



Updated Band Plans from June 1st 2016

Recommendations agreed at the IARU Region-1 Interim Meeting in April have led to updates to some band plans effective from June 1st. These largely reflect the growth in narrowband digital modes. The opportunity has also been taken to include a small number of editorial amendments. The fully updated band plans are on the RSGB website and the main changes summarised below.

HF: Detailed proposals and band monitoring led to widespread agreement that a couple of adjustments were timely:-

- 30m: The 500 Hz narrow band modes segment has been extended down by 10 kHz and is now from 10130 kHz to 10150 kHz.
- 80m: A new 200 Hz narrow band modes segment has been introduced from 3570 to 3580 kHz.
- 80m and 10m also receive some editorial clarifications

There is no change to the UK 5 MHz usage plan, although Region-1 has adopted some interim recommendations regarding the new WRC-15 allocation.

VHF: Whilst WSPR works well at HF without formal band planning, there has been an ongoing problem in VHF where it is less optimum and has had inconsistent guidance. Having considered various harmonisation proposals from DARC, the meeting eventually agreed that removing the current 50, 70 and 144 MHz designations was actually a more flexible and more consistent approach, given the overall trend to a more generic approach for machine generated modes (MGM).

Digital Voice: It is also opportune to highlight that Digital Voice and especially DV Calling frequencies are not specific to one particular mode. So for example 144.6125 MHz can nowadays be used for occasional polling by Fusion and is not D-Star (or DMR) exclusive. More generally, amateurs are reminded that the time honoured practice of 'Listen before Transmit' applies and is emphasised by the general note: "Users of Digital Voice (DV) should check that the channel is not in use by other modes".

RSGB Band Plans: <http://rsgb.org/main/operating/band-plans/>