The ARRL has proposed the following. This was taken from their last minutes.

Request the FCC ensure that there is sufficient bandwidth available for all digital and voice users. The ARRL proposal would unnecessarily restrict digital communications and seriously eliminate or degrade the usability or communications methods such as WinLink. WinLink is currently the preferred emergency communications method for many amateur emergency service operators in addition to many other users.

Thank you for your consideration.

Doug Lynch

W4DBL

ARRL Meeting Minutes Extract:

IT IS ACCORDINGLY RESOLVED that the ARRL’s Washington Counsel is instructed to take appropriate steps, including, but not limited to, appropriate filings with the Federal Communications Commission, to obtain the Commission’s approval for the following enumerated changes to Part 97 of the Commission’s Rules:

(1) All automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS) below 30 MHz, regardless of bandwidth, are authorized to operate only within the ACDS bands designated in the FCC’s Rules, 47 C.F.R. §97.221(b);

(2) All digital mode stations that operate with a bandwidth greater than 500 Hz also must operate within the ACDS bands designated in the FCC’s Rules, whether or not automatically controlled;

(3) No digital mode station may employ a bandwidth greater than 2.8 kHz in any band below 29 MHz;

(4) Reiterate to the Commission the need to remove, and the benefits of removing, the current baud limitations, subject to the conditions requested by the ARRL herein;

(5) Reiterate to the Commission the ARRL’s unchanged position — most recently stated in its Comments submitted In the Matter of Don Rolph, RM-11699 - that the encryption of messages prohibited in Amateur communications by Section 97.113 of the Commission’s Rules and by Article 25, §2 of the International Radio Regulations, should remain prohibited;

(6) Request that the Commission remind Amateurs, by whatever appropriate means available, of the current prohibition against transmitting “messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning.”

Discussion followed, including discussion on the difference between encryption and compression. Mr. Norris called the previous question, seconded by Mr. Stratton. A roll call vote being requested the motion to call the previous question passed with 14 AYE votes and 1 NAY votes with

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Directors Abernethy. Carlson, Holden, Norris, Williams, Jairam, Blocksome, Hopengarten, Ritz, Tiemstra, Hippisley, Ryan, Sarratt, and Stratton voting AYE and Director Norton voting NO. A roll call vote being requested on the main motion, it was ADOPTED with 14 AYE votes and 1 NAY vote, with Directors Abernethy. Carlson, Holden, Norris, Williams, Jairam, Blocksome, Hopengarten, Ritz, Tiemstra, Hippisley, Ryan, Sarratt, and Stratton voting AYE and Director Norton voting NO.

Following is an extract from the WinLink.org home page regarding this.

It was recently revealed that in mid-July the ARRL Board instructed Washington Counsel David Siddall, K3ZJ, to take steps to obtain FCC approval for several changes to the Part 97 Amateur Radio Service rules. The requested changes we all should object to:

* **Require ALL digital mode stations operating with a bandwidth greater than 500 Hz to operate within the narrow 97.221(b) Automatically Controlled Digital Station (ACDS) sub bands, *whether or not these stations are automatically controlled.***
* **Require all automatically controlled digital mode stations less than 500 Hz bandwidth to also operate only within the ACDS bands.**

The full action is in the ARRL Board minutes, page 16:  
[http://www.arrl.org/files/file/2019%20Board%20of%20Directors/Final%20Min...](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/2019%20Board%20of%20Directors/Final%20Minutes%20July%202019.pdf)

Bonnie Crystal, KQ6XA, founder of HFLink painted a clear picture:

**"What ARRL wants, an Analogy:**

* **There is a six-lane superhighway we've all used well for years, but now only bicycles and horse-drawn carts can use it.**
* **Fast cars and trucks are forbidden on this highway.**
* **All the fast cars and trucks must now use a single lane frontage road alongside the superhighway.**
* **The bicycles and horse-drawn carts also have the right-of-way when using the frontage road."**

While we at ARSFI fully appreciate the Director's other actions on digital matters, **this action is simply crazy without expanding the 97.221(b) subbands. You can't responsibly sort and redirect the traffic to a place that can't handle it. On 40 meters, 17 meters and 12 meters, the sub bands are only 5 kHz wide, enough for only a single QSO of fast digital data, or two, depending on the modes. Other narrow sub bands allow only 3-6 simultaneous QSOs without interference.** This is their answer to the highly contested RM-11831 petition at the FCC?