



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 2014 General Conference – Varna-Albena, Bulgaria

21 – 27 September 2014



Subject	Minutes of C5 50MHz Beacon Working Group		
Society		Country:	
Committee:	C5	Paper number:	VAR14_
Author:	Murray G6JYB (WG Chair)		

Task: To consider papers relevant to the 50MHz Beacons:-

VA14_C5_14 RSGB – 50 MHz Synchronised Beacons

VA14_C5_15 EDR – The number of beacons per slot in the 50MHz Synchronized Beacon Project

Background

Prior to introducing the papers, the Chair highlighted that the objectives were also to

- That we also need to consider the current status of migration ordinary beacons to 50.4-50.5
- How to improve clarity and extend the deadline for that migration
- Encourage innovative developments so it delivers real benefits overall

The current papers are part of an ongoing programme on the SBP, following previous decisions and technical recommendations. Regarding current status:-

- The Region-1 database and Beaconsport websites both show that some beacons have already migrated and more are planned to qsy.
- That unless requested, the default migration for the existing beacons is by 400kHz (eg from 50.0xx to 50.4xx MHz)
- That Beaconsport maps clearly shows that 50.4xx beacons are being spotted/reported, despite some concerns that they would not be

Consideration of Papers

VA14_C5_15 – The EDR paper was considered first, This proposes 5minutes rather than 4minute intervals to make it easier to remember the times and increase the potential number of beacons that can be accommodated without needing to reuse frequencies. All present considered this had merit and C5_15 was adopted by the working group

VA14_C5_14 – The larger RSGB paper indicated a framework for pilot projects for both beacon hardware and user software. It was noted that the MGM could be made adaptable for different modes, meteor showers, sporadic-E etc.

Options were also discussed with the satellite coordinator and REF regarding opportunities to fly a space borne 50MHz monitoring receiver. This would assess the current beacons/propagation and legacy use, *Note: such a project would not need a 50MHz amateur satellite service allocation*

A discussion considered potential pilot and strategic locations and volunteer societies. The call for pilot-scheme members will be resumed in C5 when all members are present

Overall the working group considered the paper a useful contribution and approved it for C5

WG Recommendations

- That C5 notes that migration of Region-1 50MHz beacons is progressing (with good propagation reports)
- That the deadline for migration the remainder shall now be 31st December 2015, noting that the default for QSY is usually +400kHz unless a specific request is sent to the IARU-R1 beacon coordinator
- That coordination of new beacons below 50.4MHz shall no longer be possible, except for the members of the Synchronised Beacon Project (SBP)
- For the SBP - That both VA14_C5_14 and VA14_C5_15 papers be adopted in C5
- As per VA14_C5_15, the Synchronised beacons will now use – ‘once every 5minute’ slots, instead of ‘once every 4 minutes’
- Member Societies are invited to participate in the pilot programme as outlined in VA14_C5_14 and also to consider the best locations for SBP (eg an existing site or new strategic site)
- Opportunities for a 50MHz space-borne receiver should be sought for monitoring both standard beacons and the SBP. This will enable assessments of propagation, band usage; support for further research; and support potential future frequency allocation requests

Note: For the SBP the intention is that the pilot group will initially act as technical coordinators in liaison with propagation advisers. Initial point of contact is Murray G6JYB

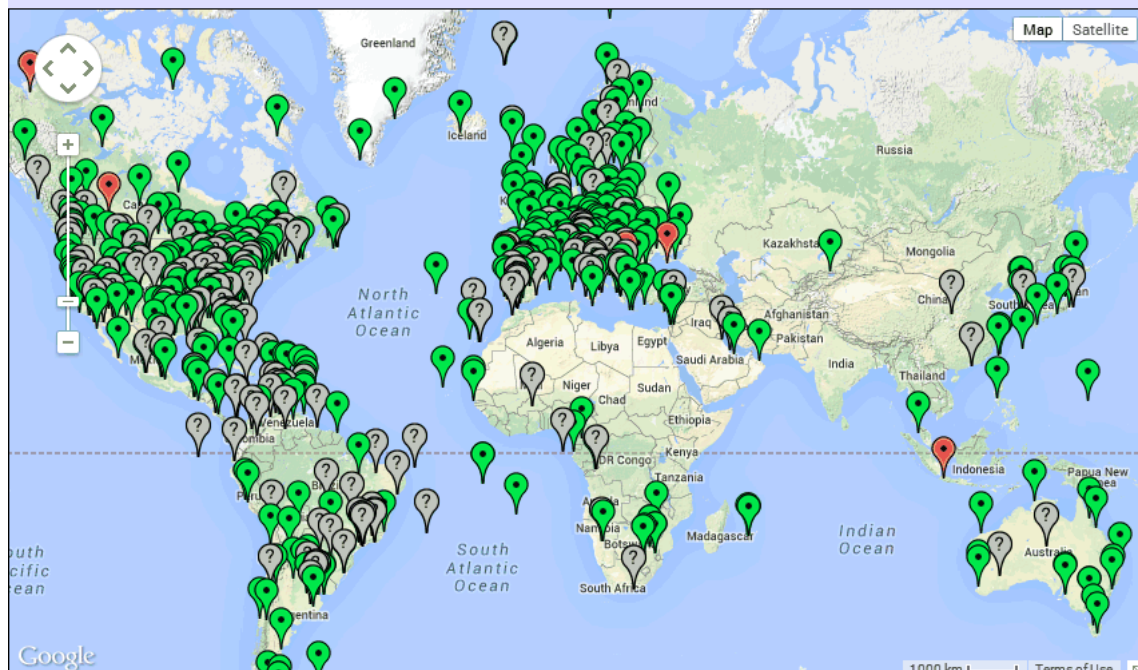
Useful Info

Region-1 VHF Beacon database: <http://data.dcc.rsgb.org/> (includes custom search/query functions)

Beaconspot for reports/maps: <http://www.beaconspot.eu/> (as used below)

Beacon map for 50MHz - 52MHz

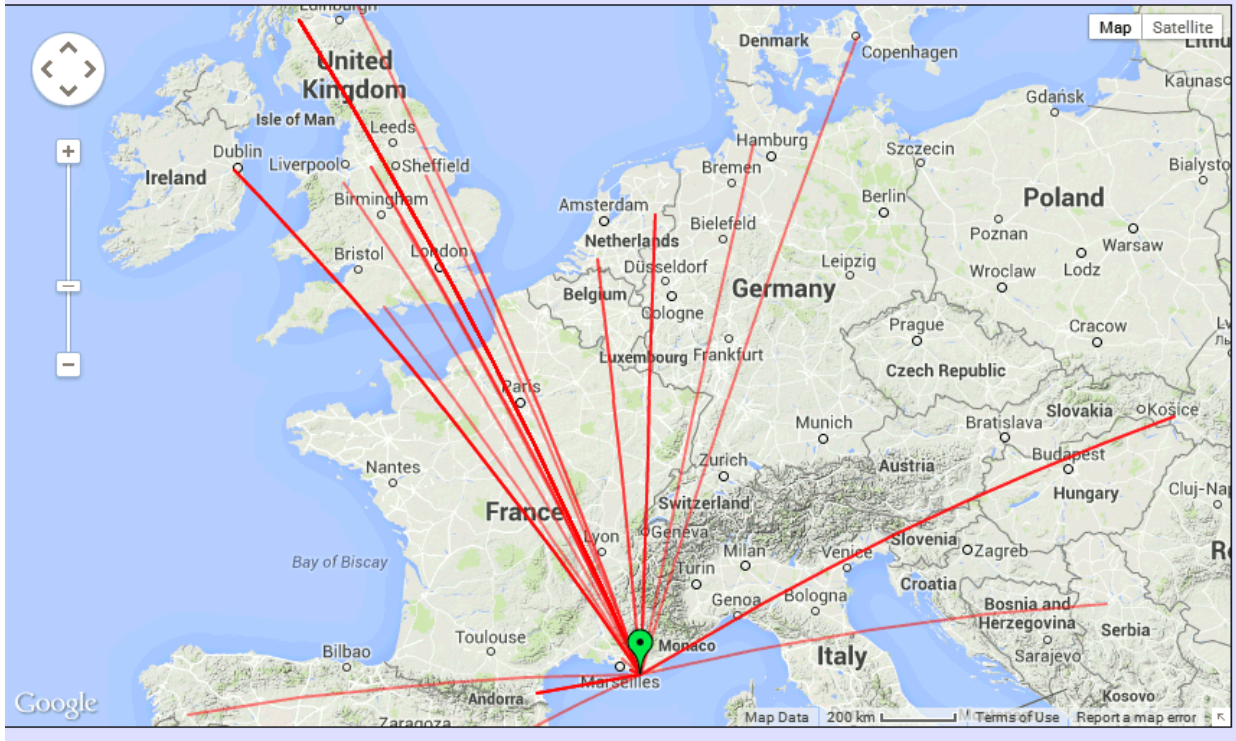
Click on any beacon marker for info. The marker colour shows the status:- **Operational**, **Online off spec**, **Offline**, **Planned**, or **? Uncertain**.
View as a list in **Frequency order** OR in **Callsign order** OR **Date last spotted order**



Current 50MHz beacon map – 23-Sep-2014, from beaconspot.eu

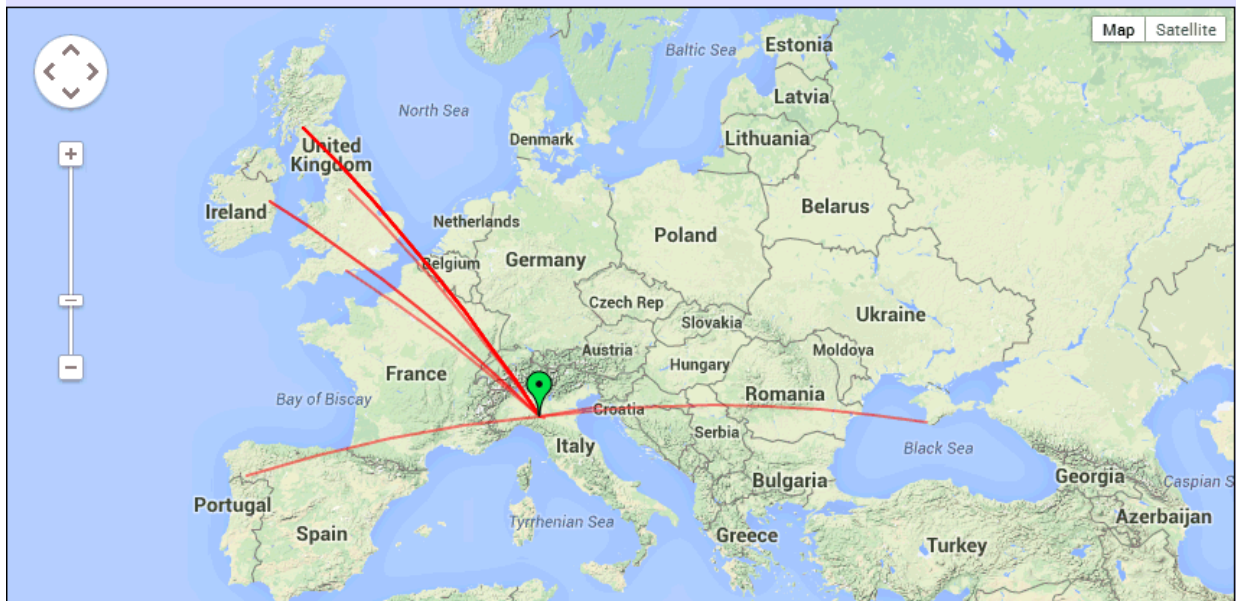
Beacon spots map for F5ZHQ (JN33AC) on 50.4060MHz

Click on the beacon marker for info. The marker colour shows the status:- **Operational**, **Online off spec**, **Offline**, **Planned**, or ? **Uncertain**.
You may [View](#) OR [Update](#) data for F5ZHQ, OR [List spots](#) for this [Beacon](#), OR [List all spots](#) for this [Band](#).



Beacon spots map for IQ4FE (JN54AS) on 50.4200MHz

Click on the beacon marker for info. The marker colour shows the status:- **Operational**, **Online off spec**, **Offline**, **Planned**, or ? **Uncertain**.
You may [View](#) OR [Update](#) data for IQ4FE, OR [List spots](#) for this [Beacon](#), OR [List all spots](#) for this [Band](#).



Examples of migrated 50MHz beacons and reports