



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1
General Conference - 16th to 21st November 2008 - Cavtat, Croatia



SUBJECT	Experiences with the 2005 IARU Region 1 HF Bandplan, attempting to harmonize HF bandplans across the three IARU Regions		
Society	NRRL	Country:	Norway
Committee:	C4	Paper number:	CT08_C4_14
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Background:

At the 2005 IARU Region 1 Conference in Davos, Switzerland, IARU Region 1 adopted a new HF bandplan, to be implemented from 1 January 2006.

The 2007 IARU Region 2 Conference in Brasilia also adopted a new HF bandplan, with the aim of being harmonized to a large degree with the recent IARU Region 1 HF bandplan.

This situation makes it appropriate for the IARU Region 1 to use its 2008 Conference to work towards further harmonizing the HF bandplans in the three IARU regions, by adjusting the IARU Region 1 HF bandplan accordingly.

However, this work should be done through discussions of experiences obtained since the current IARU Region 1 HF bandplan was implemented.

Some points for discussion:

1. Is there really a need for a 4-slot segmentation in the 137 kHz band? The 2002 IARU Region 1 Conference in San Marino ruled that there was no need for a bandplan for the only 2.1 kHz wide 137 kHz band, and that recommended operation here should be included in the notes to the bandplan. This issue was not specifically discussed again at the 2005 IARU Region 1 Conference in Davos, and was just added editorially in the new bandplan.

NRRL is of the opinion that the ruling of the 2002 Conference should be respected, and 137 kHz segmentation should be deleted from the IARU Region 1 HF bandplan, unless a new discussion with new important viewpoints will make it reasonable to include segmentation of the 137 kHz band in the IARU Region 1 HF bandplan.

For harmonization purposes, the two other IARU regions have NOT included segmentation of the 137 kHz band in their HF bandplans.

2. What are the experiences on 160 m, especially during phone contests? The question has relevance to earlier attempts by EDR and NRRL to adjust the bandplan during major international contests (the so-called "Dynamic Bandplan" idea by NRRL; Paper DV05_C4_25 at the 2005 IARU Region 1 Davos Conference).

3. What are the experiences of the Activity Centers in the 80 m band for QRS (3555 kHz), CW QRP (3560 kHz), SSB QRP (3690 kHz), image (3735 kHz), and emergency (3760 kHz)? Are such Activity Centers used, and are they respected, and useful? If not, should they be kept, or should their frequencies be adjusted? NOTE that the emergency Activity Center is different from IARU Region 2 (3750 kHz).

NRRL proposes that the frequencies for emergency be harmonized between Region 1 and Region 2; and changed to 3750 kHz in the IARU Region 1 HF bandplan.

4. What are the experiences on 7.1 - 7.2 MHz for the countries with early permission to use this new portion of the band? What should be the extent and placement of digital modes in the expanded 40 m band?

NRRL proposes that the increasingly popular digital modes should be given specifically more space than the present few kilohertz in the present IARU Region 1 and 2 HF bandplans.

5. Should digimodes on 10 MHz be allotted more space in the IARU Region 1 bandplan, like in the Region 2 bandplan?

6. What are the experiences with the SSB DXpedition window at 14190 - 14200 kHz? We still hear a specific Mediterranean station steadily occupying 14195 kHz without being a DXpedition station -- what has been done and what can be done about the respect for bandplan decisions? (If nothing can be done, why spend time on making bandplans?)

7. The IARU Region 2 HF bandplan lists a QRP SSB Activity Center at 18130 kHz, which IARU Region 1 doesn't.

NRRL proposes that 18130 kHz should be adopted as QRP SSB Activity Center by IARU Region 1.

8. The IARU Region 2 HF bandplan lists a QRP SSB Activity Center at 24950 kHz. This should also be adopted by IARU Region 1.

NRRL proposes that 24950 kHz should be adopted as QRP SSB Activity Center by IARU Region 1.

9. Digitized speech has not been allotted separate frequencies in the IARU Region 1 HF bandplan. The 2005 IARU Region 1 Davos Conference decided to view digitized speech as digital modes, because the transmission occurs as toneshifts according to a digital protocol. Experience has shown us that different digital modes should be separated in the bands. PSK and RTTY are separated within the digimode segments without any formal separation. While image modes are placed in the voice segments, because they originally were analog modes, although they now are almost completely digitized.

IARU Region 2 lists the following digitized speech Activity Center frequencies in their HF bandplan, all put in "all modes" 2700 Hz bandwidth segments:

3630 kHz, 7070 kHz, 14130 kHz, 21180 kHz, and 28330 kHz.

NRRL proposes that 3630 kHz, 7070 kHz, 14130 kHz, 21180 kHz, and 28330 kHz be adopted as digitized speech Activity Centers by IARU Region 1, in order to harmonize these between Region 1 and Region 2.

10. Region 2 has no digitized speech Activity Centers in the 18 and 24 MHz bands. Therefore **NRRL proposes that 18150 kHz and 24960 kHz be adopted as digitized speech Activity Centers by IARU Region 1, and that IARU Region 1 proposes vs. the other two IARU Regions that these frequencies be adopted and thereby harmonized.**

11. It is still NRRL's wish to have a simpler bandplan than the present one. NRRL made an attempt to make such a simplified HF bandplan, although not as simple as the IARU Region 3 HF bandplan. NRRL's proposed HF bandplan was submitted at the 2005 IARU Region 1 Davos Conference as Paper DV05_C4_11 (Principles) and DV05_C4_12 (HF Bandplan). But after the NRRL's 2005 HF bandplan proposal was turned down, *NRRL is of the opinion that we now need to harmonize HF bandplans across the IARU regions. Such a goal will be a form of simplification by itself, on a global scale.*

The current HF bandplans for the three IARU Regions can be downloaded from:
<http://folk.uio.no/tomvs/la4ln.htm>

Proposal:

NRRL invites the C4 Committee to discuss experiences obtained since IARU Region 1 decided on a new HF bandplan at its 2005 Conference (implemented from 1 Jan. 2006), and to use these experiences together with the current HF bandplans for Region 2 and Region 3 in an attempt to harmonize HF bandplans across the IARU Regions. Some detailed proposed changes and additions to the IARU Region 1 HF bandplan are included in the proposed points for discussion above.