



RSGB HF Manager's Report

Ian Greenshields G4FSU, October 2018

Summary

The main work this year has been the implementation of the band plan agreements made in Landshut in 2017 and ongoing work to further harmonise the HF band plans across all regions. The emergence of Wireless Power Transmission (WPT) and its potential threat to the noise levels, especially on the LF bands, has also been covered.

IARU Region 1 Interim Meeting, Vienna 2019

Papers and topics for discussion are now being solicited for this meeting in April next year. It is expected that band planning will continue to be covered and the emergence of new operating practices and digital modes such as FT8 will be high on the agenda.

The working group to discuss HF band planning between Region 1, 2 and 3 with the longer term goal of aligning band plans as much as possible between regions will report for the first time at this meeting and inputs are also requested on this topic.

3.5 MHz and 10 MHz

In accordance with the agreements in Landshut 2017, the digital segments of the 3.5 MHz and 10 MHz band plans are now aligned with Region 2. On both bands, the expansion of the digital segment has been at the cost of the CW exclusive segment but it was felt that the very large growth in digital mode activity justified the decision, noting also that CW is anyhow allowed over the whole of the band.

5 MHz

The WRC-15 allocation continues to be authorised by more countries and a simple but non-binding usage plan seems to be working across both regions 1 and 2. The WRC-15 allocation is starting to replace RR article 4.4 permissions in a number of countries.

Access to the full 15 kHz segment in the UK is still not expected any time soon. The current licence schedule permits more than four times the frequency space as the narrow 15 kHz WRC-15 allocation, albeit with a confusing overlap but this still appears a better solution than the potential loss of the other 5 MHz frequencies in the UK.

One consequence of the WRC-15 allocation not coinciding with the UK frequencies is that UK FT8 activity, 5357 kHz nominal frequency worldwide, can fall outside the band if transmitted above 5358 kHz. Frequent occurrences of this have been observed and the RSGB website has been updated with instructions how to avoid transmitting out of band.



Wireless Power Transmission (WPT)

High power WPT charging systems are being developed for the electric vehicle industry as well as existing low power wireless charging technologies used for mobile phones and similar portable electronic devices. These are inductive systems that do not operate in amateur bands; however there is considerable concern that harmonics and other out-of-band spurious signals from these systems could cause widespread interference to the amateur LF bands (and other radio communication services) given the power levels and proliferation of these devices.

The RSGB, in conjunction with the IARU and other services is actively involved in representing the amateur service interests at the ITU and CEPT and this will be a major focus of the ITU WRC-19 conference next year.

Other Issues

Harmonisation of 1.8 MHz still remains a desirable objective, not only to increase the allocation in some countries to the full 1810 - 2000 MHz band, but also to resolve the power limitation above 1850 kHz. Some early discussion has taken place, but it is unlikely to be addressed at the ITU for the next few years at least.

The HF Manager is a de facto trustee of the RSGB DXpedition Fund, which 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. For 2018, the following awards were made:

- ROTAB Trophy 2018: Paul Simons G4CCZ
- G5RP Trophy 2018: William Eustace M0WJE