

**Report of the Ad Hoc HF Band Planning Committee
ARRL Board of Directors
July 2011**

The Committee has just one outstanding issue – the upcoming 5 mHz Report & Order and the eventual fallout therefrom.

60 Meters

The 5 mHz NPRM reply comment deadline was a year ago on July 14, 2010. Our request for a replacement channel, increase to 100 watts ERP limit, and expansion of allowable modes beyond single sideband at 5 mHz seem to have a good chance of acceptance.

We had hope that US amateurs might be allowed “subchannels” of the five stated channels – for multiple narrowband digital signals, for example. That scenario may be less likely to find favor with the FCC.

Counting the years taken by the Office of Engineering and Technology for issuance of this item’s NPRM, we have waited long for FCC’s ruling. Nothing on this R&O is circulating among the Commissioners. It is not certain we will have a resolution by next January’s board meeting.

Once the R&O is released there may be need to strategize how the various channels should be used – by mode and possibly by QSO content. If the subchannel concept is accepted that will add a layer of complexity. We have a clean record of sharing with primary government users. Our continued use of 60 Meters and hopes for an expanded, contiguous allocation there necessitate reliable compliance with our secondary status.

If the FCC approves multi-mode access we want ARRL to lead planning efforts. The Bandplan committee will likely initiate the process of determining efficient and most compliant utilization of any new privileges at 60 Meters.

We are ready to consider 5 mHz “band” (channel) planning at the appropriate time, as well as any other issues germane to our purview that the President and board deem to assign us.

Respectfully submitted,
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