



Louisiana fisheries are, in-part, so productive because of the large amount of saltwater marsh, which is important habitat for small fish, shrimp and crabs. But that marsh is quickly eroding, with 25 percent of Louisiana marsh being lost in the last 100 years. This land-loss is being slowed by restoration efforts, but marsh created by natural forces is hard to replicate. This essay, written by Parker Denton, a School of Renewable Resources graduate student, outlines one of those challenges in his essay here:

When the Tides Rise: Understanding Marsh Inundation and Its Importance

By Parker Denton

Along Louisiana's coast, tidal marshes stretch like a maze between land and the Gulf. These ecosystems do not just provide a home for wildlife, they protect communities, improve water quality and support economically and culturally important fisheries. But one of the biggest challenges these marshes face today is inundation – the amount of time and how often marshes are underwater.

Marsh Inundation Matters

Many marsh plants need a balance of wet and dry conditions. Too much water, and the plants drown. Too little, and the plants lose access to nutrients they need to survive. Inundation controls how nutrients move through the marsh, forming the food web that supports everything from shrimp to sportfish.

For coastal fish and crustaceans, inundation is a good thing, up to a point. When tides flood the marsh, small fish, snails and crabs spread out into the grass to feed. But as sea levels rise, prolonged inundation can shift marshes toward open water, reducing habitat for both wildlife and fisheries.

Restoration and Role of Water Flow

To fight marsh loss, many restoration projects place dredged material into deteriorating areas to rebuild them. These sites are often surrounded by containment dikes, small levees that hold sediment in place until vegetation regrows and stabilizes it. If dikes are left too long, they can block tidal flow, preventing the marsh from flooding and draining naturally. Without this exchange of water, nutrients and organisms, the marsh can become stagnant and lose productivity.

That is why breaching containment dikes is important. Once the sediment is stabilized, opening holes in the dikes allows water to move in and out, restoring inundation patterns. These controlled openings reconnect the marsh to surrounding bays and estuaries, allowing fish, crabs and shrimp to access the habitat and keeping marsh plants healthy.

Studying the Connection

Louisiana's marshes are among the most productive in the world, fueling the state's billion-dollar fisheries. Yet, they are disappearing alarmingly fast.

Researchers in the fisheries and ecosystem dynamics labs are investigating how inundation patterns and restoration efforts, like breaking containment dikes, affect marsh health. By tracking water levels, mapping vegetation, and sampling fish and invertebrates, the project aims to understand how future changes in inundation might affect Louisiana's food webs.

This research will help managers and outdoorsmen anticipate how marsh loss and restoration could affect the ecosystems they rely on. It may also guide decisions on the best methods of breaching dikes to maximize benefits to marshes and fisheries.

What This Means

Healthy marshes support commercial shrimp and crabbing, recreational fishing and storm protection for coastal communities. By understanding and addressing the impacts of inundation and restoration practices, we can ensure these wetlands continue to thrive: providing habitat, buffering storm surge and supporting Louisiana's fishing traditions and economy. As sea levels rise, the future of Louisiana's marshes will depend on balancing restoration with natural tidal processes.

NOAA Fisheries Seeks Recommendations for Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness

A 45-day public comment period in support of the recent executive order is open until Oct. 14, 2025.

NOAA Fisheries wants to make sure more American seafood gets on American plates. We're inviting the public to share input on how to help make that a reality.

On April 17, 2025, the president signed an Executive Order on Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/restoring-american-seafood-competitiveness/>). In response, the Department of Commerce, through NOAA Fisheries, launched a bold, coordinated effort to revitalize the U.S. seafood sector. This call for public comments is a critical step in our efforts to fulfill the president's vision of making the United States the world's dominant seafood leader.

In recent years, the seafood industry has faced increasing pressures from global competition, evolving market demands and impacts from changing ocean conditions. Between 2019 and 2023, domestic landings decreased by approximately one billion pounds.

"Through our implementation of the president's executive order, NOAA Fisheries is aiming to address the recent decline in fisheries landings and revenues," Eugenio Piñeiro Soler, assistant administrator of NOAA Fisheries commented. "We look forward to receiving input from the public."

NOAA Fisheries, in coordination with other federal agencies and partners, has identified a number of actions to meet the directives laid out in the executive order. Ongoing and future actions include:

- Considering appropriate regulatory changes, especially for those fisheries with significant recent declines in landings and/or revenue
- Reviewing commercial fishing limitations in existing marine national monuments
- Assessing and potentially modifying advanced technology strategies to improve data collection
- Updating the Seafood Trade Strategy to reflect new global trade dynamics
- Developing a collaborative, interagency America First Seafood Strategy

We are asking for your input on how to improve fisheries management and science, specifically on the following issues:

- Regulations that govern fishing activities that may be suspended, revised, or rescinded
- Challenges specific fisheries are facing, suggestions for innovative improvements, and examples of existing federal fishery regulations that could be modified to enhance U.S. fishing businesses
- Ways to improve fisheries management and science, including:
 - o How can less expensive and more reliable technologies and cooperative research be used to support fisheries assessments?
 - o How can NOAA Fisheries modernize data collection and analytical practices to improve the responsiveness of fisheries management to real-time ocean conditions?
 - o What types of data, forecasting tools, or information products are most needed by U.S. fishing businesses to adapt their operations effectively to changing economic and/or environmental conditions and maintain access to fishery resources, and how can NOAA Fisheries best support the development and dissemination of such resources?
- How to expand exempted fishing permit programs to promote fishing opportunities nationwide

The comment period will close on Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025.



NOAA Fisheries Offers New Online Marketplace to Buy, Sell Individual Fishing Quota Privileges

NOAA Fisheries is launching a brand-new Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQ) Marketplace within the Southeast Gulf Catch Shares online system (<https://seacatchshares.fisheries.noaa.gov/home>). This tool will allow participants to advertise IFQ allocation or shares they wish to sell or buy. This is only available to IFQ participants as they must be logged into their IFQ shareholder account to create a post or to view the marketplace. There is no cost for creating a post on the website. This optional tool provides an easy-to-use platform for connecting participants to available quota.

NOAA Fisheries added this tool based on suggestions from fishermen. This concept was presented during a series of NOAA Fisheries-led focus group meetings to evaluate its potential effectiveness. This feature incorporated additional suggestions received during those meetings into our design.

The IFQ Marketplace advertises for those both seeking and selling shares for red snapper, grouper and tilefish species. Any post more than 30 days old is automatically deleted to ensure information on the website is relevant and current. Additionally, we released allocation and ex-vessel price rolling average views in late 2024, where participants can verify current prices before making transactions. These features enhance marketplace information transparency to all participants of the program.



How it Works

Once logged in to the Catch Shares online system, fishermen will navigate to the IFQ Marketplace page located under either the Allocation or Shares menu. On this page, fishermen will select the “Click to Post Transaction” button. Here, fishermen will be able to create a post using drop-down boxes.

IFQ Marketplace

[Click to Post Transaction](#)

This information is provided as a service to interested persons. This platform serves as a way to facilitate connections between IFQ participants to buy or sell shares or allocation. Any person who uses information obtained from this system does so with the understanding that the National Marine Fisheries Service assumes no responsibility for the reliability or timeliness of any data in this Marketplace View and is not liable for losses caused by use of this information.

Search:

Posted By	Activity	Quota Type	Share Category	Pounds	Share Percentage (Equivalent Pounds)	Price per Pound	Total Price	Date Posted	Contact
JENNIFER L. JAMES	Sell	Allocation	GAG GROUPER	100		\$4.00	\$400.00	18-Aug-25 02:00 pm	Contact
JENNIFER L. JAMES	Buy	Allocation	DEEP WATER GROUPER	160		\$3.50	\$560.00	19-Aug-25 11:52 am	Contact
JENNIFER L. JAMES	Sell	Allocation	DEEP WATER GROUPER	300		\$0.75	\$225.00	20-Aug-25 03:44 pm	Contact
JENNIFER L. JAMES	Buy	Shares	OTHER SHALLOW WATER GROUPER	0	0.201650% (1,059 lb)	\$4.50	\$4,765.50	20-Aug-25 04:03 pm	Contact
JENNIFER L. JAMES	Sell	Allocation	RED GROUPER	100		\$1.75	\$175.00	20-Aug-25 04:05 pm	Contact
JENNIFER L. JAMES	Sell	Shares	RED GROUPER	0	0.011369% (477 lb)	\$16.75	\$7,989.75	20-Aug-25 04:10 pm	Contact
JENNIFER L. JAMES	Sell	Allocation	RED SNAPPER	550		\$4.60	\$2,530.00	20-Aug-25 04:12 pm	Contact
JENNIFER L. JAMES	Sell	Shares	RED SNAPPER	0	0.012345% (925 lb)	\$46.50	\$43,012.50	20-Aug-25 04:39 pm	Contact
JENNIFER L. JAMES	Buy	Allocation	TILEFISH	3,500		\$0.70	\$2,450.00	20-Aug-25 04:43 pm	Contact

Showing 1 to 9 of 9 entries

Previous 1 Next

First, the poster selects the share category. The Activity field indicates if the poster wishes to buy or sell the IFQ privilege. The Quota Type allows the poster to select shares or allocation (called quota pounds in other fisheries).

Post Marketplace Transaction

New Marketplace Transaction

Share Category*

Activity*

Quota Type*

Pounds

Percentage

Price per Pound

Email

? Phone

Select Share Category

Select Activity

Select Quota Type

? Call? ☐
Text? ☐

Confirm

Cancel

* Required fields

If the poster selects Allocation, they will enter the pounds available or wishing to be purchased, followed by the price per pound.

If the poster selects Shares, they will enter the share percentage available or being offered for purchase. The system will generate the equivalent pounds for that share percentage at that time. This works similar to the Share Calculator and Share Transfer functions in the system. The price would be the price per equivalent pound and not the total value (price per pound X equivalent pounds).

Finally, the poster will use the check mark boxes to indicate if they want to be contacted by email, phone or both, and enter the appropriate information. For the phone option, the poster can indicate their preference for a call or text.

Clicking on the Contact button will display information provided by the poster. Please only contact the poster as they have requested. When contacting a poster, it is recommended that you mention that you saw the advertisement on the IFQ Marketplace.

Contact Information
×

Contact Method	Value	Call?	Text?
EMAIL	eatmorefish@catchshares.com	N/A	N/A
PHONE	(123) 456-7890	Yes	Yes

Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries

Previous
1
Next

Close

After both parties reach an agreement, fishermen would then complete transactions as usual in the IFQ system. We ask that the person who created a post remove it after the transaction has been made. To remove a post, navigate to the IFQ Marketplace feature and click the “garbage can” icon by your post. You may only remove posts you have created.

This new tool increases IFQ market information transparency and improves opportunities for participants. NOAA Fisheries also created the “Allocation Transfers Rolling Average” page and “Ex-Vessel Rolling Average” pages to increase market information transparency. NOAA Fisheries is committed to continued improvement of the Gulf IFQ programs. Since the programs began, we have used stakeholder feedback and suggestions to continuously improve the system and the tools offered for participants. We appreciate the feedback and encourage participants to continue to share their ideas and concerns.

Allocation Transfers Rolling Average

This tool is available to provide information transparency about the average allocation transfer price per allocation category within the IFQ program. The information is compiled from transfers over the last three months and excludes any prices reported for \$0.01/lb. All transfer prices are generated as weighted average and not based on transactional averages. This information will update each month using the last full three months of data.

Date Range:

MAY 2025 - JUL 2025

Search:

Print/Export ▼

Share Category	Price per Pound
DEEP WATER GROUPER	\$0.66
GAG GROUPER	\$3.66
GAG GROUPER MULTIUSE	\$3.77
OTHER SHALLOW WATER GROUPER	\$0.68
RED GROUPER	\$1.41
RED GROUPER MULTIUSE	N/A
RED SNAPPER	\$4.29
TILEFISH	\$0.38

Ex-Vessel Rolling Average

This tool is available to provide information transparency about the average ex-vessel price per species within the IFQ program. The information is compiled from landings over the last three months and excludes any ex-vessel prices reported for \$0.01/lb. All ex-vessel prices are generated as weighted average and not based on transactional averages. This information will update each month using the last full three months of data. Ex-vessel averages are considered confidential when there are less than three dealers, vessels, or shareholders.

Date Range:

MAY 2025 - JUL 2025

Search:

Print/Export ▼

Species	Average Price per Pound
BLACK GROUPER	\$7.60
BLUELINE TILEFISH (GRAY)	\$3.15
GAG GROUPER	\$7.89
GOLDEN TILEFISH	\$4.44
GOLDFACE TILEFISH	\$3.65
RED GROUPER	\$6.45
RED SNAPPER	\$6.18
SCAMP	\$7.62
SNOWY GROUPER	\$6.73
SPECKLED HIND	\$6.81
WADSWORTH GROUPER	\$6.81

Showing 1 to 14 of 14 entries

This information is provided as a service to interested participants. This platform serves to facilitate connections between IFQ participants to buy or sell shares or allocation. Any person who uses information obtained from this system does so with the understanding that NOAA Fisheries assumes no responsibility for the reliability or timeliness of any data in this Marketplace View and is not liable for losses caused by use of this information.

NOAA Fisheries Deploy Field Forensic Device to Combat Seafood Fraud in Long Beach

NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement officers and agents are now using the latest technology in genetic analysis to protect U.S. consumers from seafood fraud on the West Coast.

NOAA Fisheries' Office of Law Enforcement completed the second deployment of a rapid polymerase chain reaction device. It enabled officers to detect fraudulent seafood labeling at import facilities in Long Beach, Calif. The Long Beach trial followed the device's successful initial pilot in Newark, NJ

(<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/pilot-test-field-forensic-device-identified-more-40-tons-trafficked-fish>).

Officers and agents using the device in Long Beach identified false labeling of imported bigeye, yellow fin, blue fin, albacore and other tuna species. False labeling is illegal and can be used to disguise protected or lower value species, which can undermine the competitiveness of sustainably managed U.S. seafood.

"The new device is proving to be a valuable tool that helps officers examine more shipments in less time, with rapid results that also help clear the way for legal seafood to reach the market counter," said Bryan Landry, assistant special agent in charge in the Office of Law Enforcement. The device uses the process known as DNA fingerprinting to amplify genetic fragments enough to accurately identify the species.

In the Long Beach trial, the device also identified fish filets mistakenly labeled as species protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Officers used the device to confirm the imported species was not endangered but simply mislabeled. This prevented unnecessary delays and spared the U.S. importer potential implications of an Endangered Species Act import violation.

Since the first pilot test in Newark in November 2024, Landry said, scientists have streamlined the field-testing procedure and increased confidence in the results. NOAA Fisheries' Forensic Laboratory, operated by the Northwest Fisheries Science Center, has validated several test results from these devices. It confirmed an accuracy rate of approximately 93 percent.

Researchers are also applying AI technology to help officers more accurately interpret results of the device. "We've invested in emerging technology to help us combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and the trafficking of these fishery products," Landry said. "This device has made it easier to detect seafood fraud while facilitating legal and sustainable trade."

The trials help fulfill the president's Executive Order on Restoring American Seafood Competitiveness, which prioritizes enforcement at U.S. ports to keep illegal imports from undermining U.S. markets. The Executive Order also calls for applying improved technology to identify falsely labeled or otherwise fraudulent imports. See the Executive Order at:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/restoring-american-seafood-competitiveness/>

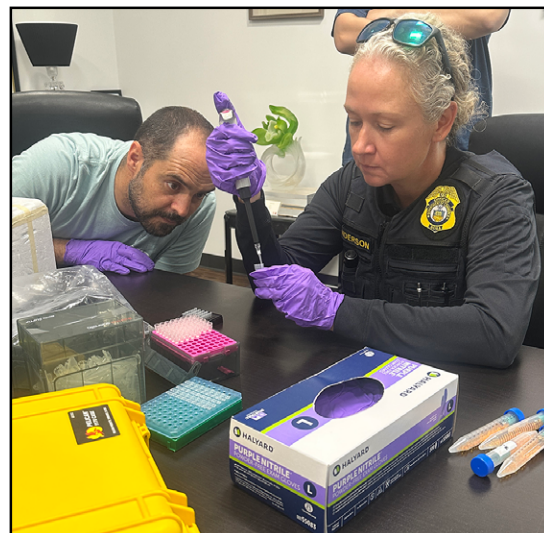
Motives for false labeling can include:

- Disguising species that were illegally sourced or harvested
- Disguising protected or endangered species as another species
- Evading sanctions or international treaties
- Falsely labeling lower quality species as higher quality, higher-value species

"These devices assist us in protecting U.S. consumers from seafood fraud and to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, which remains a high priority for NOAA Fisheries," said James Binniker, director of NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement.



NOAA enforcement staff and Florida International University scientist test samples using a field forensic device during an enforcement operation in Long Beach, California.
Credit: NOAA Fisheries



Florida International University scientist Diego Cardeñoso trains a NOAA Enforcement Officer to use the field forensic device. Credit: NOAA Fisheries

The weeklong enforcement operation was conducted at the Port of Long Beach, Calif., and the Los Angeles International Airport in July 2025. It provided an opportunity to train officers and agents on how to use the device while conducting inspections of seafood imports in real-time, at the port.

Officers and agents inspected, sampled and analyzed eight imports of fresh and frozen shark and tuna meat during the pilot and training operation. The devices identified shark species listed in the Annexes of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species and revealed the false labeling of imported bigeye, yellow fin, blue fin, albacore and other tuna species. Data collected during these inspections will help to further our investigations to prosecute those involved in seafood fraud and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

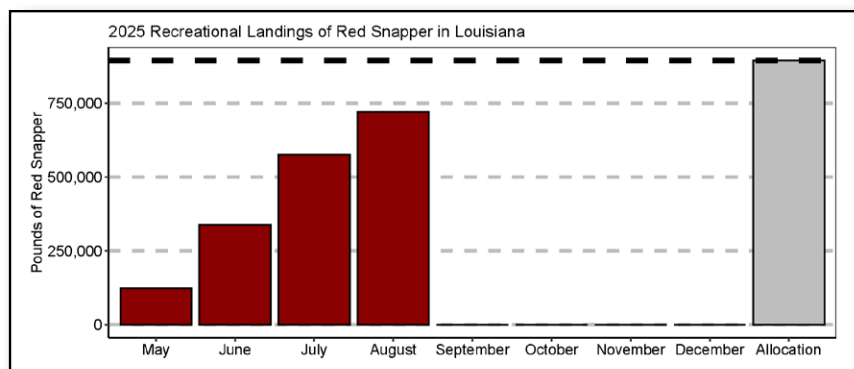
During the pilot test, NOAA was joined and supported by:

- U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Additionally, forensic science experts from NOAA Fisheries and Florida International University assisted in the operation.

Louisiana Snapper Watch

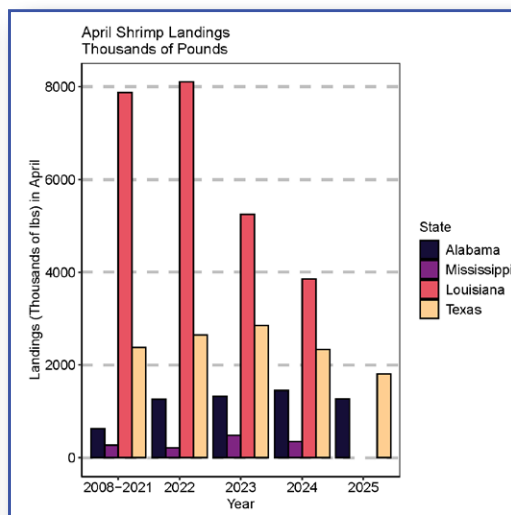
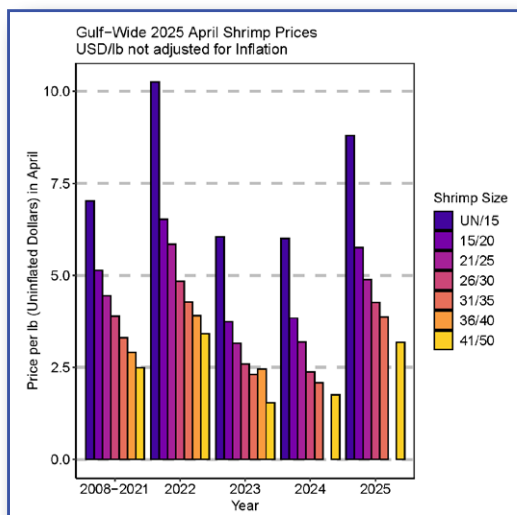
The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) released the red snapper landings estimates through Aug. 17, 2025. LA Creel, LDWF's near real-time, landings data collection program, indicates that 720,127 pounds, or 80.5 percent, of Louisiana's 2025 annual private recreational allocation of 894,955 pounds.



The private recreational red snapper season began May 1 in both state and federal waters, running seven days a week with a daily bag limit of four fish per person and a 16-inch total length minimum size limit. The season will remain open until recreational landings approach or reach Louisiana's allocation.

Louisiana Shrimp Watch

The shrimp watch data for the August issue includes data through May 2025. All landing data is based on trip ticket data provided by Gulf States Fisheries Commission and no estimations have been made. Since no Louisiana data have been available since January 2025, only Gulf-wide shrimp prices and landings will be shown, omitting Louisiana data.



The Gumbo Pot

Citrusy Jumbo Shrimp Salad

Recipe provided by Addie K, Martin, chef for Culicurious

This citrusy jumbo shrimp salad recipe is packed with purple cabbage, spinach, green onion, red bell pepper and of course, jumbo shrimp and orange supremes.

Prep: 30 min. Cook: 10 min Total: 40 min



Ingredients:

Boiled Shrimp:

- 1 gallon of water
- Juice of two oranges
- 3 tablespoons kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon Zatarain's crab and shrimp boil
- 2 pounds jumbo shrimp (U12), heads removed

Salad:

- 6 cups of shredded purple cabbage (about 1/2 small purple cabbage)
- 5-ounce container of Super Greens or spinach, thinly sliced
- 1 red bell pepper, cored and diced
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced green onions
- 2 oranges, cut into supremes

Dressing:

- 1/3 cup freshly squeezed orange juice
- 1/3 cup neutral oil
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- Pinch of cayenne pepper

Method:

1. Start by adding the gallon of water and the orange juice to a big pot. Add in the kosher salt, stir well, and bring the mixture to a boil.
2. While the water is coming to a boil, divide the ingredients in the "salad" section between two dinner plates, layering each ingredient on top of the pile of cabbage and greens.
3. Once that is done, combine the ingredients in the "dressing" section in a squeeze bottle or a container with a lid. Shake to combine and shake again before using.
4. Once the water is boiling, add in the Zatarain's crab and shrimp boil and the two pounds of shrimp tails (still in shell).
5. Stir well and allow that to cook for five minutes while still on the flame.
6. After five minutes, turn the flame off and allow the shrimp to soak in the boil water for five more minutes.
7. After that second five minutes has elapsed, pull out a shrimp and cut it open to see if it's cooked through. If so, drain the shrimp and rinse them to cool them. If the shrimp are not cooked through, allow them to soak another two to three minutes then drain and rinse.
8. Peel the shrimp, and if desired, leave the tip of the tail on for presentation purposes. Feel free to peel the entire shrimp if that's easier for you.
9. Divide the shrimp among the two salads, top the salads with desired amount of dressing, and serve promptly.



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We would like to hear from you! Please contact us regarding fishery questions, comments or concerns you would like to see covered in the Lagniappe. Anyone interested in submitting information, such as articles, editorials or photographs pertaining to fishing or fisheries management is encouraged to do so.

Please contact Lagniappe editor Jeffrey Plumlee at jplumlee@agcenter.lsu.edu

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Be sure to visit the *Lagniappe* blog for
additional news and timely events between issues.
<https://louisianalagniappe.wordpress.com/>

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