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Subject	144 MHz All mode segment during the major VHF contests		
Society	CRC	Country:	Czech Republic
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Introduction:

Contesting on the 144 MHz band is very popular in Central Europe. Easily accessible power amplifiers and multi beams antenna systems make high level of QRM and average stations with standard commercial transceivers are very often unable to make a QSO. Those (often QRP) stations suffer from frustration and often give up 144 MHz contesting. Why? At first, they cannot find a clear frequency for own CQing (strong QRM) and secondly, they do not hear weak (either QRP or DX) stations.

The existing “contest“ narrow bandwidth mode segment 144,000 – 144,399 MHz is too narrow for as many contest stations as are run in Central Europe.

On the other side, we have nearly 300 kHz wide practically unused segment 144,500 – 144,794 MHz. This is all mode segment, so CW and SSB modes can be used here without any limitations.

We have only four major IARU R1 coordinated VHF (CW and SSB) contests in March, May, July and September. It is only 1,09 per cent of the year’s time when there will be a traffic greater than zero.

Recommendation:

It is recommended to use the 144,500 – 144,794 MHz segment for contest QSOs during the major IARU coordinated VHF contests (March, May, July and September) as the extension to the currently used segment 144,000 – 144,399 MHz.

Remarks:

The range of this segment is for the global discussion. We do not insist on proposed margins. The division to the CW and SSB parts for contests could be discussed as well.