



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

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Subject	50 MHz Band Plan to support Digital Innovation		
Society	RSGB	Country:	United Kingdom
Committee	C5	Paper Number	LA17_C5_20
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1. Introduction

Updated Band plan guidance is proposed for parts of 50,5 - 52 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 relatively little change was made to the 50,5 - 52 MHz range, where the current VHF Handbook (v7.51) limits the maximum bandwidth to 12,5 kHz
- However, in some parts of this range is potential capacity for experimental developments if the band plan was more flexible.
- Modern SDRs and soundcards can easily deal with wider bandwidth modes, which would enable faster data links, sophisticated digital voice or image transfer

3. Key Points and Proposal

- The objective should be to enable areas where for example up to 50 kHz bandwidth channels can be made available and could be promoted for digital innovation
- Review those parts of the band where either the 12,5 kHz bandwidth limit can be removed/replaced, or alternatively add a footnote that enables and encourages member societies to merge two or four adjacent channels to create wider channels (up to 50 kHz) which would enable modern data systems
- Note that this is independent of any future usage of 52 - 54 MHz, where much wider bandwidths might be more easily accommodated. However, it should be seen as part of a wider digital innovation approach
- Any wide channels will still need to ensure their transmissions do not spread beyond their designated widths
- Based on the above to promote the development of new digital modes and experiments suited for VHF conditions

4. Recommendations

Amend parts of the 50,5 - 52 MHz band plan based on the above and a fuller discussion of 50 MHz status, strategy and developments.

Note: Based on Varna Rec VA14-C5-04 – the potential removal of the RTTY designation should be included in this review.