

בית הוראה דיעטראיט  
**BAIS HORAAH OF DETROIT**  
HALACHA HOTLINE

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF **HaRav Shmuel Irons** שליט"א VAAD HALACHA **Rav Aharon Yoel Sorscher** • **Rav Yissachar Wolf** • **Rav Boruch Miller**

KITCHEN \* SHABBOS \* YOM TOV \* BRACHOS \* AVEILUS \* TAHARAS HAMISHPACHA \* EVERYDAY SHAILOS

## ISSUE #25 – Fish FAQs

### Commonly Received Questions and their Answers

Below are some common questions and answers based on psakim from the rabbonim of the Bais Horaah. Please note: in the event one believes they have heard a different opinion in the past, one's family posek should always be consulted. Mareh mekomos for any specific answers below are available by email request to [ask@bhdetroit.org](mailto:ask@bhdetroit.org).

#### ● Is there an obligation to eat fish on Shabbos?

- Eating fish on Shabbos is included in the mitzvah of oneg Shabbos (enjoying Shabbos). Therefore, it is proper to eat fish at all three Shabbos seudos. Because the mitzvah stems from oneg, one who does not enjoy fish, or does not have an appetite for fish at the moment, is not required to partake. However, one should replace the fish with other foods that he does enjoy.

#### ● What must be done between eating meat and fish?

- If there is any concern of fish residue on one's hands, they should be washed.
- One should have a drink between the meat and fish. The common minhag is that water should not be used for this purpose.

#### ● May fish be cooked in a meat pot?

- Yes. Even if the pot was used within the last 24 hours, it may be used interchangeably for meat and fish as long as it is cleaned well between use with one and the other. The danger mentioned in the Talmud of combining fish and meat does not extend to taste absorbed in the pot.
- Some have the custom of using a dedicated pot for fish.

#### ● May fish and meat be cooked in the oven at the same time?

- If one of the two items is covered, there is no concern.

#### ● May onions that were cut with a meat knife be used with fish?

- Yes, as long as the knife was clean of meat residue. Even though the onions are considered fleishig, they may be used with fish. There are those who have the minhag to be stringent and not use such onions with fish.

#### ● Can challah baked in a meat oven be used with fish?

- Yes. As long as the oven racks are clean of any meat residue, the challah is considered pareve and may be used with fish.

#### ● Can fish and meat be eaten on the same plates and with the same utensils?

- This is not recommended due to the possibility of residue. Separate utensils should be used. This is especially relevant at strolling events which may have, for example, a sushi bar and a meat station.

#### ● May fish be grilled on a barbeque that is used for meat?

- It is very difficult to properly clean a barbeque from meat residue. However, if one has a grill that can be cleaned easily, and he is able to remove residue from all areas of the grill including the lid, it is permitted to then use the grill for fish. Note: the grill must be cleaned well once again before any subsequent use for meat.

#### ● May one use a Worcestershire sauce with meat?

- Worcestershire sauce which contains fish among its ingredients should not be used with chicken or meat. If it was used accidentally, a halachic authority should be consulted.

#### ● May one roast hot dogs on skewers that were used for marshmallows?

- Many kosher marshmallows are made with fish gelatin. Skewers which are used with such marshmallows must be cleaned prior to attaching the hot dog. If the skewer was not cleaned, the hot dog may still be eaten.

#### ● May one cook and/or eat fish and dairy together?

- The custom among many Ashkenazim is to allow fish and dairy to be cooked and eaten together.

#### ● What is the halacha if a small amount of liquid from fish drips into a chicken soup?

- According to most halachic authorities, fish is batel b'shishim (nullified at a ratio of 60:1). It is very likely that there is enough liquid in the soup to affect this bitul, and it may therefore be eaten. Similarly, the pot may continue to be used for meat.

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- **If there was a spillover between pots and chicken soup came into contact with the outside of a pot that has fish cooking inside, what is the halacha?**
  - Depending on the specific case, spillovers between two cooking pots can create a kashrus concern for both the food and the pot. However, regarding fish and meat, there is no such concern because the chicken soup can only transfer an absorbed taste to the fish pot. As stated earlier, absorbed taste is not a concern between fish and meat.
- **What should be done if fish and meat were accidentally cooked together?**
  - If the fish was 60 times lesser in volume than the rest of the food, the pieces of fish may not be eaten but the rest of the food is okay. The same is true in the reverse: if the volume of the meat was 60 times less than the rest of the food, the food may be eaten aside from the actual pieces of meat. In either of these cases, the pot need not be kashered.
  - However, if the respective amounts were not a ratio of 60:1, the food may not be eaten, and the utensils should be kashered. A halachic authority should be consulted regarding how to kasher the specific material.
- **May French fries that were made with meat equipment be eaten with fish?**
  - If the oil was changed between uses and the deep frier was cleaned from meat residue, the French fries may be eaten with fish. However, if the oil was not changed and had been used for meat or chicken, the French Fries are considered fleishig and should not be eaten with fish.
  - Please note: In the latter case, one will have to wait six hours (or their family minhag) after eating the French fries before eating any dairy.
- **What bracha does one make on fish sushi?**
  - This is the subject of halachic debate. The Bais Hora'ah's view is that since neither the fish nor the rice can be considered tafel (secondary), two brachos should be made - mezonos on the rice, and shehakol on the fish. The vegetables in a fish sushi roll can be considered tafel, and are therefore covered by the other brachos.
  - If the sushi is deep fried (e.g. Tempura) the above does not apply, and only a bracha of mezonos is recited.
- **What bracha is made on herring and kichel?**
  - If one enjoys both the herring and the kichel, two brachos must be made. However, if the kichel is only being used as a vehicle to consume the herring (e.g. to keep one's hands clean), only a shehakol is made on the herring.
- **What bracha should be made on gefilte fish?**
  - Even though gefilte fish may contain a large percentage of breadcrumbs or matzah meal, the correct bracha is shehakol because the bread or matzah meal is used only as a binder.
- **If raw fish is out of the freezer or fridge either because it fell out, or because it was delivered on Shabbos, may one return it to the freezer or fridge on Shabbos?**
  - If there is a concern of spoilage, there is room to be lenient and put it into the fridge or freezer in a backhanded manner (e.g. using one's feet or elbows).
  - If that is not an option, in a case where there is concern of significant financial loss (e.g. a case of fish), one may ask a non-Jew to handle it. (Please note - this allowance applies in this specific case only). If that option does not work, there is room to be lenient to handle it directly.
  - Please note: Food deliveries should not be scheduled for Shabbos or Yom Tov, as in many cases this entails a violation of Amira L'Akum.
  - Please note: In order to open a refrigerator or freezer on Shabbos, it must either have an approved Shabbos mode, or the door switches must be deactivated. On models manufactured within the last twenty years, removing the light bulb is often not sufficient. Please contact the Bais Hora'ah for guidance regarding your specific model.

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