

On the Edge: The International Date Line in Halacha

An Overview of a *Shiur* by Rav Yosef Greenwald for *Parshas Tazria/Parshas HaChodesh*

החודש הזה לכם ראש חדשים (שמות יב:א)

Where is the Date Line located according to halacha? Three basic approaches are offered.

- *Chazon*

Ish

- 6 hours (90 degrees) ahead of Yerushalayim, which runs through Siberia, part of China, and part of Australia (though land masses are not divided in his opinion).
- Based on the *Baal HaMaor* (to *Rosh Hashana*) concerning *kiddush hachodesh*.
- Shabbos in Japan is observed on Sunday.

- *Rav*

Tuchachinsky -

- 12 hours (180 degrees) ahead of Yerushalayim, which runs through part of Alaska and the Pacific Ocean to the left of Hawaii.
- Based on the idea that Yerushalayim is the center of the world
- Shabbos in Hawaii is observed on Friday.

- *Rav Tzvi*

Pesach Frank/Rav Ovadia Yosef -

- We follow the regular International Date Line.
- Since the Gemara doesn't address directly, we should follow the local custom.
- Practical Halacha Today
- Most *poskim* do not take a definitive stand on the issue.
- Therefore, many *poskim* suggest for Shabbos to keep Shabbos on the local Saturday and be *machmir* for *melacha deoraisa* on the other day.