

# Understanding Kosher Fish

## REVIEW OF JSOR ZOOM CLASS

1. Kosher fish - is fish that has both fins and "Kosher" scales.

2. "Kosher" scales are defined as scales that can be removed without damaging the skin of the fish (i.e. cycloid, ctenoid) however not every type of scale is such (i.e. placoid or ganoid as found on sturgeon). Even one scale is sufficient according to many opinions.

3. The Mishna teaches us that any fish that has scales definitely has fins, so that all we need to verify the Kosher status of fish is its scales.

4. Once the scales/skin have been removed from the fish it cannot be identified as Kosher. Therefore, a package stating the type of fish, does not give it a Kosher status without Kosher scales.

5. Skinless filleted fish cannot be purchased without a kosher supervised seal. In order to purchase skinless fish, it **MUST** have been checked for Kosher scales, be supervised and sealed properly.

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6. One may buy already processed fish from an unsupervised location if a) The scales are present b) The knives and cutting board used were clean from any possible non-kosher residue.

7. When purchasing from a store that processes a large amount of the same type of fish at one time, one may assume that the knives and cutting board were clean.

8. If fish was purchased from a non-kosher store that not necessarily processed a large amount, the fish should be rinsed and scraped to remove possible non-kosher residue.

9. Some are lenient that the pinkish reddish color of salmon, is a kosher sign since only Kosher fish have such a color and therefore scales are not required, however this is subject to fact checking with evolving food technologies as should be noted on some labels of fish "color added to feed".

10. Roe - fish eggs - must come from a Kosher fish. Naturally red roe is always Kosher. Original caviar is from sturgeon and not kosher.

11. Fish products are of course subject to general kosher concerns, and especially when cooked, would require Bishul Yisrael.