

**Report of the Ad Hoc HF Band Planning Committee
ARRL Board of Directors
July 2013**

Triennial IARU Region 2 HF Band Plan review

As hinted in our January report the Triennial Review of the IARU Region II bandplan is underway. A few dozen members and stakeholders responded by email to our web-based solicitation of comments at <http://www.arrl.org/news/iaru-region-2-seeks-input-on-hf-band-plan>. As US amateurs have a more specifically applicable band plan, it is difficult to explain to respondents what our proper role is in doing the R2 band plan review. Few of the comments were useful – many respondents mistakenly thought the current Region 2 bandplan was a new proposal. After considering the comments as well as our own judgment the committee recommended “no change” which was passed to the Region secretary in late March.

Early May we received proposals filed by three societies. One by RAC suggests Region II harmonize and adopt some small changes to 40 Meter cw and digital subband edges made by Region I in 2008. A second proposal coming from RSGB, or possibly the IARU Satellite Activity Group suggests adding uplinking in the 10 Meter Amateur-Satellite subband; currently only downlinking is recommended. While this seems like a worthy idea it is an item that clearly should be routed through IARU R1. The final proposal, from Brazil’s LABRE was an extensive rewrite of much of the bandplan, including reasons.

The committee felt no need to comment on the RAC or Region I proposals. Most of the LABRE document required no comment although we feel it spells out too much detail in a bandplan. They did take an aggressive stance against modes requiring proprietary modems. While it’s natural to prefer that amateurs share their labors without exercising intellectual property rights, it is also true that the chance of financial reward can inspire innovation. The committee felt a balanced approach was appropriate. Thanks to CEO Sumner’s institutional memory Dave found a resolution adopted by the IARU Advisory Council in 1999. This was authored by now-President Ellam VE6SH and balances the concerns and opportunities of open source vs. proprietary schemes. This was forwarded to the IARU R2 secretary along with supportive verbiage as ARRL’s “reply comment.”

IARU Region 2 officials will consider society inputs and adopt or reject bandplan changes at their autumn meeting in Cancun. It is anticipated there will be little if any work for the committee in coming months.

Respectfully submitted,
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