



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Europe, Middle East, Africa and Northern Asia

Founded 1950

Committee C4 (HF Matters) Interim Meeting 16-17 April 2016 InterCity Hotel, Vienna

SUBJECT	630m band plan		
Society	NRRL	Country:	Norway
Committee:	C4	Paper number:	VIE16_C4_02
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Background

NRRL had for the IARU Region 1 Interim Meeting in 2013 submitted a proposal for a 630 m bandplan. This led to a proposal submitted to the IARU Region 1 Conference in 2014, and the following recommendation:

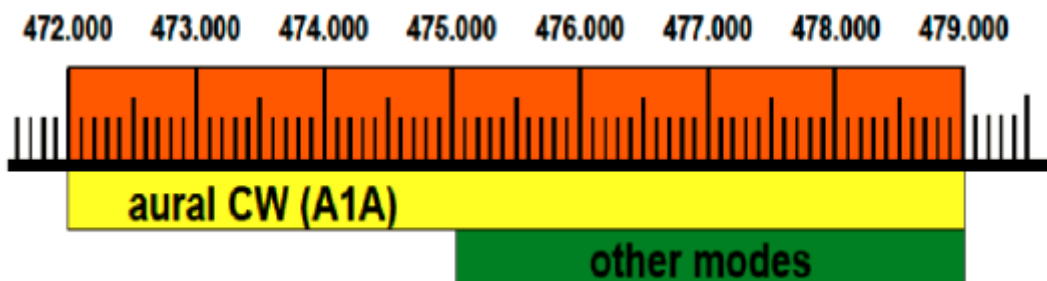
Recommendation VA14_C4_REC_02

That the plan on the proposed usage of the 472 - 479 kHz band (630 m) be accepted:

472 - 475 kHz CW only – maximum bandwidth 200 Hz

475 - 479 kHz CW + digimodes

Proposed Usage for the MF Band 472.000 - 479.000 kHz



Proposed by: NRRL

Seconded by: VERON

The motion was carried with two votes against

Discussion

When radio amateurs get access to a new band, it is important that the band will be used ("use them, or lose them"). A considerable help for new users will be beacons. New users can check if their receiver and antenna is working, by listening to beacon transmissions. Because 630 m is a new band, with little activity at this early stage, beacons will be useful to get activity started.

In bands where radio amateurs only have secondary status, it is important that beacons are placed in parts of the band where they are not interfering with primary services. It should also be noted that radio propagation in this band in general allows for limited signal range, especially when transmitting with low effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP).

The bandplan previously proposed by NRRL, and the one approved by the IARU Region 1 Conference in 2014, did not forbid use of beacons.

One amateur radio beacon is known within IARU Region 1 in the 630 m band: IQ2MI on 476.185 kHz with 1 W ERP from Italy (http://www.arimi.it/?page_id=788).

When NRRL recently asked the IARU Region 1 Beacon Coordinator for approval of a new low power 1 W EIRP beacon in the 630 m band on 476.5 kHz, the Beacon Coordinator wrote: *"Current Region 1 policy is that there should not be continuous beacons in that part of the spectrum and I think that we have to stick to that rule."*

NRRL finds this surprising, because NRRL has been instrumental in establishing an IARU Region 1 bandplan and policy for the 630 m band, where beacons are not forbidden. Careful considerations have been taken in selecting the proposed beacon frequency away from known primary users in the band.

NRRL proposes that beacons may be placed in the 630 m band between 476 and 477 kHz, where there should be no interference to and from the regular primary services. The beacon proposed by NRRL would be located at the exact center of this segment.

Proposal

It is recommended that beacons will be accepted in the plan of usage of the 472 - 479 kHz band (630 m) in addition to the Recommendation VA14_C4_REC_02:

476 - 477 kHz beacons – maximum bandwidth 200 Hz.

Maximum power output 1 W EIRP.

Beacon proposals should adhere to beacon recommendations in the IARU Region 1 HF Managers' Handbook, and should be approved by the IARU Region 1 Beacon Coordinator.