

POST-JUNE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR
THE SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA, 2004



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ABSTRACT

The Post-June commercial salmon fishery is located on the south side of the Alaska Peninsula and occurs from July 6 through October 31. This document describes how the fishery will be managed, the industry requirements to participate in the fishery, and how to contact and relay information to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). Post-June fishery historical harvests are presented. This document is intended as a guide to the commercial salmon fishing industry entities interested in participating in commercial salmon fisheries along the south side of the Alaska Peninsula Management Area. Specific information regarding commercial salmon fishing should be obtained from the ADF&G prior to fishing in the area.

INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to provide commercial salmon harvesters and processors with a description of how information the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) will manage the South Peninsula Post-June fishery. This document also outlines the requirements of industry to participate in the fishery as well as how to contact and relay information to the department.

The South Peninsula consists of Pacific Ocean coastal state waters of the Alaska Peninsula Salmon Management Area from Kupreanof Point west to Scotch Cap on Unimak Island and includes the Southeastern, South Central, Southwestern, and Unimak Districts (Figure 1).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Inseason announcements will be broadcast on radio station KSDP AM 830 in Sand Point and translated over K201DA in King Cove, VHF channels 6 & 73, and on Single Side Band (SSB) frequency 3.230 MHz. Information may also be obtained by calling the ADF&G recorder phone in Sand Point at 383-2334 (383-ADFG).

HARVEST REPORTING

As required by 5 AAC 39.130 (a)(3), buyers must report their daily salmon purchases by species, (in both numbers of fish and pounds) and number of deliveries by gear type to the ADF&G office in Sand Point or Cold Bay by 9:30 AM the day following the purchase. However, earlier reporting is appreciated and is helpful in prosecuting an orderly fishery. The department can be contacted on VHF channels 6 & 73, and SSB radio frequency 3.230 MHz. Buyers may also phone or fax their information to the ADF&G offices in Cold Bay or Sand Point.

Cold Bay	Telephone: 532-2419	Fax: 532-2470
Sand Point	Telephone: 383-2066	Fax: 383-2606

Fish tickets must be received in the ADF&G office in Sand Point or Cold Bay (listed below) within seven days of the purchase date.

Alaska Department of Fish & Game
P.O. Box 50
Cold Bay, AK 99571

Alaska Department of Fish & Game
P.O. Box 129
Sand Point, AK 99661

ALASKA BOARD OF FISHERIES CHANGES, DURING FEBRUARY, 2004

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) made a change to the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula during the February 2004 meeting. The 60,000 coho salmon *Oncorhynchus kisutch* cap, enacted in 1998 for non-terminal areas from July 22 through July 31 was rescinded. The BOF also determined that global positioning system (GPS) will be used to determine latitude and longitude coordinates throughout all salmon fisheries in Area M.

CURRENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

The South Peninsula Post-June fishery will be managed according to the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula (5 AAC 09.366) as adopted by the BOF during the November 1991 meeting and most recently revised in February 2004 (Table 1). Under the revised plan, commercial salmon fishing from July 6 through July 21 in non-terminal areas of the South Peninsula outside the Southeastern District Mainland (SEDM), as described under 5 AAC 09.366(f), will be restricted to a maximum of six 24-hour fishing periods, interspersed by 48-hour closures. Additional fishing time beyond the 24-hour periods may be allowed in terminal fishing areas (Figures 2 through 5), based on local stock run strength as measured by harvest and escapement rates. The terminal areas during July 6 through July 21 include: Zachary Bay, the Canoe Bay, Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay Sections and the East and West Pavlof Bay Sections north of the latitude of Black Point.

The first Post-June fishing period for terminal and non-terminal areas will be on, or shortly after, July 6. The department will attempt to have concurrent fishing periods within the Southeastern, South Central, Southwestern, and Unimak Districts to avoid concentrating fishing effort.

Thin Point Cove waters will open to commercial fishing, targeting sockeye salmon *O. nerka*, when the department determines an acceptable abundance of sockeye salmon are present in the Thin Point Lagoon and there are no large minus tides which often force salmon out of the lagoon and into the open fishing area. The Thin Point Lake sockeye salmon escapement objective ranges from 14,000 to 28,000 fish with inseason assessment based on aerial survey estimates (Nelson and Lloyd, 2001).

From July 22 through July 31, commercial salmon fishing in the South Peninsula outside terminal areas (excluding the SEDM from July 22 through July 25), may be allowed for a maximum of three 36-hour fishing periods interspersed by 48-hour closures. The first fishing period will not start before NOON on July 23.

The terminal areas during the July 22-31 time period include those areas specified for the July 6 through 21 period as well as the Deer Island, Belkofski Bay, Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Sections, Stepovak Flats Section from July 26 through July 28, and the area near Suzy Creek (ADF&G statistical area 281-65) after July 25 (Figures 6 and 7).

TERMINAL HARVEST AREAS

The terminal harvest locations listed below are described under 5 AAC 09.366(g) in the 2001-2004 and 2004-2006 commercial salmon fishing regulation books.

In the Southwestern District:

1. Morzhovoi Bay Section
2. Thin Point Section
3. Cold Bay Section
4. Deer Island Section
5. Belkofski Bay Section

In the South Central District:

1. That portion of the West Pavlof Bay Section located north of the latitude of Black Point
2. Canoe Bay Section
3. East Pavlof Bay Section
4. Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay Section

In the Southeastern District:

1. That portion of Zachary Bay located south of 55°22.60' N lat.
2. That portion of the Northwest Stepovak Section near Suzy Creek, after July 25, bounded by 160°19.00' W long. (in Dorenoi Bay), 160°14.57' W long. (the cape separating Chichagof Bay and West Cove), and 55°37.33' N lat.
3. Stepovak Flats Section (from July 26 through July 28)

From August 1 through August 31, fishing periods in the South Alaska Peninsula will be based on the strength of local sockeye, coho, pink *O. gorbuscha*, and chum salmon *O. keta* runs.

Certain streams have been receiving large over-escapements of pink salmon during recent years. Little harvest effort has occurred on fish of poor quality after desired escapement levels have been reached despite allowing fishing up to the stream terminus. Fish do not mill long at the mouths of these streams before moving upriver. This reduces their vulnerability to being caught. In 2004, once it is determined that the pink salmon run is strong in the vicinity, the department will consider allowing fishing up to the mouths of certain streams even though there may be few, if any, pink salmon in the streams at the time.

Beginning September 1, fishing periods will be based primarily on coho salmon run strength, although late pink and chum salmon run strength will be considered when determining fishing time

(McCullough, 1995). Historical September and October salmon harvests are listed in Table 2. Fishing effort typically declines during the fall fishery. With decreased fishing effort, the department will not attempt to have concurrent openings between the Southeastern District and the remainder of the South Peninsula after September 1.

GENERALIZED SCHEDULE

In an effort to accommodate enforcement activities during daylight hours with minimum impact on legal fishing activities, the following general opening and closing schedule may be used.

Month	Starting Time	Closing Time
June	6:00 AM	10:00 PM
July ^a	7:00 AM	9:00 PM
August	8:00 AM	9:00 PM
September	9:00 AM	8:00 PM
October	9:00 AM	8:00 PM

^a During the season, circumstances may require the department to change this fishing schedule. The general opening and closing times for fishing periods will probably not be in effect during July.

IMMATURE SALMON

The department will conduct a purse seine test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section prior to July 6 to assess the presence and abundance of immature salmon. Historically, the Shumagin Islands, Poperechnoi and Sanak Islands, and the South Unimak area catches have, at times, contained large numbers of immature salmon. Any fishing area with a high volume of immature salmon, either before or after July 6, will be closed to purse seine gear until the number of immature salmon drops below the BOF defined threshold of 100 immature salmon per seine set. Immature salmon are defined as those chinook, sockeye, coho, and chum salmon that become gilled in the seine web.

HARVEST PROJECTIONS

The 2004 projected pink salmon harvest is 6,000,000 fish, while the coho and chum salmon projected harvests are 200,000 and 850,000 fish respectively (Burkey 2004). These are the only species for which South Peninsula Post-June harvest projections are made. Table 3 illustrates past annual salmon harvests in this fishery since 1987 (minus the SEDM harvest July 1 through July 25) for comparative purposes.

LITERATURE CITED

- Burkey, CE. 2004. South Alaska Peninsula Post-June Salmon Fisheries and Stock Status, Report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries, 2004. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report 4K04-4. Kodiak.
- McCullough, J.N. 1995. South Alaska Peninsula Post-June and Aleutian Islands Management Area Salmon Fisheries and Stock Status. Report to the Alaska Board of Fisheries, Winter 1995-96. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Management and Development Division, Regional Information Report No. 4K95-51, Kodiak.
- Nelson P.A. and D.S. Lloyd. 2001. Escapement Goals for Pacific Salmon in the Kodiak, Chignik, and Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands Areas of Alaska. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Regional Information Report 4K01-66, Kodiak .

Table 1. Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South Alaska Peninsula.

5 AAC 09.366. POST-JUNE SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE SOUTH ALASKA PENINSULA.

- (a) The purpose of this management plan is to provide management guidelines to the department for the management of the post-June salmon fisheries along the South Alaska Peninsula, to provide for the harvest of local stocks in terminal harvest areas, and to establish fishing periods for the South Alaska Peninsula salmon fisheries outside of terminal harvest areas.
- (b) The commissioner shall establish, to the extent practicable, concurrent fishing periods in the Southeastern, South Central, Southwestern, and Unimak Districts.
- (c) Fishing periods may be established under this section only as follows:
 - (1) except as specified in (d), for July, from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM;
 - (2) for August, from 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM;
 - (3) for September, from 9:00 AM. to 8:00 PM; and
- (d) Notwithstanding (c)(1) of this section, the commissioner may establish, by emergency order, six 24-hour fishing periods interspersed by 48-hour closures from July 6 through July 21, and three 36-hour fishing periods interspersed by 48-hour closures from July 22 through July 31. The first commercial fishing period of the July 22 through July 31 period may not start before NOON on July 23.
- (e) (repealed February, 2004)
- (f) The commissioner may open, by emergency order, the following terminal harvest areas to salmon fishing from July 6 through July 21:
 - (1) The Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District, waters of Zachary Bay south of the latitude of 55° 22.60' N lat.; fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of pink and chum salmon stocks;
 - (2) The East and West Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District, waters north of the latitude of Black Point (55° 24.48' N lat.); fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of pink and chum salmon stocks;

-Continued-

Table 1. (page 2 of 3)

- (3) The Canoe Bay Section of the South Central District; fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of pink and chum salmon stocks;
- (4) in the Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay Sections of the Southwestern District as follows:
 - (A) fishing periods in the Cold Bay Section shall be established based on the abundance of sockeye and chum salmon stocks;
 - (B) fishing periods in Thin Point Cove and Morzhovoi Bay Sections shall be established based on the abundance of sockeye salmon stocks.
- (g) In addition to the terminal harvest areas specified in (f), the commissioner may open, by emergency order, the following terminal harvest areas to salmon fishing from July 22 through July 31:
 - (1) The Northwest Stepovak Section of the Southeastern District Mainland (near Suzy Creek), after July 25, the waters east of 160° 19.00' W long. (in Dorenoi Bay), west of the cape separating Chichagof Bay and West Cove (160° 14.57' W. long.) and north of 55° 37.33' N. lat.; fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of local pink salmon stocks;
 - (2) The Stepovak Flats Section of the Southeastern District Mainland, from July 26 through July 28; fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of local chum salmon stocks;
 - (3) The Mino Creek-Little Coal Bay and East Pavlof Bay Sections of the South Central District; fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of local pink and chum salmon stocks;
 - (4) The Belkofski Bay Section of the Southwestern District; fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of local pink and chum salmon stocks;
 - (5) The Deer Island Section of the Southwestern District; fishing periods shall be established based on the abundance of local pink salmon stocks.
- (h) The commissioner may open, by emergency order, the commercial salmon fishery in the South Alaska Peninsula as follows:

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Table 1. (page 3 of 3)

- (1) From August 1 through August 31, fishing periods shall be based on the abundance of local sockeye, coho, pink, and chum salmon stocks;
 - (2) From September 1 through October 31, fishing periods shall be based on abundance of coho salmon stocks, although the department may consider the abundance of late pink and chum salmon stocks.
- (i) The department shall conduct a seine test fishery in the Shumagin Islands Section to assess the presence of immature salmon. If 100 or more immature salmon, per set, are present, the commissioner shall close, by emergency order, the seine fishery in an area to be determined by the department. If the seine fishery is closed in an area under this subsection, the set gillnet fishery shall remain open in that area. For the purposes of this section, the phrase “immature salmon per set, are present” shall refer to the number of chinook, sockeye, coho, and chum salmon observed to be gilled in the seine web.
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Table 2. Entire South Peninsula commercial salmon harvest, all gear combined, September 1-October 31, 1970-2003.

Year	Number of Salmon ^a							
	Permits	Landings	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum	Total
1970	This information cannot be released due to confidentiality requirements.							
1971								
1972								
1973	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1974	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1975	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1976	4	15	0	1,776	160	85	0	2,021
1977	9	23	0	2,465	635	0	528	3,628
1978	21	51	0	808	4,651	0	5,726	11,185
1979	25	60	0	2,375	17,468	54	5,307	25,204
1980	29	139	0	6,513	30,390	154	4,166	41,223
1981	31	115	0	10,004	21,016	0	220	31,240
1982	29	213	2	24,471	10,742	0	3,407	38,622
1983	48	334	35	25,493	14,945	1,254	2,958	44,685
1984	52	269	10	13,351	10,526	458	1,789	26,134
1985	55	182	5	4,002	14,725	290	6,960	25,982
1986	46	146	2	3,459	6,318	518	2,519	12,816
1987	65	323	12	23,332	22,040	1,499	52,079	98,962
1988	68	328	4	24,635	26,497	62,290	19,345	132,771
1989	60	363	12	34,932	15,724	281	10,058	61,007
1990	66	426	7	67,142	23,318	584	73,195	164,246
1991	52	273	2	20,056	20,337	0	16,183	56,578
1992	53	333	58	13,115	35,323	1,525	3,486	53,507
1993	50	248	31	16,386	16,965	515	2,918	36,815
1994	75	373	18	25,481	36,563	294	214,174	276,530
1995	55	473	3	110,657	26,083	1,710	9,860	148,313
1996	57	364	5	26,301	26,525	136	2,910	55,877
1997	51	513	30	76,965	36,447	3,568	6,199	123,209
1998	67	430	25	44,775	20,838	1,818	10,382	77,838
1999	58	503	12	118,064	17,622	12,353	3,668	151,719
2000	71	444	11	47,160	25,039	3,963	83,701	159,874
2001	34	382	16	97,717	17,317	1,824	2,894	119,768
2002	26	244	0	19,341	8,034	217	7,776	35,368
2003	23	257	8	57,641	27,891	0	559	86,099
1984-2003 Average	54	344	14	42,226	21,707	4,692	26,533	95,171
1994-2003 Average	52	398	13	62,410	24,236	2,588	34,212	123,460

^a Test fish harvests are not included.

Table 3. South Peninsula July 1 to end of the season commercial salmon harvest, (minus the SEDM fishery July 1-25 harvest), all gear combined, 1987-2003.

Year	Number of Salmon				
	Chinook	Sockeye	Coho	Pink	Chum
1987	3,883	410,863	224,598	1,189,317	911,667
1988	6,803	642,437	503,750	6,778,909	1,314,897
1989	4,106	825,372	440,171	6,879,878	531,759
1990	5,721	951,759	290,711	2,315,034	684,061
1991	2,423	465,874	311,825	9,952,671	788,955
1992	4,003	765,575	414,809	9,101,628	863,505
1993 ^a	3,524	497,933	209,816	9,765,709	504,894
1994 ^a	1,642	408,089	249,066	6,640,031	1,591,094
1995 ^a	2,000	730,670	252,089	16,067,096	1,154,861
1996 ^a	1,901	215,541	261,126	1,737,699	378,759
1997 ^a	1,204	325,143	110,486	1,681,370	277,556
1998 ^b	1,793	764,947	150,735	7,441,311	455,978
1999 ^b	1,580	1,355,842	191,585	8,369,899	563,270
2000 ^b	2,081	530,913	249,874	3,132,340	788,698
2001 ^b	1,780	350,517	209,583	3,930,586	823,425
2002 ^b	3,411	290,657	197,323	1,950,760	421,461
2003 ^b	1,079	378,410	128,710	3,910,916	342,595
Average 1987-1992	4,490	676,980	364,311	6,036,240	849,141
Average 1993-1997 ^a	2,054	435,475	216,517	7,178,381	781,433
Average 1994-2003	1,847	535,073	200,058	5,486,201	679,770

^a During the 1993-1997 seasons the Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the Southern Alaska Peninsula restricted commercial fishing from July 6 through 19 to a few terminal areas.

^b The current Post-June Salmon Management Plan for the South (previously Southern) Alaska Peninsula went into effect in 1998 and is intended to increase fishing opportunities in early July in non-terminal areas.

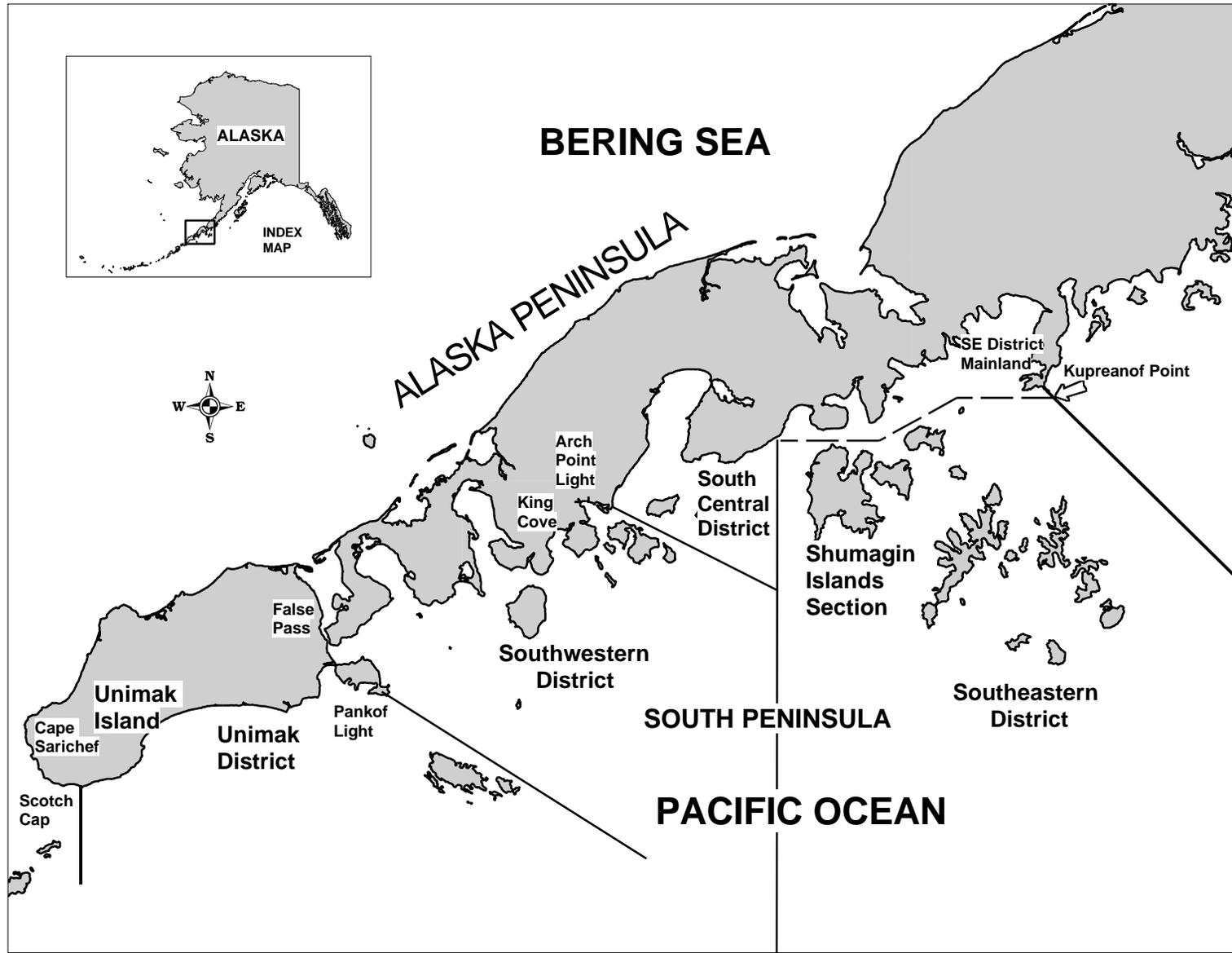


Figure 1. Map of the Alaska Peninsula Management Area with the South Peninsula salmon fishing districts depicted.

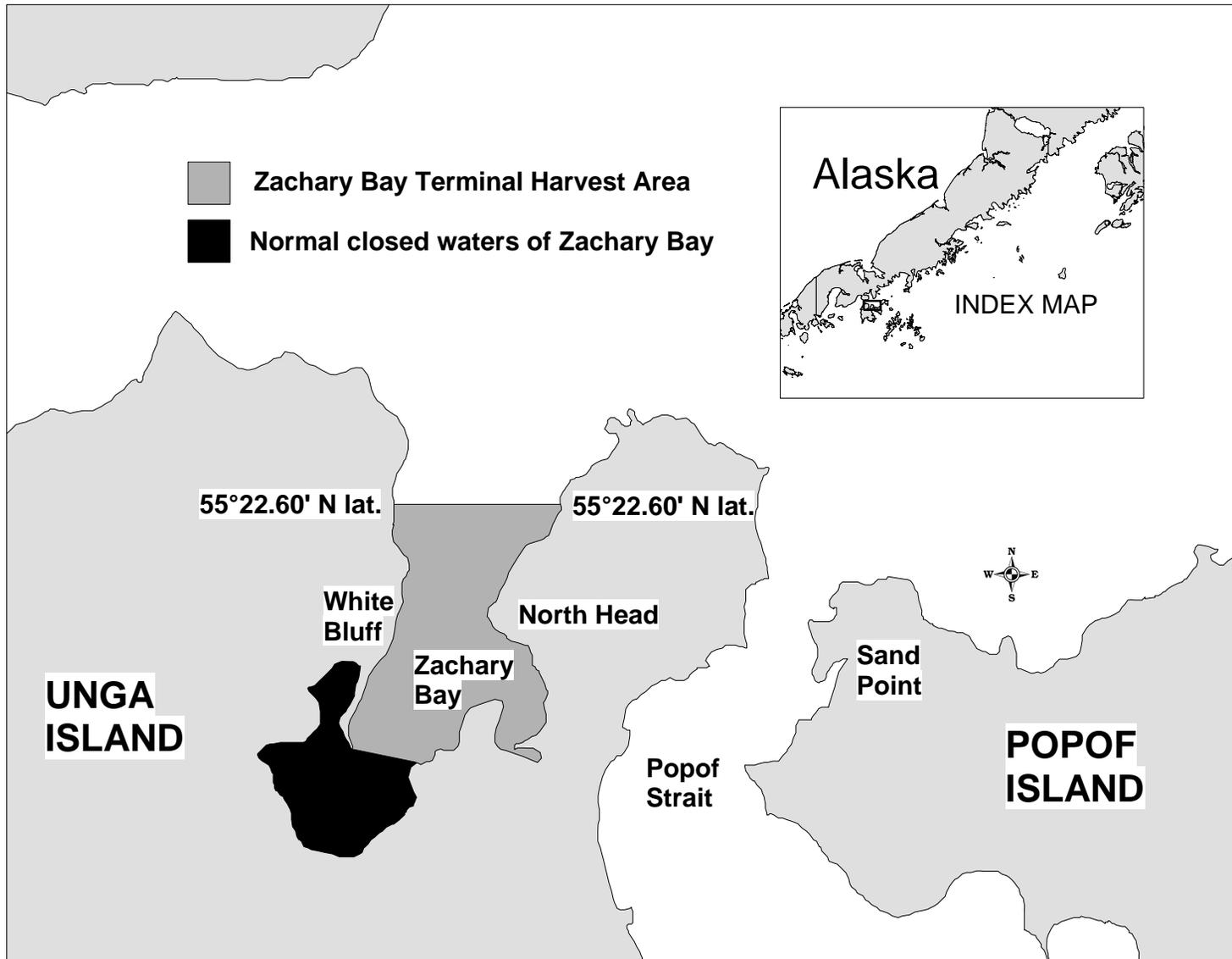


Figure 2. Map of Zachary Bay with closed waters and Post-June fishing areas depicted.

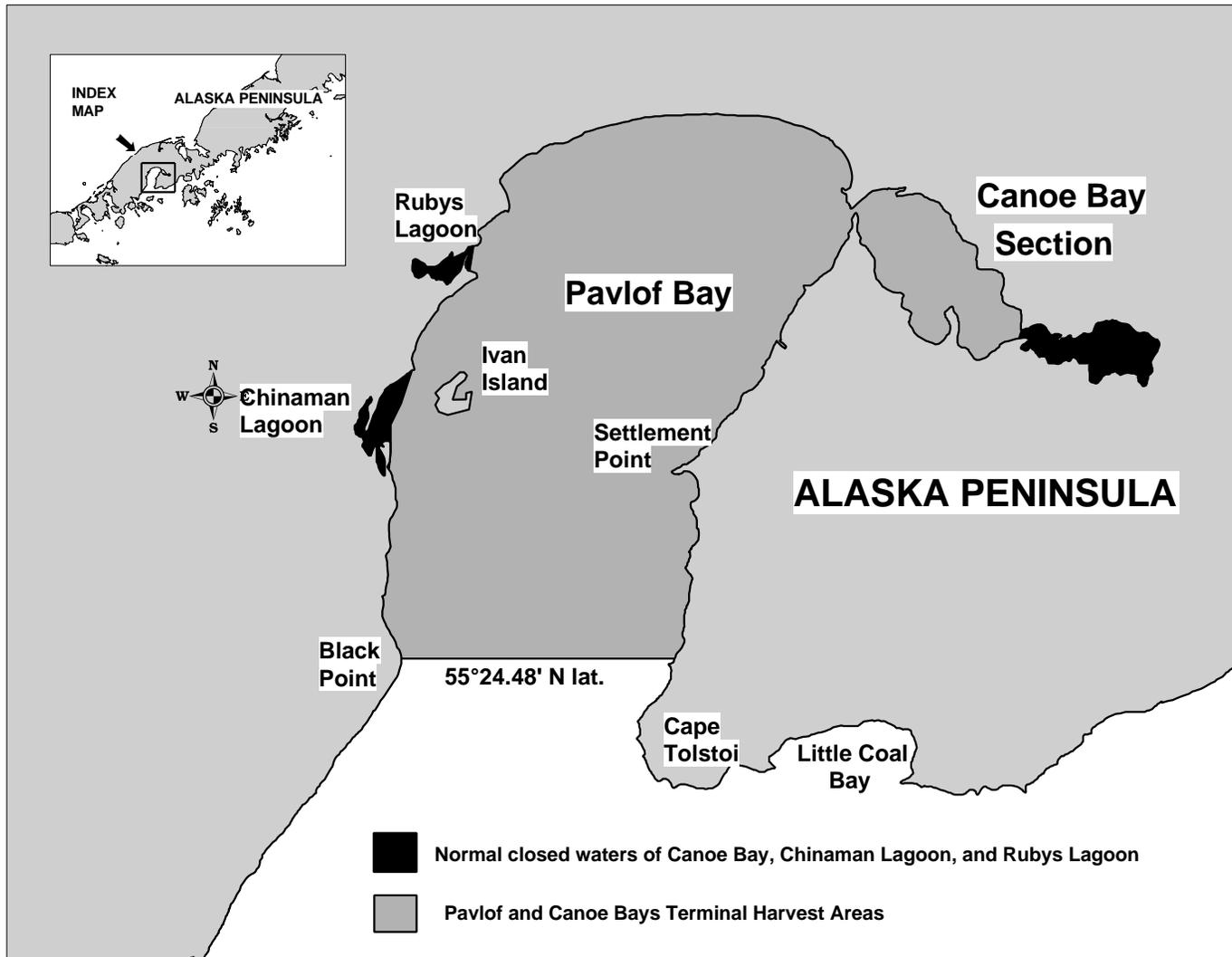


Figure 3. Map of Canoe Bay Section and Upper Pavlov Bay with pre-July 22 closed waters and Post-June fishing areas depicted.

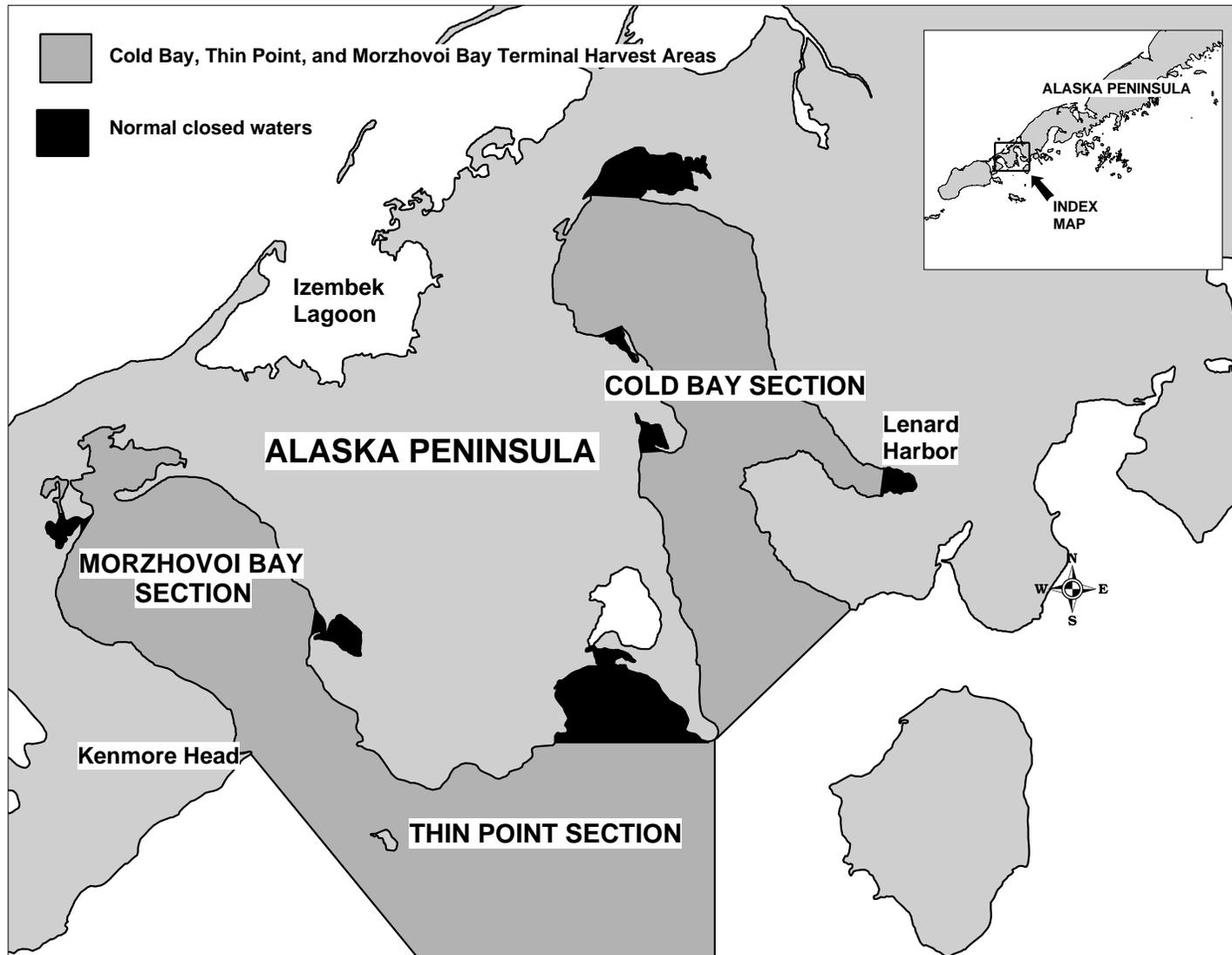


Figure 4. Map of Cold Bay, Thin Point, and Morzhovoi Bay Sections with July 6 – September 30 fishing areas and some closed waters of terminal areas depicted.

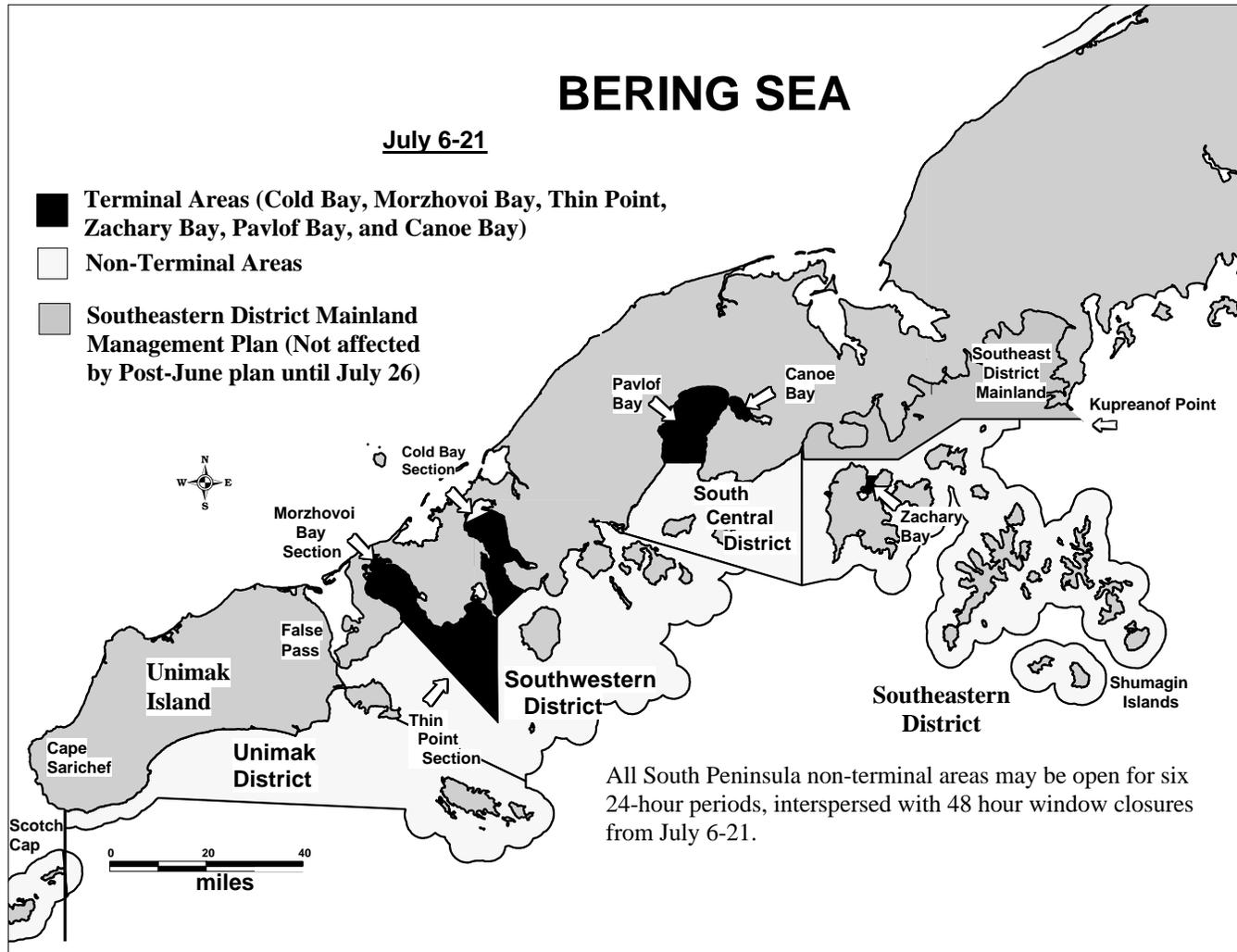


Figure 5. Map of the South Peninsula Post-June fishing areas where additional fishing time may be allowed during July 6-21.

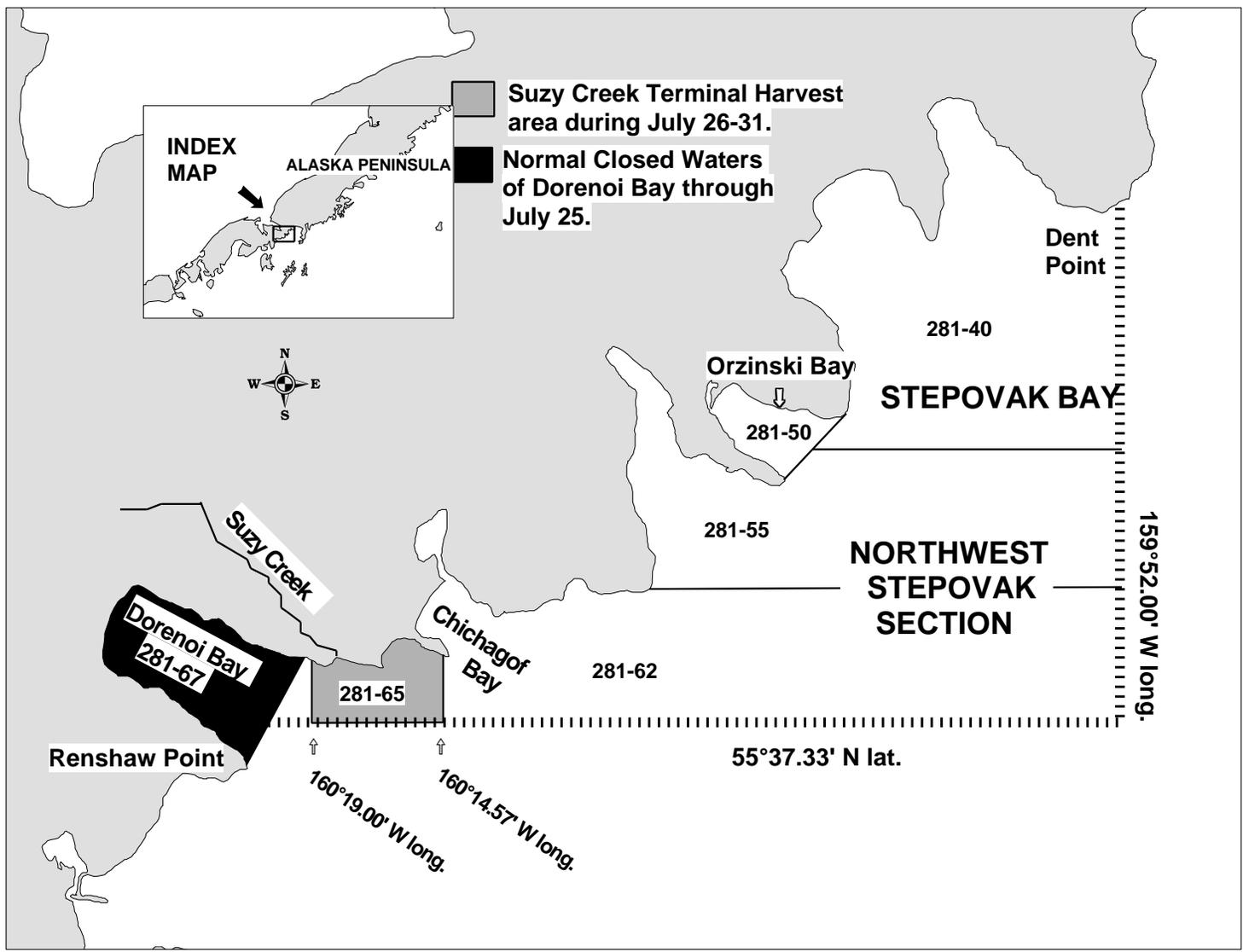


Figure 7. Map of the Northwest Stepovak Section depicting Dorenoi Bay closed waters through July 25, and Suzy Creek Post-June terminal harvest area.

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