

HF Band Planning Committee End of Year Report 2025
January 2026 - ARRL Board Meeting

Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, Chair
Mike Ritz, W7VO, Member
Ed Hudgens, WB4RHQ, Member
Dave Propper, K2DP, Member
Ned Stearns, AA7A, Member

This is a report of the activities of the 2025 HF Band Planning Committee to inform the ARRL Board of Directors at the end of its 2025 service. The report will cover activities from July through the present (January).

The HF Band Planning Committee was mostly inactive during the latter half of 2025, with only email exchanges needed as a result of a lack regulatory action. An email discussion was had around mode descriptions in the regulations.

Once again we have nothing to report on any action at the FCC regarding the two major proposals that would affect band planning.

- RM-11828: expanded Technician Class licensing proposal, filed in 2018
- RM-11759: amendment to facilitate HF data communication, filed in 2016

This is highly disappointing to all of us. As of this year, RM-11759 has been languishing for 10 years at the FCC. It has been hoped that with the recent changes to FCC leadership, and them settling in to their new positions, things will improve. Sadly current indications do not provide any reason for optimism. The outlook remains negative. The impact of the so-called Delete, Delete, Delete initiative at the FCC continues to be unknown at this point.

Proposed Band Plan

The proposed band plan, Rev 4 from July 2020, is in a stable state at this point. It should form the basis for future filings with the FCC. In the current deregulatory environment, should it continue, there may be a reason to revisit this. At the moment, however, the sense is that there is no concrete action to be taken.

The Committee was asked to consider the subject of mode designators. Mode designators may be an obsolete concept in today's world where new waveforms are the norm. Removing mode designators would impact how the HF band plan is specified in Part 97. A discussion over email resulted in no viable alternative to mode designators, however. While they are complicated in many ways, the FCC's mode designators do express information in a compact form for what modes are being discussed. In the future, the Committee may revisit this area and make an alternate proposal. For now, the *status quo ante* is deemed to be adequate.

Region 3 40 Meter Proposal

The Committee considered this proposal last year and concluded that it was unlikely to be implemented. We have not heard anything of concern during the entire year to warrant revisiting this subject at this time.

40 Meter Net Listings

It was noted by Second Vice President Ritz that the Net listings on the ARRL website, particularly 40 meters, seemed stale. An effort has been made to see how staff at HQ handle these net listings and how they are aged out. This is an ongoing effort that the 2026 Committee will have to continue. There is no new progress to report.

Inconsistent Band Plan Documents

Vice Director Propper has noted that there are some inconsistencies in the published band plans on the ARRL website that may need correcting. At this point these have not been addressed with staff. This will be work that the 2026 HF Band Planning Committee can address. There is no new progress to report.

Summary

The 2025 HF Band Planning Committee has made very little progress. This is a direct result of inaction by the FCC. Without FCC action on proposed changes to the Amateur Service expressed in Part 97, the scope of our available work is limited.

The Chair wants to express her deep gratitude to all of the members of the 2025 HF Band Planning Committee, most of whom are no longer on the board, for their participation and devotion to the furtherance of cooperative operating on the HF bands.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen A McIntyre, K6WX, Chair
HF Band Planning Committee