



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

2017 General Conference – Landshut, Germany
16 – 23 September 2017



Subject	50 MHz Band Plan (52 - 54 MHz)		
Society	RSGB	Country:	United Kingdom
Committee	C5	Paper Number	LA17_C5_19
Author	John Regnault G4SWX		

1. Introduction

Updated Band plan guidance is proposed for 52 - 54 MHz in the VHF Managers Handbook.

2. Background

The Region 1 Band plan for the 50 MHz band was extensively reviewed at the 2011 Region 1 General Conference (Sun City). However, changes were confined to 50 - 52 MHz. For 52 - 54 MHz, no change was made and the default recommendation refers to the South African band plan. Whilst that indicates all modes, this no longer gives sufficient guidance.

3. Key Points and Proposal

- Several Region 1 countries have access to 50 - 54 MHz courtesy of ITU footnote RR 5.169:
5.169 Alternative allocation: in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, the Dem. Rep. of the Congo, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, the band 50 - 54 MHz is allocated to the amateur service on a primary basis. In Senegal, the band 50 - 51 MHz is allocated to the amateur service on a primary basis. (WRC-12)
- 50 - 52 MHz is able to cope with narrow to medium bandwidth modes (≤ 50 kHz BW). Therefore 52 - 54 MHz should be focussed on innovative digital technologies which require wider bandwidths - such as 64 kb/s data access, higher speed trunk data links, DATV, etc.
- Digital modes often require guidance regarding channel and bandwidth usage and precautions regarding operating near band edges
- Studies underway for WRC-19 Agenda Item 1.1 would also benefit from a firmer indication of the most likely amateur usage of 52 - 54 MHz

4. Proposal

Considering the above, it indicates that denoting the 52 - 54 MHz range in four 500 kHz wide 'blocks' that may be merged or subdivided would guide and suit various digital applications.

5. Recommendations

Remove

"In many countries in the African part of Region 1 (see footnotes accompanying the

ITU frequency allocation table) the 50 - 54 MHz band is allocated to the Amateur Service on a primary basis. These Countries may refer to the SARL Band plan.”

Add a 52 - 54 MHz section to the IARU Region 1 band plan as ALL Modes with this usage footnote:

In those Region 1 countries where 52 - 54 MHz (or parts thereof) is allocated, its use should be planned on the basis of up to 4 x 500 kHz blocks which may be sub-divided or merged to suit digital applications. Amateurs using digital transmission methods must also ensure that their transmissions do not spread beyond band edges.