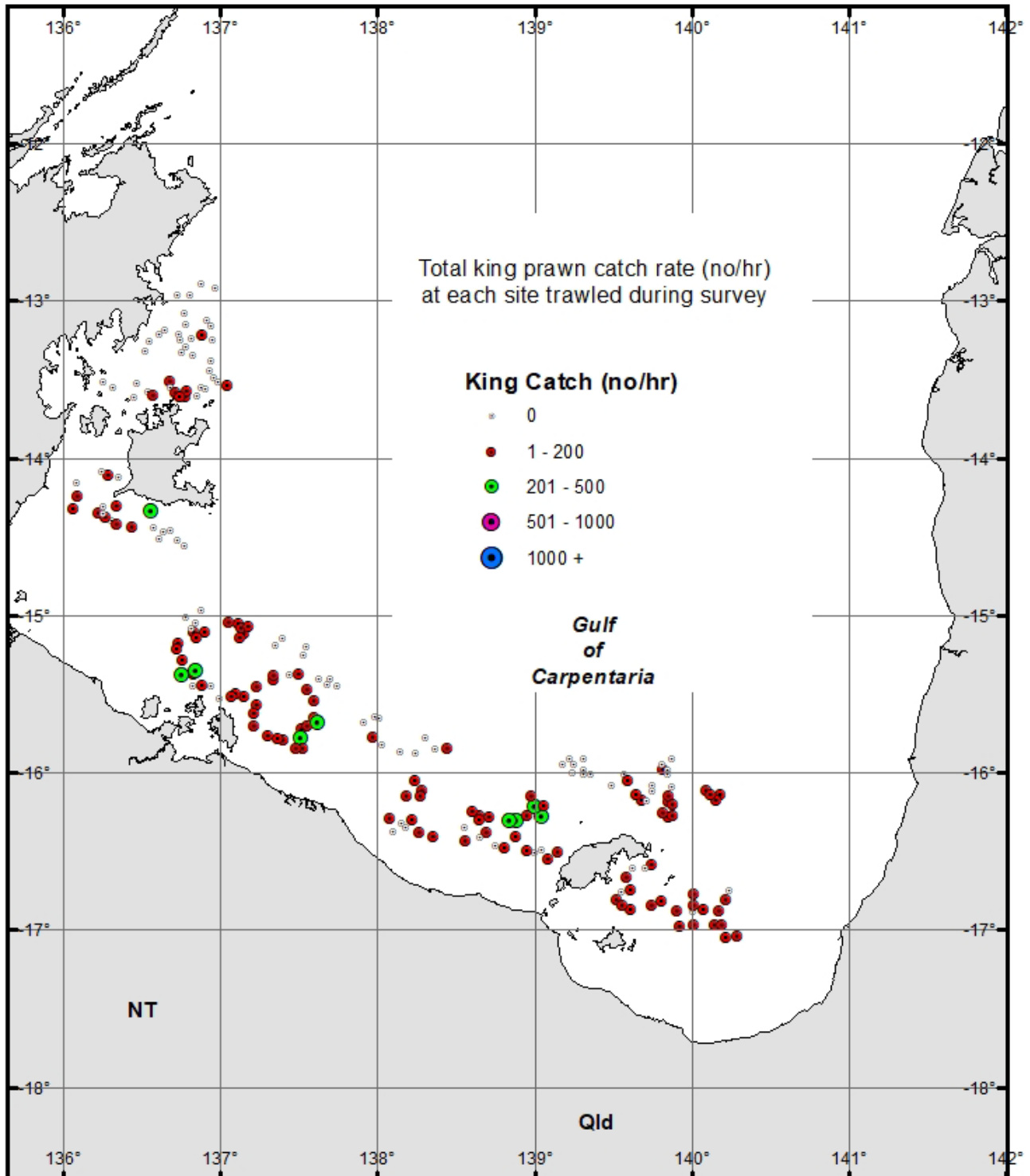




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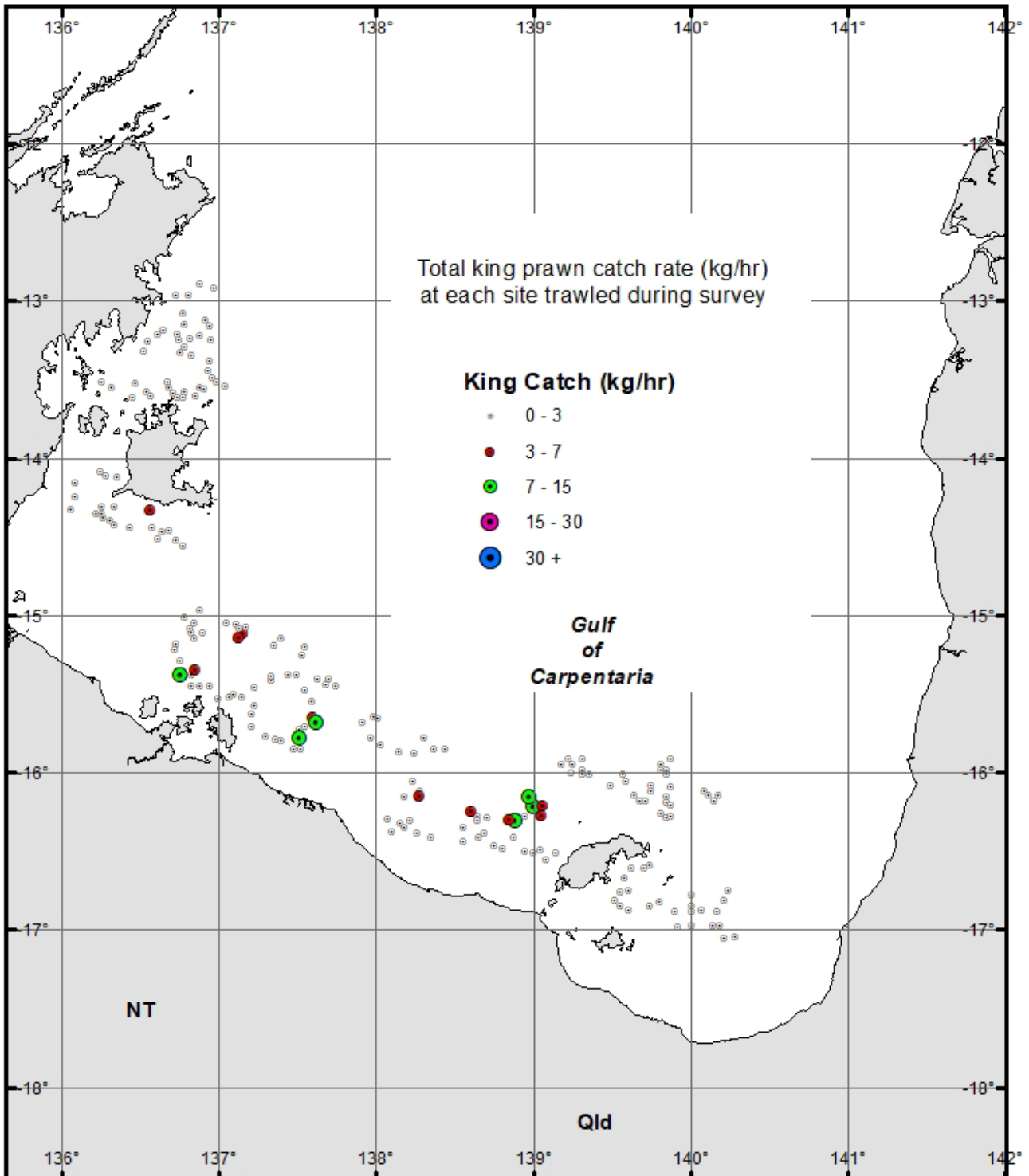




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