U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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U. S. Makes Gains at ICNAF Meeting

Substantial progress was achieved in meeting U.S. fishing quotas and international enforcement objectives at a special meeting of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF) earlier this year in Rome, Italy, according to David H. Wallace, Chairman of the U.S. Delegation and NOAA's Associate Administrator for Marine Resources.

Mr. Wallace said he was encouraged by the action taken concerning quotas of northwest Atlantic herring stocks and refinements made in the international enforcement procedures.

At its meeting, the 18-member-nation Commission acted to:

—Reduce the 1976 overall catch quota for the overfished Georges Bank herring stock from 150,000 tons to 60,000 tons, and agreed to hold the quota at that level or lower until the stock has fully recovered.

—Effectively prohibit large foreign vessels from fishing directly for herring between January 1 and June 30, 1976.

—Increase the U.S. quota for the Georges Bank herring stock to 9,400 tons for the first six months of 1976, an increase of 1,000 tons over the entire U.S. quota for 1975. Allocations for

(Continued on page 2)

Robert Learson Will Receive Flemming Award

Robert J. Learson, Supervisory Research Food Technologist at the National Marine Fisheries Service Northeast Utilization Research Center in Gloucester, Mass., will receive the Arthur S. Flemming Award on March 17 in Washington, D.C. The awards are made annually by the D.C. Junior Chamber of Commerce to honor ten outstanding young government employees.

Mr. Learson

Mr. Learson will be cited for his efforts in the New England Fisheries Development Program, which has reached a level of effective government/industry collaborative progress never before achieved for the fishing industry.

While noting that many dedicated and diligent people are involved in the program's success, the nomination submitted by NMFS states that it was Mr. Learson who designed the work effort that now forms the basis of its operation, that he presently directs a large amount of the technological support on which the program depends, and that

(Continued on page 2)

New CZM Grant For California

The California Coastal Commission has received a $1.2 million grant from NOAA to complete development of a coastal zone management program aimed at achieving broad-balanced use of the coast for a wide range of activities.

The current grant is California's third for program development and will be administered by the California Coastal Zone Conservation Commission.

The 1,100-mile California coast, rich in natural resources, is under heavy use pressure from competing interests for recreation, development, beach home construction, mineral mining, agriculture, conservation, transportation, energy production, and various other purposes.

To achieve a balance between

(Continued on page 2)

Sea Grant Awarded To New Consortium Of Maine, N.H. U.'s

A newly formed consortium of the University of Maine and the University of New Hampshire has received an $860,000 Sea Grant to support studies in aquaculture, ocean engineering, marine resource development, and marine education.

Matching funds from the two States will raise the total amount of the grant to almost $1,412,000.

Although both universities have received individual Sea Grant support since 1970, this year's funding marks the first time the programs at both are combined. "This joint effort," said Dr. Frederick E. Hutchinson, the first director of the co-

(Continued on page 4)

Drought in Winter Wheat Region Of Great Plains Threatens Crop

The amount of precipitation in the Great Plains during the next three months will be critical to the winter wheat crop, but with favorable weather it could still be salvaged, the Environmental Data Service's Center for Climatic and Environmental Assessment announced last week.

The winter wheat region of the Great Plains is suffering from extremely dry weather, with the most severely affected areas including the western two-thirds of Kansas and the eastern part of Colorado. Conditions in the Panhandle counties of Oklahoma and Texas are considered to be slightly less severe.

The current situation in the Great Plains began last fall. During September and October, the winter wheat planting season, the weather was dry (only 75 percent of normal precipitation). This slowed seed germination, emergence, and subsequent crop growth. November, however produced much more than normal precipitation, which boosted emergence and improved the general crop condition. Much colder-than-normal temperatures in the third week of November prevented the late-emerging wheat from enjoying normal growth and root development.

Weather conditions from De-

(Continued on page 3)

Florida Firm Joins Quality Fish Program

A voluntary inspection program conducted by the National Marine Fisheries Service aimed at assuring quality fisheries products has been adopted by Harry H. Bell & Sons of St. Petersburg, Fla. The company, with a staff of 150, using modern equipment and fresh products, ships Spanish mackerel fillets, stuffed Florida lobster, Florida stone crab claws, and Florida sea trout throughout Florida as well as the southern, midwestern, and west coast states.

Under the program, the food processor will be permitted to place on its products a "Packed Under Federal Inspection" (PUFI) mark, which attests that the product has been statistically sampled at the time of processing and found to be safe, wholesome, and of good quality.

To meet the high standards required to display the PUFI symbol, a fish products processor must agree to certification by an NMFS inspector who insures that the conditions under which the products are processed meet high sanitary requirements. All costs of the inspection program are carried by the participating firm.

A growing number of processors throughout the United States are joining the program, NMFS officials said.

Baker Elected ACSM President

Capt. Leonard S. Baker, Director of the National Geodetic Survey, was elected president of the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping at its recent annual convention in Washington, D.C. He was previously vice president of the organization of more than 7,000 surveyors and cartographers, and has served on its Board of Directors for three years.

Capt. Baker

Since joining the NOAA Corps in 1947, Capt. Baker has served in various capacities aboard eight

(Continued on page 2)

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SATELLITE WORKSHOP conducted recently by the National Environmental Satellite Service Satellite Applications Group for National Weather Service Central Region Forecasters were (seated, from left) Perry Baker, WSFO Des Moines, Iowa; Milton Lefebvre, WSFO Minneapolis, Minn.; Jim Schultz, WSFO Denver, Colo.; Dave Theolophius, WSFO Sioux Falls, S. Dak.; Richard Leblang, Weather Mod. Group, Pierre, S. Dak.; Larry Krudwig, WSFO Des Moines; Erwin Varns, WSFO Indianapolis, Ind.; George Sickels, WSFO Louisville, Ky.; Marvin Marshall, WSFO St. Louis, Mo.; Bill Togstad, WSFO Bismarck, N.Dak.; Henry Yario, WSFO Chicago, Ill.; Ted Jafferis, CRH; John Curran, WSFO Topeka; Thayne Mauch, WSFO Topeka; (standing, from left) Larry Hughes, Chief, SSD, CRH; Jim Purdom, NESS; Vincent Oliver, NESS; Rich Warren, CRH; Jim Gurka, NESS; and (not in photo) Jim Lebda, WSFO Milwaukee, Wis.

The emphasis of the workshop was on how satellite data can help with details of the forecast for the next few hours especially on days with convective activity.

Credit Union Elects Officers

The Department of Commerce Federal Credit Union elected the following officers to serve during the next year: Emanuel A. Lipscomb, DIBA, President: Bobette P. Orr, BIC, First Vice President; Nicholas F. Sampogna, NOAA, 2nd Vice President; John M. Amstadt, NOAA, Treasurer; and Evelyn H. Gray, Office of Secretary, Secretary. Joseph P. Murdock of NOAA Personnel was elected to the Board of Directors. The DOC Credit Union is nearing the $10 million total in assets.

Capt. Baker

(Continued from page 1)

ships and as Chief of photogrammetric, geomagnetic and geodetic field parties. He has been Chief of the Geodesy Division, Deputy Director of the NGS, and since 1972, NGS Director.

He received a civil engineering degree from Mississippi State University in 1943, and served in the South Pacific as a Marine Corps lieutenant during World War II.

ICNAF Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

the remainder of the year will be considered at the Commission's 1976 Annual Meeting scheduled for June 8-23 in Havana, Cuba.

–Reduce the overall quota of Gulf of Maine herring from 16,000 tons to 7,000 tons, also subject to review and possible adjustment at the 1976 annual meeting.

–Insure stricter compliance with the increasingly complex system of fishery regulations adopted for the northwest and middle Atlantic. If finally adopted, these recommendations would require nations with large fishing fleets in this area to provide someone in the area to respond to complaints of violations of these regulations and permit ICNAF inspectors to stop fishing which appeared to be contrary to major regulations.

–Provide for possible reductions in a nation's quota when that nation had overfished any of its catch quotas. Member nations also were encouraged to report more fully on inspections and dispositions of infringements of the regulations.

Learson Receives Flemming Award

(Continued from page 1)

the establishment of a red crab fishery (a most significant accomplishment of the program) is largely a product of his well rounded abilities to set and meet important practical research goals.

Mr. Learson received his B.S. in chemistry from Suffolk University in Boston, Mass., in 1961, and has been with NMFS and its predecessor agency since 1962.

He is a member of the Institute of Food Technologists, the New England Fisheries Institute, and is on the Executive Committee of the Atlantic Fisheries Technological Conference.

In 1974, he was elected an honorary member of the National Blue Crab Industry Association by its Executive Committee.

W. Va. Tax Changes

Employees who are subject to state tax withholdings for the State of West Virginia may notice a minor change in their state tax for salary checks dated on or after March 24, 1976.

California CZM Grant

(Continued from page 1)

competing uses, the State has prepared and submitted to the legislature a comprehensive coastal plan outlining long-range protection of the scenic California coast and use of coastal resources. But, according to the State, the plan is only a recommendation and cannot be implemented as a permanent management program without new legislation.

As part of the third-year grant, California planners intend to broaden understanding by both the public and the legislature of the State program, and conduct additional planning studies leading towards Federal approval.

The State has requested about $550,000 of the third-year grant to help in preparing local implementation programs as well as subregional plans for areas where the cumulative impact of development over a period of time could adversely affect California's coastal resources and public access to the coast.

The subregional plans will attempt to answer such questions as what type of development would have priority in specific coastal areas; where population shifts could or should occur; what the ability, or inability, of certain areas is to tolerate development; and what conditions must accompany different levels of development, such as open space to serve new development, and improvements in transportation systems.

Local governments have been given primary responsibility in California for implementing the overall coastal zone management program since they can help eliminate duplication, are both accessible and accountable to local citizens, and are best able to reflect the different conditions and values of the many communities along the coast.

Included in the grant is $300,000 to expedite the planning of potential onshore impacts of oil and gas production off the southern California coast, and to incorporate the findings into the evolving coastal zone management program.

calendar of events

April 12-15 Washington, D.C.	1976 Spring Annual Meeting of American Geophysical Union. (Cynthia Beadling, AGU, 1909 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. 202-331-0370.)
Aug. 29-Sept. 3 Aspen, Colo.	Chapman Conference on State of Stress in the Lithosphere. Sponsored by the American Geophysical Union. Preliminary registration must be received by March 31. (Cynthia Beadling, AGU, 1909 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. 202-331-0370.)
October 5-8 St. Jovite, Quebec, Canada	Second Magnetospheric Cleft Symposium: An AGU Chapman Conference, cosponsored by the National Research Council of Canada and Canadian Association of Physicists. Preliminary registration must be made by March 31. (R.W. Dolan, Executive Secretary, Second Magnetospheric Cleft Symposium, c/o National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A OR6.)
November 1976 or April 1977 Boston, Mass., Area	International Conference on CHITIN/CHITOSAN. To be hosted by the Massachusetts Science and Technology Foundation and the Sea Grant Program of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Interested individuals please contact Vincent R. LoCicero, Manager, International Conference on Chitin, Massachusetts Science and Technology Foundation, 10 Lakeside Office Park, Wakefield, Mass., 01880; 617-246-1250.

noaa week

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Catherine S. Cawley, Editor
Warren W. Buck, Jr., Art Director

MANNING NOAA'S EXHIBIT AT THE CHICAGO BOAT SHOW when this photo was taken were (from left) Robert Goodnough, Chief of the Water Levels Gaging Section at the National Ocean Survey's Lake Survey Center; Charles Stwertnik, Supervising Public Service Meteorologist at the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Chicago; and Bob Somrek, Community Preparedness Specialist at WSFO Chicago. Zenith Radio provided a special booth promoting the NOAA Weather Radio service, and Ray Waldman, Meteorologist in Charge at WSFO Chicago, was interviewed by John Case of WBBM, a 24-hour News Radio station, in a special feature on NOAA Weather Radio service that was broadcast from the WBBM booth.

Recent Congressional Activity of Interest to NOAA Personnel

Early in February, the Senate Committee on Commerce reported a bill providing that daylight savings time begin on the first Sunday in March and end on the second Sunday in November for a two-year period. Late in February, the Senate passed the bill and sent it to the House. The House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee indicated the House could not complete action on the bill before the proposed effective date of March 14, and that the Committee would delay consideration of the bill until early April.

The Senate in early February passed a bill previously passed by the House to revive the White House science advisory structure. The bill would reinstate a presidential science adviser who would head a White House Office of Science, Engineering and Technology Policy. The bill now goes to House-Senate conference for resolution. The Senate bill would authorize approximately $17.5 million, including some State grant program funds. The House bill authorizes open-ended sums.

The House on February 17 passed a bill to grant court leave to Federal Employees when called as witnesses in certain judicial proceedings. This would liberalize leave benefits for Federal Employees and not require them to use annual leave in many cases when called as a witness.

Early in March, the General Accounting Office indicated that flat extra payments which go to Federal workers in Alaska, Hawaii, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico should be discontinued. GAO says the extra payments, which are tax free, are unfair since they are not available to workers in other states and cities where living costs are above the "key" city, which is Washington. GAO proposed that the differentials be handled through the flexibility of the Federal pay system.

Late in February, the Senate Finance Committee tentatively rejected President Ford's proposal to raise Social Security taxes by .6 percent to restore the system's short-term financial integrity. A committee spokesman said the action did not close the door on a tax increase but did indicate a reluctance to enact it.

On March 3, the House Government Operations Committee approved a bill to end secret deliberations by Federal agencies except in the most sensitive cases. The Senate passed a similar measure last November. The bill has been named the "Government in the Sunshine Act."

Grant for Atmospheric Research Awarded to Cornell University

A $29,870 grant for research on irregularities in the ionosphere—the electrically charged portion of the upper atmosphere—has been given to Professor D. T. Farley at Cornell University's School of Electrical Engineering in Ithaca, N.Y., by the Environmental Research Laboratories.

In the past few years, Prof. Farley and his colleagues at Cornell have been collaborating with Dr. Ben B. Balsley of ERL's Aeronomy Laboratory in Boulder, and scientists at Jicamarca Radar Observatory in Peru, in the study of the ionosphere above the earth's magnetic equator.

The scientists are interested in studying two separate ionospheric problems: They want to discover why the strong electrical currents which flow in the ionosphere in the auroral zones near the North and South Poles can occur simultaneously in the equatorial ionosphere. They also want to determine if a particular east-west wind pattern seen at 67 miles (107 kilometers) above the earth is related to weather in the troposphere and stratosphere.

For several years they have carried out a series of experiments at Jicamarca. A new radar system designed by Dr. Balsley was put in operation at the South American site, allowing the scientists to measure ionospheric winds and temperatures with better resolution than ever before. Data has been recorded automatically from the multibeam antenna, for the better part of one year.

Preliminary results using the system, together with earlier occasional measurements, show that large variations in temperature and wind velocity do occur in the ionosphere above the earth's magnetic equator and are probably related to the underlying meteorological system. The team will use the grant to analyze further the data from the new antenna.

Index To Data Files On the Great Lakes Available From EDS

An index to over 1,000 files of data concerning the Great Lakes is now available from the Environmental Data Service's National Oceanographic Data Center. The Great Lakes files are part of the 5,000 files described by the Environmental Data Index (ENDEX) system. ENDEX provides rapid, automated referral to multi-discipline environmental data files of NOAA, other Federal agencies, state and local governments, universities, research institutes, and private industry.

The Great Lakes index covers descriptions of environmental data on pollution, solar flares, meteorology, wildlife, aquatic biology, pesticides, and hydrology. The index contains no data, but does list each parameter measured in the data file, time periods, geographic area of data collection, data storage media (such as punch cards or data sheets), person to contact, and costs for obtaining these data.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Data Index Branch, National Oceanographic Data Center, 2001 Wisconsin Avenue, Washington, D.C., 20235. Tel.: (202) 634-7298. Access to ENDEX is free to NOAA employees.

Drought Threatens Winter Wheat Crop

(Continued from page 1)

cember to mid-February were very dry, with above-normal surface temperatures and practically non-existent snow cover. This period of dry, warm weather, combined with strong wind and poor development of crop roots needed to hold the soil, resulted in considerable wind erosion.

Soils in the problem areas need a good soaking rain to keep the top soil and sub-soil wet for crop growth and to retard further soil erosion. An estimated one inch of rain is needed during the first two weeks of March. For a good crop year, records indicate that 7 to 7.5 inches of water are needed during the next twelve weeks.

Information obtained from Kansas State University shows that the probability of occurrence of precipitation amounts needed to reach favorable conditions in western Kansas ranges from 19 percent to 41 percent, while in eastern Colorado the probabilities are smaller, ranging from 6 percent to 25 percent.

The chance of the required precipitation occurrence in the Panhandle counties of Oklahoma is about the same as in western Kansas, while in Texas, the probability is low, ranging from 5 percent to 25 percent.

Two-Week Period Precipitation Probabilities for Western Kansas, Eastern Colorado and the Panhandle Counties of Oklahoma and Texas, Based on Statistical Analysis of Long-Term Weather Records.

Time Period	Water Requirement (inches)	Probability (Percent)			
		Western Kansas	Eastern Colorado	Texas Panhandle	Oklahoma Panhandle
March 1-14	1.0	19.0	6.0	13.8	22.0
March 15-29	.7	32.1	21.6	21.8	36.5
March 30-April 12	.8	41.4	25.4	25.0	42.0
April 13-27	1.0	41.3	24.8	17.0	32.5
April 28-May 11	2.0	27.1	11.4	5.0	13.5
May 12-18	2.0	27.3	15.6	9.0	17.8

notes about people

Robert W. Schoning, Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service, recently announced that the following NMFS employees have been selected to participate in the first NOAA-NMFS Management Development Program:

–Robert J. Ayers, Office of the Director, Washington, D.C.;

–Walter J. Blogoslawski, Middle Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Center, Milford, Conn.;

–Joe P. Clem, Office of Resource Management, Washington, D.C.;

–Robert N. Farragut, Southeast Fisheries Center, Miami, Fla.;

–Daun L. Gillett, Northwest Regional Office, Seattle, Wash.; and

–Paul J. Hooker, Southeast Regional Office, St. Petersburg, Fla.

The goal of the Program is to identify and begin developing individuals (at the GS-12 through GS-15 levels) with high potential for management assignments. The participants will receive extensive career counseling and guidance and will be afforded opportunities for developmental assignments and training in their areas of career interest and personal potential.

The Environmental Data Service has approved full-time university assignments for the following six employees for the 1976-77 academic year:

–Thomas S. Ardrey, of the National Climatic Center's Data Operations Division, who plans to study meteorology at Florida State University;

–Laurence Lee, of NCC's User Branch, who will pursue graduate studies in meteorology at the University of Wisconsin;

–Ronald W. Buhmann, of the National Geophysical and Solar-Terrestrial Data Center, who will pursue upper level and graduate courses in physics;

–Sandra M. Hoexter, of the Center for Experiment Design and Data Analysis, who plans graduate courses in computer science and information system management;

–Millington Lockwood, of the National Oceanographic Data Center, who will study environmental systems management and ocean affairs management; and

–Willie Mae K. Yuille, of the Environmental Science Information Center, who will attend Howard Community College as a business administration major.

Jack R. Cooley has been named to succeed Marshall Soderberg as Meteorologist in Charge of the National Weather Service Office in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Mr. Cooley

Mr. Soderberg retired recently after 33 years' Federal service. Before going to Grand Rapids in 1968, he had served in Sioux City, Iowa; Bismarck, N. Dak.; and Sault Ste. Marie and Muskegon, Mich.

Mr. Cooley entered the NWS at Anchorage, Alaska in 1955, and served in Nome, Fairbanks, and Barter Island, Alaska; Suitland, Md.; Dodge City, Kans.; and North Platte, Nebr., before going to Grand Rapids in 1968.

A graduate of Western Michigan University, he has also studied at Rutgers and the University of Michigan.

AT THE 1976 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE U.S. POWER SQUADRON, a framed copy of an early nautical chart was presented by R. Adm. Alfred C. Holmes (right), Director of the National Ocean Survey's Atlantic Marine Center in Norfolk, Va., to R. Cdr. William T. Casey of the USPS for his outstanding leadership in coordinating the NOS-USPS Cooperative Charting Program for the past five years. Other NOS representatives at the Conference were R. Adm. Eugene A. Taylor, Associate Director for Fleet Operations, Rockville, Md.; Capt. Richard H. Houlder, Chief of the Marine Chart Division, Rockville; and John E. Hanna, Acting Chief of the Processing Branch at the Lake Survey Center in Detroit, Mich.

Sea Grant to Maine, N.H. Consortium

(Continued from page 1)

operative Sea Grant program and Vice President for Research and Public Services at the University of Maine, "will allow researchers to draw on the strengths and abilities unique to each university."

Because both States share a significant portion of the Gulf of Maine, the two universities will be better able to make a major contribution to solving marine problems there by working together, he added.

Among the most promising of the on-going projects funded this year is a study of the culture of edible blue mussels. Researchers at the University of Maine already have set out more than a dozen experimental rafts along the Maine-New Hampshire coast for growing the mussels, a highly-regarded shellfish whose production world-wide exceeds 250,000 tons annually. In cooperation with Abandoned Farm, Inc., the aquaculturists will examine the growth and survival of mussels on the experimental rafts and monitor the development of mussels reared in the warm-water effluent of an electric power plant in Maine.

At the University of New Hampshire, special strains of coho salmon, adapted to northern New England waters, will be developed and work will continue on improving the diets and disease-resistance of the fish.

Other scientists will work toward improving oyster aquaculture, evaluating commercial seaweed production, and understanding the cause of the so-called "red tide" outbreaks that threaten shellfish beds along the New England coast. This latter project is particularly important, since red tide poisoning has forced the closing of large numbers of commercially valuable shellfish areas several times in the past. Investigators so far have identified three of the poisons found in affected shellfish, and are attempting to develop a method to inactivate the poisons and detoxify tainted shellfish.

Engineers at New Hampshire completed the installation of a unique floating breakwater on Lake Winnepasaukee last year. Made up of scores of floating buoys anchored to the bottom by strong elastic tethers, the breakwater will be subjected to further testing and analysis this year.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE RECENT ROCKFISH SURVEY WORKSHOP at the National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Fisheries Center in Seattle, Wash., included (front row, from left) Tom Jow, California Department of Fish and Game; Dr. W. T. Pereyra, Tom Dark, and Nikki Newcome, NWFC; (second row, from left) S. J. Westrheim, Canadian Department of Environment; Jim Meehan, NMFS/MARMAP; Dr. Loh Lee Low, NWFC; Tom Carlson, University of Washington; Martin Nelson and Don Worlund, NWFC; Dr. Daniel Kimura, Washington State Department of Fisheries; (third row, from left) Miles Alton, NWFC; Richard Roe, NMFS; Dr. Donald Gunderson and Jim Traynor, NWFC; Mike Fraidenburg, Washington State Department of Fisheries; Jim Mason, NWFC; Dr. Norman Abramson, SWFC; Dr. A. V. Tyler, Oregon State University; Fred Wathne, NWFC; Larry Six, Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission; Bob Demory, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife; Phil Rigby, Alaska Department of Fish & Game; and Lou Fredd, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife.

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the methodology used in surveying Pacific coast rockfish stocks, and to coordinate future rockfish surveys.

best fish buys

According to the NMFS National Fishery Education Center in Chicago, the best fish buys for the next week or so are likely to be fresh fillets of sea trout and pollock along the Northeast Seaboard; fresh sea bass and flounder in the Middle Atlantic States, including the D.C. area; fresh Spanish mackerel and mullet in the Southeast and along the Gulf Coast; fillets of silver bass and butterfish in the Midwest; whole cooked Dungeness crab and Dungeness crabmeat in the Northwest; and whole cooked Dungeness crab and precleaned Dungeness crab in the Southwest.

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