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| **Subject** | IARU spectrum letter | | |
| **Society** | IARU | **Country:** | N/A |
| **Committee:** | C5 | **Paper number:** | NS20\_C5\_27 |
| **Author:** | Ole garpestad, lA2RR | | |

This letter was sent to IARU Member Societies on 12 March 2020

Dear Presidents and IARU liaison officers,

Re: Demands on amateur spectrum above 144 MHz

As you know, the radio frequency spectrum is a finite resource. Although we as amateur radio operators have been very successful in gaining and retaining access to substantial parts of this spectrum in the past, there is increasing pressure to reassign or share amateur frequencies to satisfy the demands of commercial interests. It is almost inevitable that we will have to make concessions in the future.

In the past this pressure was generally exerted through the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) at scheduled World Radiocommunication Conferences. This permitted the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) to respond in a coordinated manner to best defend our allocations. There is now a trend for national regulators to bypass the ITU and unilaterally seek to reassign amateur bands. This has two serious consequences:

* Individual Member Societies are left to defend amateur radio in their country without the benefit of the resources and experience of the IARU; and
* There is a risk of fragmenting the amateur allocations and losing the globally harmonized allocations, thereby hindering international communications.

The nature of the demand for spectrum by commercial interests is such that our VHF, UHF and microwave frequencies face the greatest threat. We use these bands for both short and long-distance communications, including repeaters, data backbones, weak signal, EME and satellite communications. They are also invaluable for experimentation. While it is relatively easy for us to prove that there is substantial activity on the lower VHF/UHF bands, the same cannot be said for our higher bands. They are busy during special events such as contests but can appear unoccupied at other times. This can lead national regulators to believe that the bands can be reassigned to other radio services.

In order to prevent our bands from being reassigned in a piecemeal manner, it is vital that Member Societies work with the IARU to coordinate responses to national regulators. We have a range of options that can be considered, including:

* Demonstrating that band reassignment or sharing is not practical;
* Coordinating ways to share our bands with other services;
* Narrowing our current bands to accommodate other services;
* Moving our current bands;
* Releasing our bands; and
* A combination of the above options.

We ask that you inform us of any such threats to amateur radio allocations in your country as soon as you learn about them. Please do **no**t enter into any discussions on changes to specific bands with your regulator without speaking with IARU to allow for a coordinated response to be developed. In such a coordinated response we may then take into account developments elsewhere in the world to ensure that amateur allocations remain harmonized between countries and ITU Regions to the greatest extent possible. This coordination is vital if amateur radio is to continue to enjoy access to the higher frequency portions of the spectrum. You can contact the IARU at:

**iaru-spectrum@iaru.org**

Thank you for your assistance in promoting and defending the amateur spectrum.

73,

Tim Ellam, VE6SH

President

International Amateur Radio Union

Attachment: Worldwide Amateur allocations above 144 MHz

Worldwide Amateur Radio allocations above 144 MHz

Note that not all countries have the entire allocation for their Region. Allocations where Amateur Radio is the Primary user are indicated in bold print.

|  |  |  |  |
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| **Band** | **Region 1** | **Region 2** | **Region 3** |
| 2 M | **144 - 146 MHz** | **144 - 148 MHz** | **144 - 148 MHz** |
| 1.25 M |  | **220 - 225 MHz** |  |
| 70 cm | **430 - 440 MHz** | 420 - 450 MHz | 430 - 440 MHz |
| 33 cm |  | 902 - 928 MHz |  |
| 23 cm | 1240 - 1300 MHz | 1240 - 1300 MHz | 1240 - 1300 MHz |
| 13 cm | 2300 - 2450 MHz | 2300 - 2450 MHz | 2300 - 2450 MHz |
| 9 cm |  | 3300 - 3500 MHz | 3300 - 3500 MHz |
| 5 cm | 5650 - 5850 MHz | 5650 - 5925 MHz | 5650 - 5850 MHz |
| 3 cm | 10.0 - 10.5 GHz | 10.0 - 10.5 GHz | 10.0 - 10.5 GHz |
| 1.2 cm | **24.00 - 24.05 GHz** | **24.00 - 24.05 GHz** | **24.00 - 24.05 GHz** |
| 24.05 - 24.25 GHz | 24.05 - 24.25 GHz | 24.05 - 24.25 GHz |
| 6 mm | **47.00 - 47.20 GHz** | **47.00 - 47.20 GHz** | **47.00 - 47.20 GHz** |
| 4 mm | 76.00 - 77.50 GHz | 76.00 - 77.50 GHz | 76.00 - 77.50 GHz |
| **77.50 - 78.00 GHz** | **77.50 - 78.00 GHz** | **77.50 - 78.00 GHz** |
| 78.00 - 81.50 GHz | 78.00 - 81.50 GHz | 78.00 - 81.00 GHz |
| 2.5 mm | 122.25 - 123.0 GHz | 122.0 - 123.0 GHz | 122.25 - 123.0 GHz |
| 2 mm | **134.0 - 136.0 GHz** | **134.0 - 136.0 GHz** | **134.0 - 136.0 GHz** |
| 136.0 - 141.0 GHz | 136.0 - 141.0 GHz | 136.0 - 141.0 GHz |
| 1 mm | 241.0 - 248.0 GHz | 241.0 - 248.0 GHz | 241.0 - 248.0 GHz |
| **248.0 - 250.0 GHz** | **248.0 - 250.0 GHz** | **248.0 - 250.0 GHz** |