

Fact Sheet: Parasite Destruction and Record Keeping

When is Parasite Destruction Required?

When an establishment is serving raw or partially cooked fish in a ready-to-eat form.

What Species are exempt from Parasite Destruction?

- Molluscan shellfish
- *Thunnus alalunga*
- *Thunnus albacares* (Yellowfin tuna)
- *Thunnus atlanticus*
- *Thunnus maccoyii* (Bluefin tuna, Southern)
- *Thunnus obesus* (Bigeye tuna)
- *Thunnus thynnus* (Bluefin tuna, Northern)
- Scallops consisting only of the shucked adductor muscle
- Aquacultured fish*, such as salmon, that:
 - are raised in open water or in net-pens
 - are raised in ponds or tanks
 - are fed formulated feed
- Fish eggs that have been removed from the skein and rinsed

Fish means fresh or saltwater finfish, crustaceans, and other forms of aquatic life (including alligator, frog, aquatic turtle, jellyfish, sea cucumber, and sea urchin and the roe of such animals) other than birds or mammals, and all mollusks.

Fish includes an edible human food product derived in whole or in part from fish, including fish that have been processed in any manner.

How is Parasite Destruction Performed?

Fish (other than the exempt species above) must be frozen according to one of the following parameters

1. Frozen at -4°F for seven days (168 hours).
2. Frozen at -31°F for 15 hours.
3. Frozen -31°F until solid and stored at -4°F for 24 hours.

Required records for parasite destruction

- **Conducted by the supplier:** If the fish have undergone Parasite Destruction via freezing by a supplier, a letter from the supplier stipulating that the products have been through parasite destruction may substitute for the records.
- **Conducted at the establishment:**

The person-in-charge shall record the freezing temperature and time. This record must be retained for 90 calendar days beyond the time of service or sale of the fish.

*What are BAP Labels?

BAP stands for Best Aquaculture Practices, a third party that is accredited by NSF as an aquacultured fish meeting the standards above, and no other documentation is required.

