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Europe, Middle East, Africa and Northern Asia

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SUBJECT	Vandalism on our HF bands		
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Vandalism on our HF bands

RSGB

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IARU Administrative Council Resolution 08-1 , Konstanz, June 2008, IARU Region 1 Conference Recommendations CT08_C4_Rec_17, CT08_C3_Rec_44 and REC/99/LH/C4.2 are individually and collectively significant and strong statements, but the reality is that they are not reducing what can only be termed vandalism on our HF bands.

The recent FT5GA DXpedition produced totally unacceptable levels of deliberate interference, quite significant and blatant “pirate” activity and disgraceful comments on the DXCluster network. Many RSGB members find this totally unacceptable and expect the Society and IARU to do something about it. Many, including long-term and well respected members feel that this anti-social activity is removing the fun from DX operating and are considering their future interest in the hobby.

Discussion

Like IARU and other Societies within Region 1 the RSGB has been particularly active in promoting the excellent booklet on ethics and operating practice (Rec 44). The Chiltern DX Group also actively promotes the booklet, which includes sending a copy to all DXpeditions that it sponsors. Despite this the RSGB remains convinced that lack of education and suitable educational material was not the root cause of this problem when it was discussed at Cavtat, which is even more evident today.

Although the RSGB recognises that its approach to deliberate interference made at Cavtat failed, disruption of DXpeditions and rare DX operation seems to have now widened to more significant “pirate” operation and DX Cluster abuse. It remains alongside PLT as the main concern that its membership have for the future of the hobby at MF and HF.

The RSGB proposes that the Permanent HF Committee uses part of the planned sessions during the Interim Conference as a workshop to analyse and identify the root cause and from there identify some better targeted solutions. The outcome from such a workshop could then be developed further after the Interim Conference with a view to drafting a multi-country recommendation for the next General Conference.