



RSGB HF Manager's Spectrum Forum Report

Ian Greenshields G4FSU, October 2016

Summary

The main activities during the previous 12 months has been work towards the award of the a secondary allocation to the amateur service at 5 MHz and the preparation and acceptance of a number of papers at the Region 1 Interim Meeting in Vienna. Current tasks for the following year will cover CEPT and preparation for the 2017 IARU Region 1 General Conference in Germany.

WRC 2015

Along with a number of other societies, the RSGB played a significant role in the successful award of the 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz secondary allocation to the amateur service at WRC-15. Although a small allocation, this is the first addition to the amateur service at HF since 1979. It is hoped that existing provisions for access to 5 MHz under article 4.4 will continue, making the effective size of the band larger than the 15 kHz WRC-15 allocation.

5 MHz

The RSGB proposed a band plan for 5 MHz which was accepted by Region 1 at the Interim Meeting and has now also been submitted as a proposal from LABRE (Brazil) to the Region 2 General Conference. We will continue to work towards the goal of achieving a harmonised band plan at 5 MHz across all regions.

A number of countries have already implemented the new 5 MHz band and the number of countries with article 4.4 permissions continues to grow. The potential for confusion exists as there are many different allocations, but for the most part operation is orderly. The main problems continue to be out-of-band operation by some operators. The RSGB has published guidelines and recommended operating frequencies on its website to help ensure compliance. Discussions continue with Ofcom and the MoD to try to secure access to the new band in 2017 whilst retaining access to the existing 5 MHz frequencies on the licence schedule.

C4 Matters, 2016 IARU Region 1 Interim Meeting, Vienna

The RSGB input paper on a 5 MHz band plan was accepted and will be formally added to the IARU Region 1 band plan if ratified at the next General Conference.

A number of proposals from the RSGB and DARC were discussed on resolving the issue of conflicting band plans between regions on 30M and 80M were discussed. It was agreed to align both band plans with Region 2 around the CW and data mode segments. All HF band plans are largely aligned now across regions where practical, considering different allocations in certain countries.



IARU Region 1 General Conference, Landshut 2017

Inputs are now being solicited for papers for the Region 1 General Conference next autumn. Inputs for papers should be sent to G4FSU and/or discussed on the RSGB consultation forums.

Other Issues

Harmonisation of 1.8 MHz still remains a possible future agenda item, not only to increase the allocation in some countries to the full 1810 - 2000 kHz band, but also to resolve the power limitation above 1850 kHz. Although this did not make the WRC-19 agenda, it remains a desirable objective. However it seems likely that no further requests for increased access to HF frequencies at the ITU will be considered for the next few WRC cycles.

The noise floor continues to rise at HF. The threat of PLT for the last 10 years has largely been superseded by noisy electronics, in particular switch mode power supplies in lighting and solar PV arrays, and broadband internet delivery systems such as VDSL2. A further potential threat from wireless power transfer systems (WPT) is being closely monitored at the ITU.

Common questions and emails received by the HF Manager tend to revolve around complaints over band plan adherence and questionably legal operation of remote stations.

DXpedition funding: The HF Manager is a de facto trustee of the RSGB DXpedition Fund. This fund raises money for DXpeditions through sales of raffle tickets at the RSGB Convention and individual donations. A number of DXpeditions were funded throughout the year; full details are reported by the DXpedition fund.

Awards

The two main awards for HF are presented at the RSGB Convention. The nomination process and committees are managed by the HF Manager. This year the following awards were made:

- ROTAB Trophy: Paul Dane G4PWA
- G5RP Trophy: Dan McGraw M0WUT

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