



United Kingdom Six Metre Group

Dedicated to encouraging Amateur Radio

Operation on 50 MHz around the world

RSGB Spectrum Forum Meeting

Sandy Bedfordshire, 20th November 2010

Organisation	United Kingdom Six Metre Group
Contact	David Dix, G8LZE
Subject	50 MHz band plan

Introduction

Changes in activity levels, the introduction of new modes and improvements to equipment specifications means that the current six metre band plan may need some revision.

Background

Since the current band plan was adopted in 1984 six metres has changed from being an "enthusiasts" band with the use of much homebrew equipment to one where nearly all new commercial transceivers have 50 MHz coverage as standard. This coupled with the bands unique propagation properties has lead to greatly increased activity especially during Es openings and contest periods.

With the introduction of WSJT modes MS activity is no longer a niche activity and EME communication is growing as successful contacts can now be made between stations running moderate power and single yagi antennas.

Objective

To revise the 50 MHz band plan on a multi-regional basis to meet current and future demands.

It is recognised that any band plan will be a compromise and will not/cannot satisfy every special interest group but the more logical and coherent it is the more likely it is to be adhered to.



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Considerations

Beacons are essential for monitoring changes in propagation and their allocation at the lower end of the band is gaining importance with the progressive closure of Band 1 television transmitters.

In practice only 250 KHz of the 1 MHz primary allocation is regularly used.

EME is not propagation dependent and its current allocation, effectively in the ssb portion of the band, is unsatisfactory for all.

Proposals

Re-allocate band space to better utilise the complete primary allocation.

Increase allocation for prime modes by moving non-propagation dependent and strong signal modes further up the band.

Ensure commonality between regions both for long-distance modes (eg. EME) and for long distance DX working (common DX window).

Keep MUF dependent services towards the bottom of the band.