



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Working for the future of amateur radio

VHF – UHF - μ Wave Newsletter

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Editorial

This Newsletter provides more information on ITU WRC-2019 held in Sharm-el-Sheikh (Egypt) from 28 October until 22 November 2019. IARU participated in the WRC in order to defend the interests of the amateur and amateur-satellite services mainly in frequency bands above 30 MHz. I believe the community of amateurs utilising spectrum above 30 MHz would wish to join with me in thanking the IARU team for their achievements at this conference.

Time is moving fast and in less than a year we will have our next General Conference, which will be somewhat different to previous General Conferences. I also expect Committee 5 to focus on issues that the majority of Member Societies have accepted as priority items e.g. maintaining allocations to the amateur services in existing frequency bands and seeking to reduce noise levels in all amateur frequency bands. In addition seeking to improve the status of the amateur service with all Region 1 administrations and where appropriate Region 1's Regional Telecommunications Organizations (RTO).

You will also find some comments concerning beacon coordination and contesting.

I would also like send my season greetings to you all and wish you and your loved ones a successful 2020.

World Radiocommunication Conference 2019

The main topic for the amateur community was Agenda Item 1.1 about the 6m band. Our team did a very good job during this conference, and also took care to defend our bands for the upcoming ITU conferences in 2023 and beyond (WRC-23 and WRC-27).

Outcome about the 50 MHz agenda point

Introduction

Proposals from administrations and Regional Telecommunications Organisations (RTOs) around the world ranged from no allocation at all to the provision of a 4 MHz primary allocation. The IARU position was to seek a 4 MHz primary allocation in Region 1 in common with that in other ITU regions.

Pre WRC situation in Region 1

Prior to WRC-19, only a number of countries in Africa enjoyed an ITU primary allocation in all or part of the band. A number of other countries in Region 1 had secondary allocations on a national non-interference basis.

Post WRC situation in Region 1

- A secondary amateur allocation in Region 1 in the band 50 – 52 MHz is included in the Table of Frequency Allocations in the ITU Radio Regulations.
- In Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, 50 - 54 MHz on a primary basis with protection from other services.
- In Senegal, 50 - 51 MHz on a primary basis with protection from other services.
- In Angola, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Burundi, the United Arab Emirates, Gambia, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Uganda, Qatar, South Sudan and Tanzania, the frequency band 50 - 54 MHz is allocated to the amateur service on a primary basis.
- In Djibouti and Lebanon, the frequency band 50 - 52 MHz is allocated to the amateur service on a primary basis.
- In Guinea-Bissau, the frequency band 50.0 - 50.5 MHz is allocated to the amateur service on a primary basis.
- In Austria, Cyprus, the Vatican, Croatia, Denmark, Spain, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, the United Kingdom, Slovakia and Slovenia, the frequency band 50.0 - 50.5 MHz is allocated to the amateur service on a primary basis.
- In the Russian Federation the frequency band 50.080 - 50.280 MHz is allocated to the amateur service on a secondary basis.

Main Outcome of WRC-19

Final approval of the outcome was delayed until Thursday 21 November as a consequence of extremely sensitive political issues. However following approval:

- Pre WRC-19 countries retain their current status in the 50 - 54 MHz frequency band.
- The Democratic Republic of Congo removed itself from the list of pre WRC-19 countries.
- The amateur service has a secondary table allocation in most of Region 1 in the 50 - 52 MHz band.
- 44 Region 1 countries have a primary allocation in all or part of the 50 - 54 MHz band.
- 14 CEPT countries have a 500 kHz primary allocation in the 50.0 - 50.5 MHz band.
- The Russian Federation has a 200 kHz secondary allocation in the 50.08 - 50.28 MHz band.
- **The Final Acts of WRC-19 enters into force on 1 January 2021, however administrations may make provisions to provide 50 MHz spectrum at an earlier or later date.**
- Amateur service shall not cause harmful interference to stations of other primary or secondary services, with the exception of the pre WRC-19 countries.
- **Individual amateurs should not use (unless already licensed to do so) the newly allocated spectrum until their national licensing authority has given the go ahead for its use.**

Next Steps

To address the 50 MHz issue at CEPT's Working Group Frequency Management meeting when the European Common Allocation table is revised.

Country by Country situation

The table at http://www.iau-r1.org/wiki/VHF#50-54_MHz_.286_m.29 is IARU's understanding of the before and after WRC-19 position on 50 MHz allocations in Region 1.

IARU cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies and the definitive position is the responsibility of individual national administrations.

Outcome about other issues

We were pleased to achieve a No-Change for 47 GHz (which had been a 5G-mobile target) and minimal change in 5.7GHz. Other good outcomes included provisions for non-amateur small satellites and continued flexibility for >275GHz.

Preparing for future WRC conferences

ITU WRC-19 prepared the agenda for ITU WRC-23. There are some points concerning our bands.

Priority Items:

- Agenda item 1.2 addresses the consideration of the secondary amateur allocation 10-10.5 GHz for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT-2020) in Region2 (the Americas).
- Agenda item 9.1b is to review the secondary amateur service and the amateur-satellite service applications in the 1 240-1 300 MHz frequency band to determine if additional measures are required to ensure the protection of the radio navigation-satellite (space-to-Earth) service operating in the same band. Studies are already underway in CEPT and in theory could commence in ITU Study Groups in May 2020. CEPT and ITU both rely on members' contributions for their work.

Other relevant items:

- Agenda Item 1.12 is to conduct, and complete in time for WRC-23, studies for a possible new secondary allocation to the Earth exploration-satellite (active) service for space-borne radar sounders within the range of frequencies around 45 MHz, taking into account the protection of incumbent services, including in adjacent bands.
- Agenda item 1.18 is to consider studies relating to spectrum needs and potential new allocations to the mobile-satellite service for future development of narrowband mobile-satellite systems). 3 300-3 315 MHz and 3 385-3 400 MHz frequency bands are referenced.
- Agenda item 7 needs to be monitored in terms of regulatory procedures which may be introduced for satellite networks to provide for the effective and efficient use of radio frequencies and associated orbits.
- Agenda 9.1a is to review the results of studies relating to the technical and operational characteristics, spectrum requirements and appropriate radio service designations for space weather sensors with a view to describing appropriate recognition and protection in the Radio Regulations without placing additional constraints on incumbent services.

Agenda Item 9.1c is to study the use of International Mobile Telecommunication system for fixed wireless broadband in the frequency bands allocated to the fixed services on a primary basis.

IARU-R1 25th General Conference 2020

In less than a year our IARU-R1 General Conference will be held in Novi Sad (Serbia) from 11 until 16 October 2020.

The focus during this conference will be more on strategic matters, such as youth, growth, etc. Of course there will also be time to discuss the normal matters in the committee meetings.

For C5 I would invite you also to think about how to improve activity on our bands, especially above 1.2 GHz.

If you look at the VHF Handbook you will see that there is relatively little about modern digital communications.

It would be good to have some input on such topics, in particular on matters other than band planning and contesting.

You find more details about the conference and the document disciplines on the IARU-R1 website:

<https://www.iaru-r1.org/index.php/about-iaru-r1/general-conference/nova-sad-serbia-2020>

2.3 / 3.4 GHz Status

In recent years there has been major pressure on our secondary allocations. It is important to have an accurate status for these bands. Please inform me (or the Region-1 Secretary PB2T) so that we can gather a picture for either spectrum losses, licence restrictions etc which we could add to the IARU wiki and coordinate assistance.

Beacon Info

Synchronised beacon network on 50 MHz

The Synchronised Beacon project has the following status:

- The participation of the following new stations for the project has been secured - EA7YAD, SV3BSF, and YM4SIX(coordinated),
- In the case of SV3BSF participation in the synchronised network, this was made possible after the QSY of the beacon,
- More information can be found on the SBP co-ordination site: <https://iaru-r1-c5-beacons.org/index.php/synchronised-beacon-project-sbp/>

Beacon database

The beacon database is still missing data from a number of Region 1 countries. National IARU VHF managers are invited to send their current beacon lists to the IARU beacon coordinator. Even those who have already been sent may need an update. Beacon data is downloadable as a CSV. Every night at 00:00 the CSV will be updated!

<https://iaru-r1-c5-beacons.org/index.php/beacon-update/>

Mathias, DH4FAJ

VHF and above Beacon Coordinator

Useful Information

C5 Chairman: Jacques Verleijen, ON4AVJ
C5 Vice chairman: Jann Traschewski, DG8NGN
Contest co-ordinator: Alex Carletti , IV3KKW
Beacons co-ordinator: Mathias Klug, DH4FAJ
Satellite co-ordinator: Graham Shirville, G3VZV
Spectrum specialist: Murray Niman, G6JYB

Website: <http://www.iaru-r1.org/index.php/vhfuhsshf>

Handbook: Current Edition: v8.50:
<https://www.iaru-r1.org/index.php/downloads/Documents/VHF/VHF-Handbook-v8.50/>

Newsletters: <http://www.iaru-r1.org/index.php/documents/Documents/Newsletters/VHF-Newsletters>

Wiki <http://iaruwiki.oevsv.at>

Contest robot http://iaru.oevsv.at/v_upld/prg_list.php

Mailing list VHF managers and liaison officers

If you are not on this mailing list and you are a VHF manager of your country please send a mail to ON4AVJ@uba.be

Use of the IARU R1 C5 Wiki

If you are an official Member Society representative, but have no login and you want to participate to the discussions on the Wiki, please write a mail to ON4AVJ@uba.be.