

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

Voluntary Internal

Date: 3/19/2014

GAIN Report Number:

Israel

Post: Tel Aviv

Release of WA Salmon Detained at Port in Israel

Report Categories:

Export Accomplishments - Other

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Report Highlights:

A shipment of salmon from Washington State was detained at port in Israel due to incomplete health certification from the US Department of Commerce. FAS Tel Aviv intervened with the Ministry of Health to eventually resolve the issue and secure the release of the salmon shipment valued at \$60,000.

General Information:

A shipment of frozen salmon was exported from the port of Takoma WA without a signed health certificate from US Department of Commerce (USDC). In February 2014, the shipment arrived in Israel and was detained by the Veterinary Inspector of the Israel Ministry of Health, Food Control Services who refused to release the container without assurance from the USDC that the shipment was free of any safety or veterinary problems. After being contacted by the Israeli importer, who incurred significant costs due to enforced deep freeze storage fees at port, FAS Tel Aviv initiated discussions with the US exporter and the USDC Seafood Inspection Program Manager in Seattle who was responsible for issuing the incomplete health certificate. Following a week of negotiations with FAS and based on supporting information gathered by FAS Tel Aviv, the Israel Food Control Services finally agreed to release the entire shipment of salmon under specific conditions. The intervention of FAS Tel Aviv and their ability to work effectively with FCS contacts was instrumental in ensuring the release of the shipment of frozen salmon valued at USD 60,000.