

# GORDON'S FISH EMPORIUM

THE FULL SERVICE FISH MARKET  
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## **Worms in Fish – an observer's report.**

Recently, there have been lots of discussions and public attention paid to the issue of fish worms. While the issue is not new (it is discussed in Talmud and Poskim), there seem to have surfaced a new development in the field: an Anisakis worm.

According to some researchers, this worm enters the fish's flesh from the outside. This creates a kashrus problem with such familiar species as wild salmon, halibut, and flounder.

In response to public outcry, Kashrus Division of the Orthodox Union has issued a memorandum, in which Rabbi Belsky has confirmed "unequivocally that OU policy remains that there is no checking necessary and no prohibition of the worms found in...fish, in accordance with Shulchon Oruch Yoreh Deoh 84:16 etc". The memorandum lists 4 points by which Rav Belsky justifies his decision. You can see the photocopy of the actual OU memo on our website. In short, the decision of the venerated Rav is based on the rule "Minei Gavli" (found in Chulin 67B) and is well considered. Rav Belsky also feels, states the memo, that the size of this tolaas renders it halachically invisible (ayno nir'e l'aynaim).

The ruling of the leading authority on Kashrus seems to be in agreement with a lot of respected Rabbis. One of those who do not consider the new development a "problem" is Rabbi Usher Eckstein of Machzike Hadas – Belz. In his 4-column Hebrew-language letter, dated Isru Chag Sukkos 5769, Rabbi Eckstein subjects to scrutiny not just Halachic reasoning for the latest scare (as does Rav Belsky), but also the very approach to this issue taken by the Rabbis behind the issue.

On the other hand, Rabbinical Council of California has issued an advisory to the public using the language as strong as "May NOT be used" regarding such species as Halibut, Pollock, Red Perch, Turbot, and about 6 more fish. Claiming "extensive research by Rabbis and experts globally", the RCC reported that the anisakis worm does create a kashrus problem, much like an infested apple or spinach. They do allow, however, all farmed salmon, tilapia, lox and herring, and gefilte fish. Neither trout nor whitefish are mentioned on either of the lists. Tuna, Chilean Sea Bass, Branzino, and some others, have also avoided scrutiny so far.

In light of the above, Gordon's Fish was advised by Kehilla Kosher to temporarily stop sales of fresh or frozen halibut, cod, flounder, and Pacific snapper. Frozen or canned fish that come with a hechsher is acceptable for those who wish to rely on the supervision of the respective Rabbis.

There is a confusion regarding the wild salmon, but the overwhelming consensus seems to be that the Chinook (King) salmon from British Columbia is ok.

For more details on checking fish for worms, please visit our website:  
[www.GordonsFishEmporium.com/koshercertificate.aspx](http://www.GordonsFishEmporium.com/koshercertificate.aspx)