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Subject:	Establishment of a genuine IARU Region 1, 70 MHz band plan		
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In connection with the International Geophysical Year, 1957 - 1958, some European countries were granted access to the 70 MHz band. Among those were: Ireland, France, Finland, Germany (West), UK, the Netherlands, Norway, Yugoslavia and to some extent Iceland and Austria.

After the IGY these allocations were withdrawn in most countries with Ireland and the UK as the major exceptions.

Since the “reissue” of the 70 MHz band started around a decade ago the band has almost become a regular amateur band for around 40 “entities” in all parts of the Region 1 though with some national limitations.

As the national administrations were not convinced all at the same time the “retake” of the 70 MHz became a gradual and ongoing process.

The natural thing for all the “newcomers” to the band was to adopt the UK band plan that eventually became the IARU, Region 1, band plan.

With the current number of countries that have access to the 70 MHz band a clearer picture of the need for a revised band plan suited for the majority of countries has emerged. The following proposals for changing the band plan are taking into consideration which segments of the 70 MHz band the majority of countries do have access to based on the information available on the Four Metres Website in late March 2011. (Appendix II)

If we start from the bottom (below the current band edge at 70,000 MHz) – then we could:

a) Reflect the fact that some countries cannot get access to frequencies above 70,000 MHz and include the segment 69,900 – 70,000 MHz that is accessible to a few countries in the region - in the band plan.

(Moreover, where possible: Apply for the segment to be included in the national amateur radio segment!)

b) Extend the general beacon segment up to 70,090 MHz and leave the segment 0,090 - 0,100 for temporary and personal beacons. (It is slightly unpractical to have uncoordinated “personal beacons” within the ordinary coordinated beacon segment.) When there were only a few countries, with access to 70 MHz a beacon segment of 50 kHz was sufficient (personal beacons around 0,030). With more than 40 entities in IARU active on 70 MHz, we need to expand the beacon segment.

c) Move the WSPR beacon frequency up to 70,090 MHz.

- d)** Move the MS calling frequency from 70,150 to 70,250 MHz.
- e)** Leave out the AM calling frequency on 70,260 MHz from the IARU, Region 1, band plan. (It is a UK tradition - but hardly international usage!)
- f)** Establish a MGM centre of activity on 70,270 MHz.
- g)** Retain the RTTY/FAX frequency on 70,300 MHz. (Or is it still necessary?)
- h)** Move the FM calling frequency channel away from 70,450 MHz as countries do not have access to the upper part of the (FM) segment above 70,450 MHz. Then establish it on 70,325 MHz where the most countries do have access. (All QSYing from the calling channel will then be upwards in frequency.)
- i)** Keep 70,3125 and 70,4875 as packet frequencies. 70,325 will be deleted as a packet frequency/channel. Because of the above-mentioned reasons, we propose to accept the band plan as laid out in appendix I:

Appendix I

Frequency	Bandwidth	Bandplan		Usage
69,900 70,000	2700 Hz	Telegraphy/SSB		National usage
70,000 70,090	500 Hz	Beacons		
70,090	500 Hz	Beacons	70,090	WSPR beacons
70,090 70,100	500 Hz	Beacons		Personal beacons
70,100 70,250	2700 Hz	Telegraphy, SSB, MGM	70,200 70,250	CW/SSB Calling MS calling
70,250 70,294	2700 Hz	All modes	70,270 70,285	MGM activity centre Cross band activity
70,300	12 kHz		70,300	RTTY/FAX
70,300	12 kHz	FM channels 12,5 kHz spacing	70,3125 70,325	Packet FM calling
70,500			70,4875	Packet

Appendix II

