

Assessing the Ecological Effects of Green Zones on Inshore GBR Reefs

Project Leaders:

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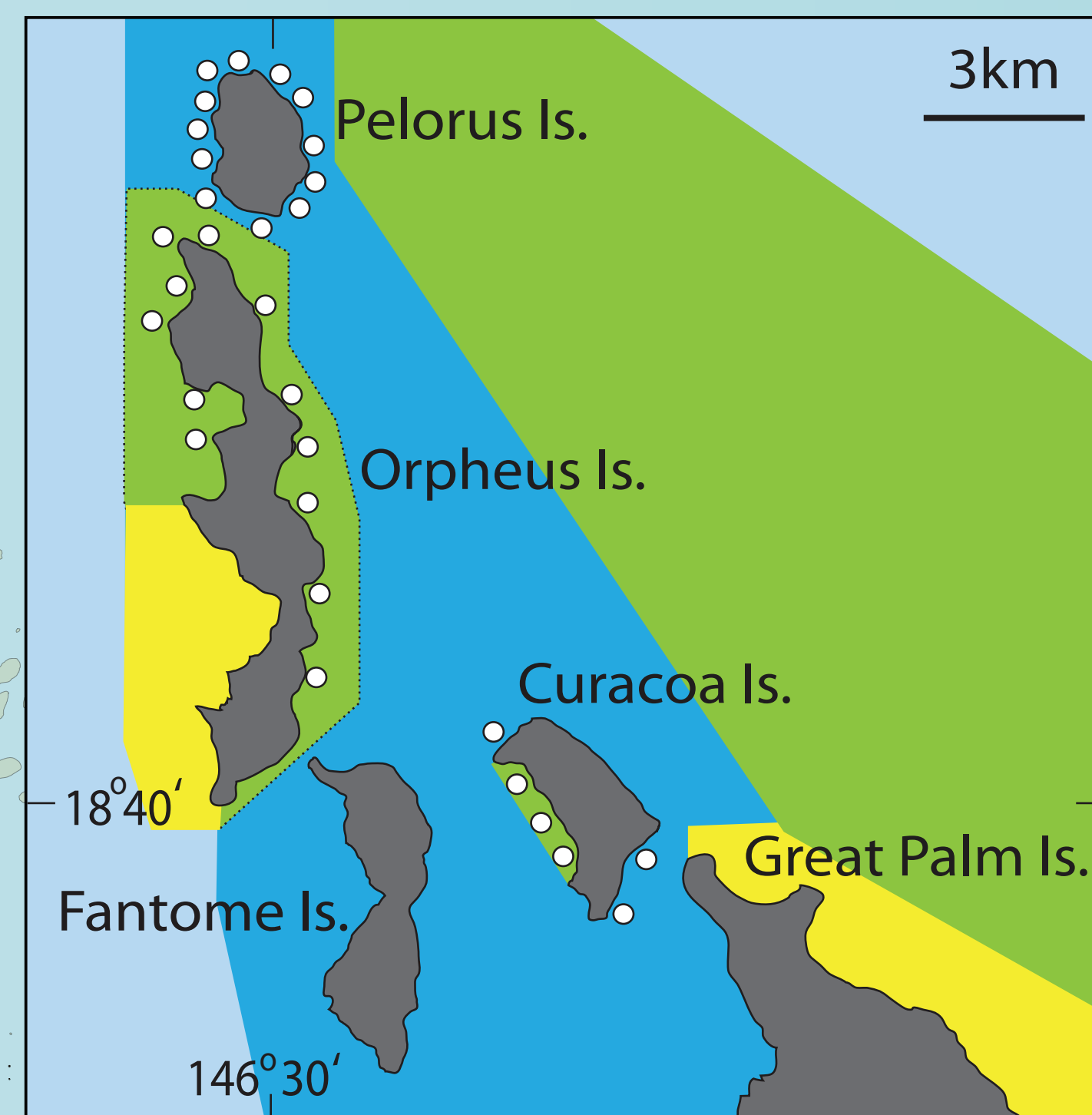
Project overview:

- The primary objective is to provide a robust assessment of the ecological effects of management zoning on inshore reefs of the GBR Marine Park
- Underwater visual surveys of fish and coral communities are being conducted at 100 long-term monitoring sites on no-take marine reserve (green zone) reefs and fished reefs in the Palm, Magnetic, Whitsunday and Keppel Island groups

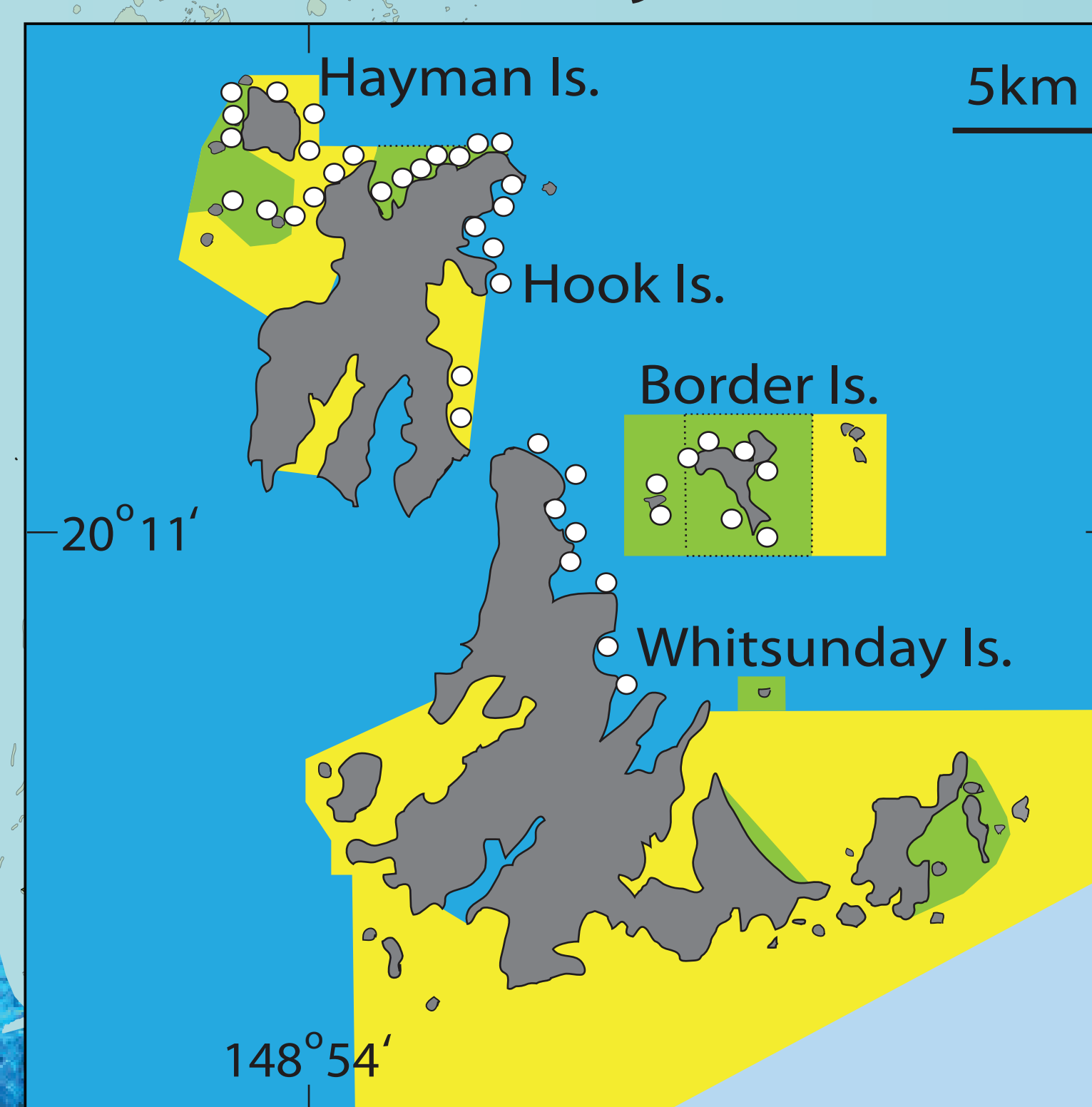
Key outputs from this research:

- Direct measurements of the changes in populations of fishery-targeted and non-targeted species due to the establishment of green zones
- Specific information on the condition and health of coral reef communities and how they are changing in response to environmental disturbances, zoning and other management actions (eg. vessel moorings and no-anchoring areas)
- The project is providing information that has direct relevance and interest for marine park and fishery managers, tourism operators, fishers and the wider community

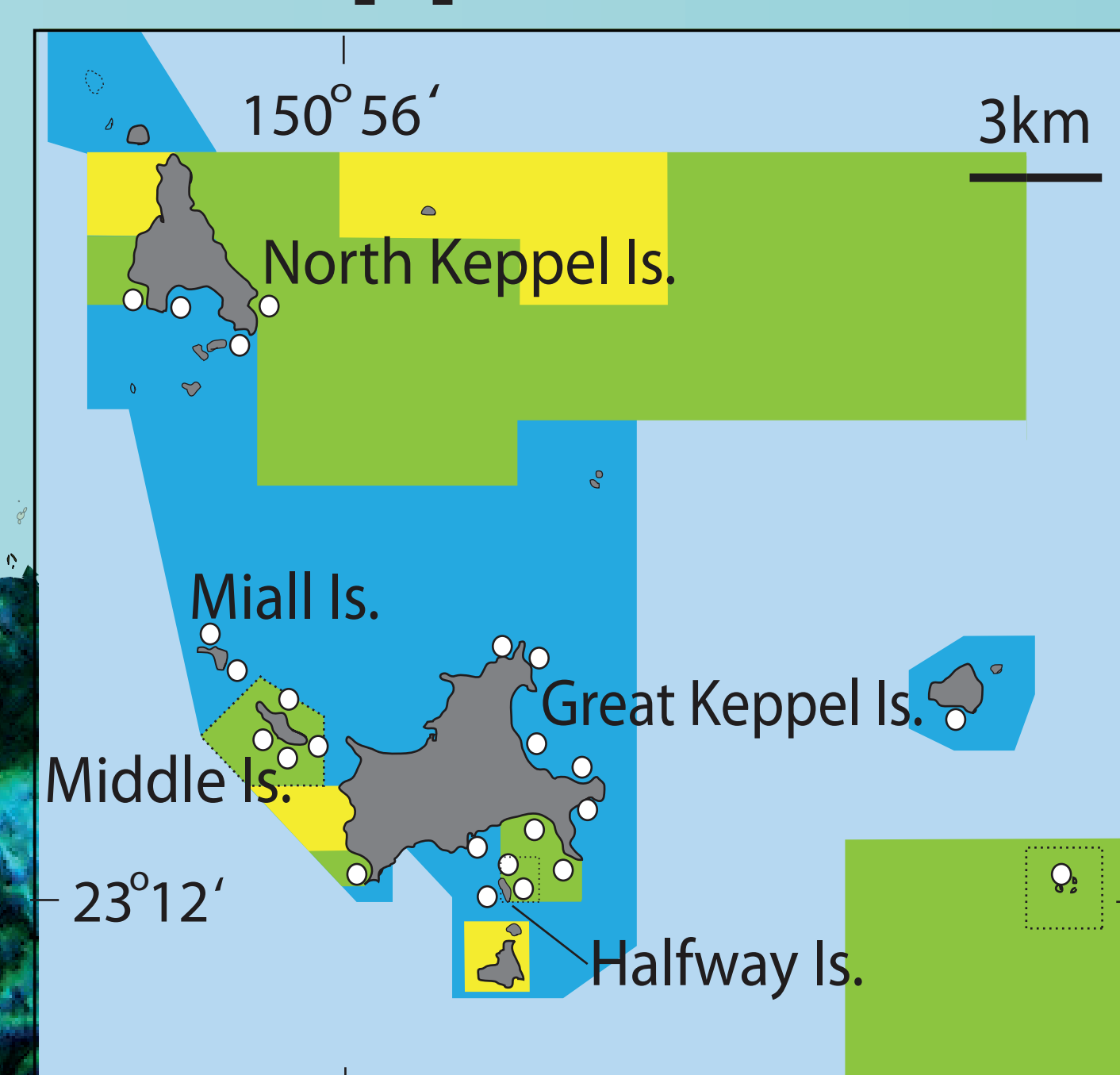
Palm Islands



Whitsunday Islands



Keppel Islands



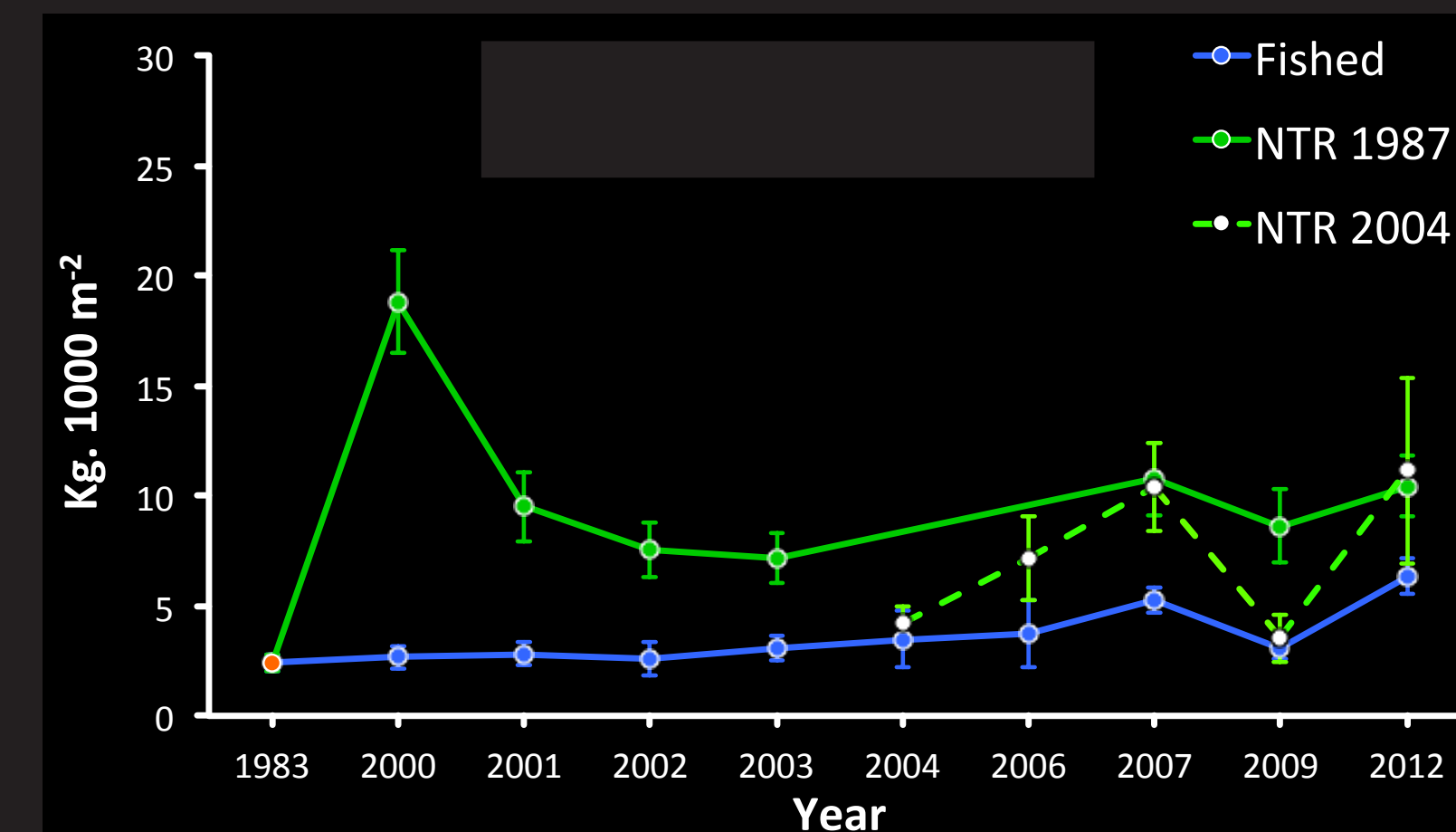
Coral trout biomass in green zones and fished areas



Palm Islands

NTR 1987 : Fished = 2.6 : 1

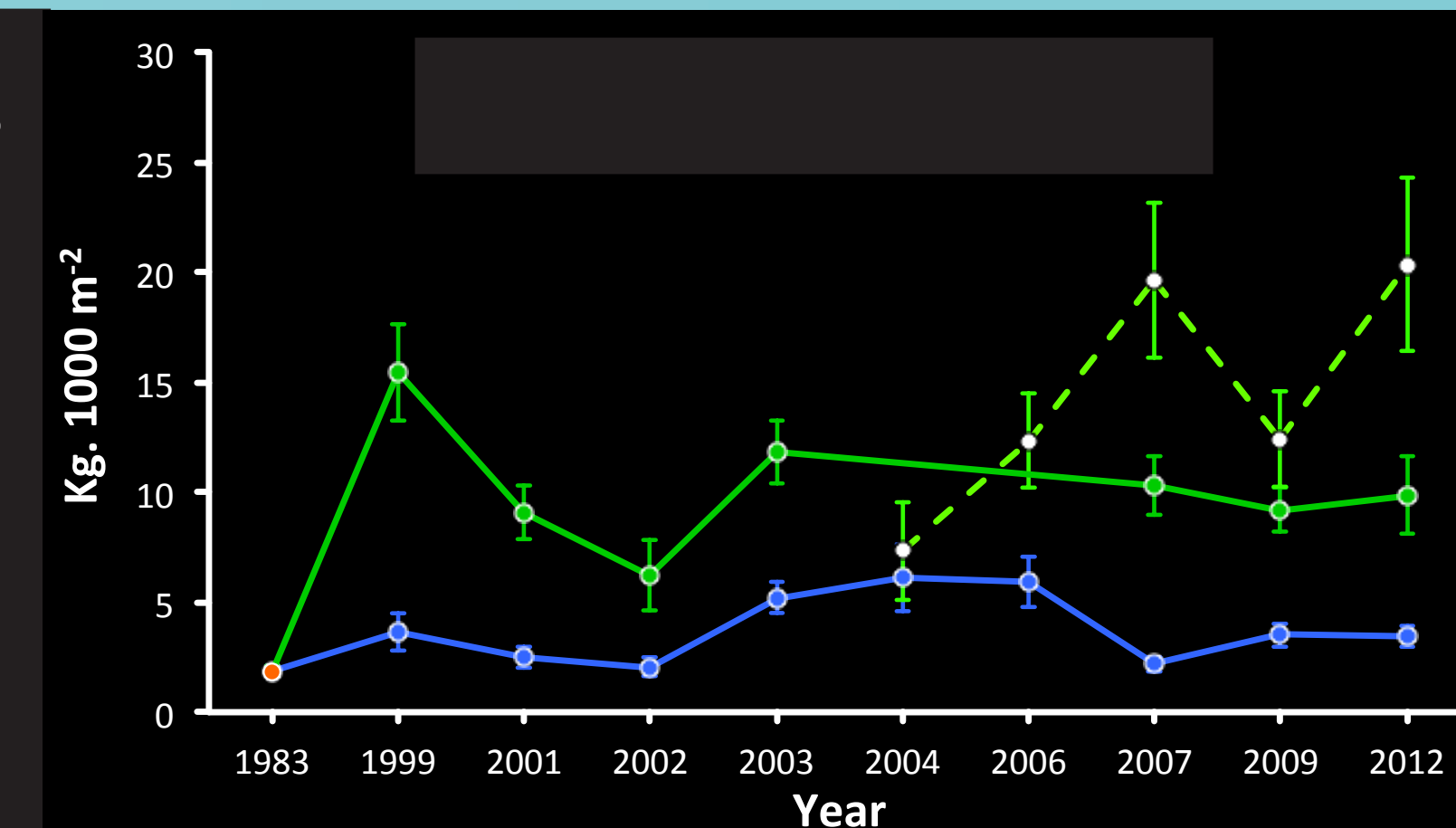
NTR 2004 : Fished = 2.2 : 1



Whitsunday Islands

NTR 1987 : Fished = 2.4 : 1

NTR 2004 : Fished = 4.2 : 1



Keppel Islands

NTR 1987 : Fished = 2.5 : 1

NTR 2004 : Fished = 2.8 : 1

