

The 2011 Algonquin Park Trout Fishing Survey Final Results to November 18, 2011.

Thanks largely to the Ontario Parks staff at the Lake Opeongo permit office and research personnel from Harkness Lab, and most of all our participants, we had our most successful trout fishing survey ever. We would like to thank you for returning 107 surveys of the approximately 320 that were distributed (a remarkable return rate of 33.4%).

We received reports from 51 lakes and 5 rivers (Figure 1). Tables 1 and 2 describe all of the information received from every lake and river. Specifically, Table 1 lists these data alphabetically by waterbody, and Table 2 summarizes effort, catch and harvest. From the total of 5325 rod hours (1 angler fishing for 1 hour = 1 rod hour) of effort, 2086 trout were reported caught and 866 fish were kept. The fact that just 41.5 percent of all fish caught were killed is perhaps the best indicator of the high quality of trout angling in the backcountry of Algonquin Park.



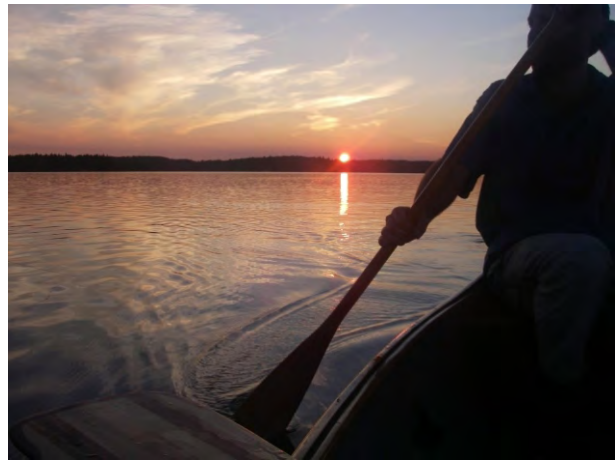
Spring fishing on Lake X.



Dickson Lake - caught and released.



Lake Lavielle



Prize Winners

This year, we offered the chance for three survey participants to assist in brook trout tagging operations with the Algonquin Fisheries Assessment Unit on Dickson Lake. The winners were randomly chosen on October 12 and were given a choice of five dates through to November 10. Paul Smith, Andrew Young and John Feres all reported having the time of their lives (Figures 2 and 3).

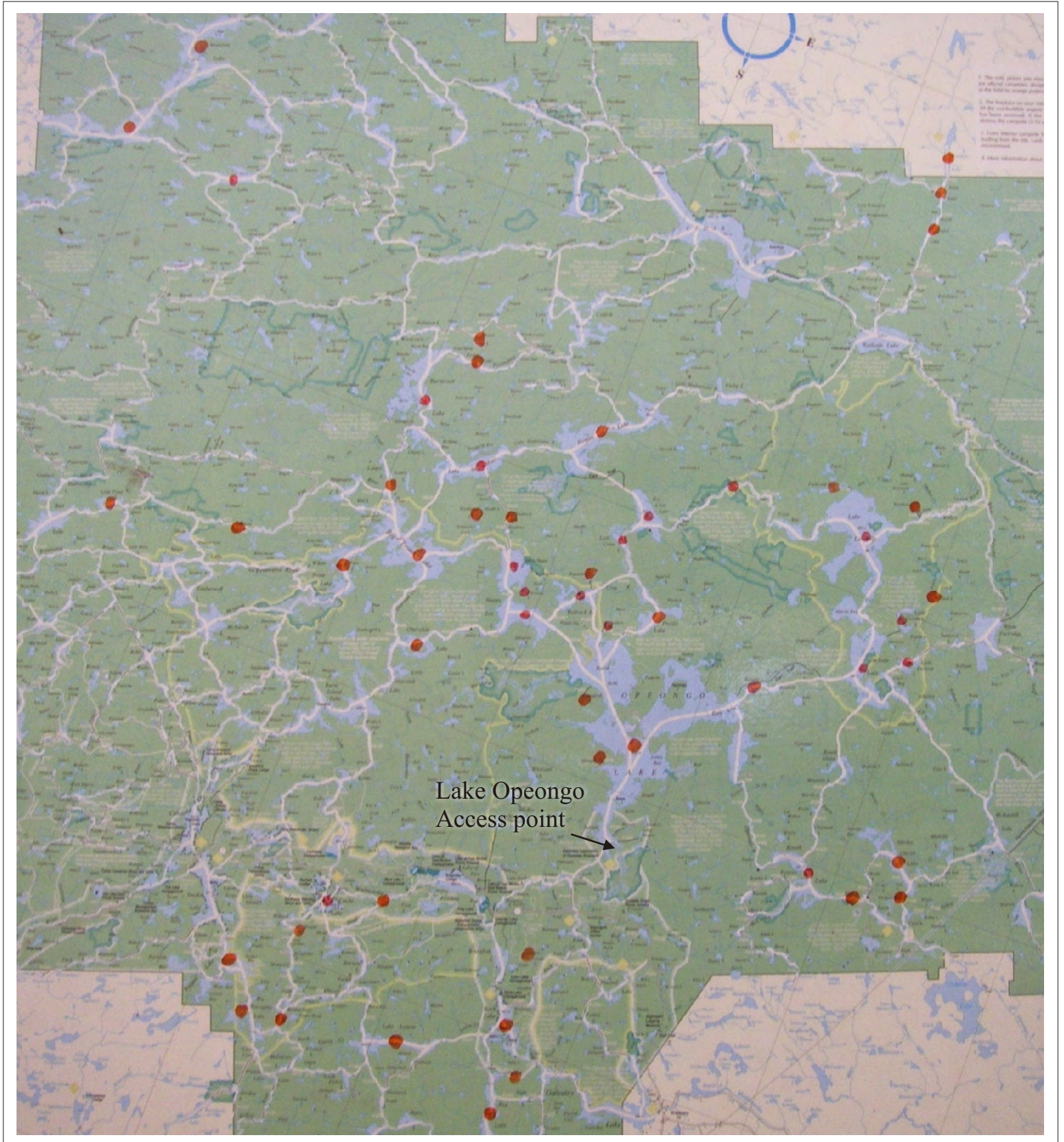


Figure 1. Map showing the waterbodies from which 2011 Algonquin Park Trout Fishing Survey reports were received.

Table 1. Algonquin Park Trout Fishing Survey for 2011 - Complete summary for all reports received up to October 13th sorted alphabetically.

Waterbody	Number of:			Rod Hrs	Total Brook Trout		Total Lake Trout		TOTAL Trout		C.U.E. 1 ^a Trout/Hr	C.U.E. 2 ^b Hr/Trout
	Reports	Parties	Anglers		Caught	Kept	Caught	Kept	Caught	Kept		
Allan	1	1	1	3.0	10	3	0	0	10	3	3.33	0.3
Baldwin	1	1	4	16.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
Big Crow	40	17	50	445.0	117	63	15	6	132	69	0.30	3.4
Big Porcupine	5	1	4	64.0	2	2	0	0	2	2	0.03	32.0
Big Trout	30	13	40	277.5	15	7	60	20	75	27	0.27	3.7
Biggar	1	1	2	4.0	0	0	4	2	4	2	1.00	1.0
Bonnechere	4	1	5	40.0	0	0	20	0	20	0	0.50	2.0
Booth	1	1	2	3.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
Burntroot	11	5	12	116.5	28	7	13	1	41	8	1.46	0.7
Cache	1	1	2	3.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
Chickaree	9	6	12	29.0	0	0	30	5	30	5	1.03	1.0
Cloud	1	1	2	6.0	5	5	0	0	5	5	0.83	1.2
Crow River	16	8	28	258.0	91	22	0	0	91	22	0.35	2.8
Delano	1	1	2	8.0	0	0	4	3	4	3	0.50	2.0
Dickson	79	26	80	675.0	229	89	23	0	252	89	0.37	2.7
Farncomb	2	2	11	23.5	7	2	0	0	7	2	0.30	3.4
Gem	1	1	2	6.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
Happy Isle	36	16	36	112.5	1	1	52	19	51	18	0.45	2.2
Hayes	1	1	4	12.0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0.17	6.0
Hemlock	2	1	3	12.0	3	2	0	0	3	2	0.25	4.0
Hogan	15	8	17	122.0	59	24	7	3	66	27	0.54	1.8
Kitty	1	1	1	2.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
La Muir	14	5	8	143.5	15	9	73	20	88	29	0.61	1.6
Langford	1	1	1	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
Lavieille	112	30	104	1677.0	549	264	262	110	812	374	0.48	2.1
Little Crooked	10	7	20	86.0	65	10	0	0	65	10	0.76	1.3
Little Crow	4	3	6	20.0	8	5	1	1	9	6	0.45	2.2
Little Dickson	1	1	1	1.0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1.00	1.0
Little Madawaska River	1	1	2	2.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
Little Trout	3	1	3	21.0	1	1	1	0	2	1	0.10	10.5
Longer	1	1	2	4.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
Louisa	2	1	1	5.0	0	0	17	3	17	3	3.40	0.3
Manitou	1	1	2	4.0	0	0	4	1	4	1	1.00	1.0
Marmot	2	2	6	15.0	5	5	0	0	5	5	0.33	3.0
Merchant	30	16	43	300.0	13	5	51	27	64	32	0.21	4.7
Nepawin	4	3	12	46.0	13	6	0	0	13	6	0.28	3.5
North Depot	1	1	3	3.0	0	0	4	0	4	0	1.33	0.8
North Tea	4	1	2	23.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
Opeongo	20	11	27	105.0	0	0	7	5	7	5	0.07	15.0
Otterslide Creek	1	1	2	1.0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1.00	1.0
Owaissa	1	1	2	2.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
Pen	2	1	7	49.0	1	1	2	2	3	3	0.06	16.3
Perley	1	1	4	4.0	10	0	0	0	10	0	2.50	0.4
Petawawa R. @ Longer L.	11	6	20	130.0	68	40	3	0	71	40	0.55	1.8
Proulx	16	11	26	81.5	20	18	0	0	20	18	0.25	4.1
Ragged	9	1	2	38.0	0	0	6	3	6	3	0.16	6.3
Redrock	16	8	27	207.5	46	18	3	1	49	19	0.24	4.2
Rock	1	1	7	17.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
Shirley	1	1	8	16.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
Skylark	1	1	4	8.0	6	3	0	0	6	3	0.75	1.3
Tim River	2	2	5	22.0	12	9	0	0	12	9	0.55	1.8
Warbler	3	2	4	10.0	0	0	6	5	6	5	0.60	1.7
Wendigo	1	1	1	1.0	3	0	0	0	3	0	3.00	0.3
White Trout	2	1	4	36.0	3	3	5	1	8	4	0.22	4.5
Woodcock	1	1	2	4.0	5	4	0	0	5	4	1.25	0.8
Wright	1	1	3	3.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0

^a C.U.E. 1 This is the Catch per Unit of Effort, the number of trout reported caught per rod hour of fishing.

^b C.U.E. 2 This is the inverse of C.U.E. 1, the number of rod hours required to catch one trout.

Table 2. Algonquin Park Trout Fishing Survey for 2011 - Complete summary for all results received up to October 13th sorted by the amount of effort in rod hours (1 angler fishing for 1 hour = 1 rod hour).

Waterbody	Number of:			Rod Hrs	Total Brook Trout		Total Lake Trout		TOTAL Trout		CUE 1 Trout/Hr	CUE 2 Hr/Trout
	Reports	Parties	Anglers		Caught	Kept	Caught	Kept	Caught	Kept		
Lavieille	112	30	104	1677.0	549	264	262	110	812	374	0.48	2.1
Dickson	79	26	80	675.0	229	89	23	0	252	89	0.37	2.7
Big Crow	40	17	50	445.0	117	63	15	6	132	69	0.30	3.4
Merchant	30	16	43	300.0	13	5	51	27	64	32	0.21	4.7
Big Trout	30	13	40	277.5	15	7	60	20	75	27	0.27	3.7
Crow River	16	8	28	258.0	91	22	0	0	91	22	0.35	2.8
Redrock	16	8	27	207.5	46	18	3	1	49	19	0.24	4.2
La Muir	14	5	8	143.5	15	9	73	20	88	29	0.61	1.6
Petawawa R. @ Longer L.	11	6	20	130.0	68	40	3	0	71	40	0.55	1.8
Hogan	15	8	17	122.0	59	24	7	3	66	27	0.54	1.8
Burntroot	11	5	12	116.5	28	7	13	1	41	8	1.46	0.7
Happy Isle	36	16	36	112.5	1	1	52	19	51	18	0.45	2.2
Opeongo	20	11	27	105.0	0	0	7	5	7	5	0.07	15.0
Little Crooked	10	7	20	86.0	65	10	0	0	65	10	0.76	1.3
Proulx	16	11	26	81.5	20	18	0	0	20	18	0.25	4.1
Big Porcupine	5	1	4	64.0	2	2	0	0	2	2	0.03	32.0
Pen	2	1	7	49.0	1	1	2	2	3	3	0.06	16.3
Nepawin	4	3	12	46.0	13	6	0	0	13	6	0.28	3.5
Bonnechere	4	1	5	40.0	0	0	20	0	20	0	0.50	2.0
Ragged	9	1	2	38.0	0	0	6	3	6	3	0.16	6.3
White Trout	2	1	4	36.0	3	3	5	1	8	4	0.22	4.5
Chickaree	9	6	12	29.0	0	0	30	5	30	5	1.03	1.0
Farncomb	2	2	11	23.5	7	2	0	0	7	2	0.30	3.4
North Tea	4	1	2	23.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
Tim River	2	2	5	22.0	12	9	0	0	12	9	0.55	1.8
Little Trout	3	1	3	21.0	1	1	1	0	2	1	0.10	10.5
Little Crow	4	3	6	20.0	8	5	1	1	9	6	0.45	2.2
Rock	1	1	7	17.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
Baldwin	1	1	4	16.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
Shirley	1	1	8	16.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
Marmot	2	2	6	15.0	5	5	0	0	5	5	0.33	3.0
Hemlock	2	1	3	12.0	3	2	0	0	3	2	0.25	4.0
Hayes	1	1	4	12.0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0.17	6.0
Warbler	3	2	4	10.0	0	0	6	5	6	5	0.60	1.7
Skylark	1	1	4	8.0	6	3	0	0	6	3	0.75	1.3
Delano	1	1	2	8.0	0	0	4	3	4	3	0.50	2.0
Cloud	1	1	2	6.0	5	5	0	0	5	5	0.83	1.2
Gem	1	1	2	6.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
Louisa	2	1	1	5.0	0	0	17	3	17	3	3.40	0.3
Perley	1	1	4	4.0	10	0	0	0	10	0	2.50	0.4
Woodcock	1	1	2	4.0	5	4	0	0	5	4	1.25	0.8
Biggar	1	1	2	4.0	0	0	4	2	4	2	1.00	1.0
Manitou	1	1	2	4.0	0	0	4	1	4	1	1.00	1.0
Longer	1	1	2	4.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
Allan	1	1	1	3.0	10	3	0	0	10	3	3.33	0.3
North Depot	1	1	3	3.0	0	0	4	0	4	0	1.33	0.8
Booth	1	1	2	3.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
Cache	1	1	2	3.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
Wright	1	1	3	3.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
Kitty	1	1	1	2.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
Little Madawaska River	1	1	2	2.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
Owaissa	1	1	2	2.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
Wendigo	1	1	1	1.0	3	0	0	0	3	0	3.00	0.3
Little Dickson	1	1	1	1.0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1.00	1.0
Otterslide Creek	1	1	2	1.0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1.00	1.0
Langford	1	1	1	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.0
Totals	540	241	334	5325	1414	630	673	238	2086	866	0.39	2.6
<i>Percent Kept</i>						<i>44.6%</i>		<i>35.4%</i>		<i>41.5%</i>		



Paul Smith - October 31



Andrew Young - November 4



Figure 2. Dickson Lake, 2011 brook trout seine netting and tagging.

One of our prize winners had quite the reunion. On April 30th, 2011 Andrew caught Brook Trout A1509 in the Glory Hole on Lake Lavieille. The trout was released only to be caught again (lower right), this time at the Dickson spawning area on November 4th, the same day Andrew came out to assist us. Andrew was thrilled to see how the trout fish has grown in just a few months. It just goes to show the significance of tag returns and the importance of catch and release. This fish was seined twice more, on November 10 and finally on the 16th, seasons' end.



John Feres - November 10



In no particular order, and with their identities anonymous to protect their privacy, the following are excerpted comments from these fine gentlemen concerning their time with the Algonquin Fisheries Assessment Unit on Dickson Lake:

"Dear Greg and Glenn,

I wanted to thank you for an exciting and informative day tagging trout on Dickson Lake. I've long been impressed with the quality of the fishery in Algonquin park, and I'm now convinced that this quality is maintained by the efforts of dedicated staff like you two. As an avid fishermen, I'm of course concerned with how fisheries are studied and managed but have had little opportunity to see firsthand how it's done. Our day together was an incredible opportunity to hear about your work and see the methods you use to study the fish. I was impressed with your concern for the resource and your obvious passion for your job, and your professionalism made for a safe and enjoyable day afield. It was a day to remember, and a great incentive to get my surveys in for next year!

Thanks and all the best,"

"I had a great time and relived it many times in the solitude of my hunt and again telling my family and friends about it. I do intend to drop _____ a note but I will run my thoughts by you to ensure I cover everything I want to say and ensure I say it in a way that will benefit your team. Enjoy and take care!"

"Greg/Glenn,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the wonderful experience you provided me when you allowed me to take part in the tagging operations on Dickson Lake. I have been fishing for Brook Trout my entire life, and have never had a chance to observe them in their natural spawning environment. I will cherish this experience for the rest of my life!

As a lifetime park visitor, I feel this has given me a renewed appreciation for the species and the park itself. I am proud that my province has a protected area containing the highest concentration of Brook Trout trout lakes in the world and feel fortunate to have access to such an amazing place. It is obvious to me that the work you are doing here is critical to the survival of this precious resource. I wish that everyone shared the same appreciation and enthusiasm for its beauty as you and your staff do.

Greg,

It was a pleasure spending the day with you, Glen Brethour and Meagan on Dickson and I appreciate the genuine excitement you all felt for me. You are all obviously passionate about what you do and are an asset to the success of the park and our fisheries resource. I will take great pride filling out the surveys on future trips, and will be sure to provide as much detail as I can, including the contents of the stomachs of the fish we keep for lunch!

In closing, I would urge you to consider providing this same opportunity in the future, as I feel it will generate an increased interest in the conservation efforts of fisherman visiting the park, as long as you promise to pick my survey every year ;)... I am kidding of course, but serious about the suggestion to do this again in the future...

Thanks again! I look forward to visiting you in the Spring!"

It was our pleasure as well and we took great pleasure and satisfaction in showing members of the public a truly special and unique part of nature. Natural brook trout are fast disappearing and being witness to this spectacle of nature takes on increasingly more significance with each passing year.

Thank you for your help and we look forward to hearing about your trout fishing adventures in 2012.

Sincerely,

Glenn Forward

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