

The ARRL petition addresses "refarming" of the sub bands, referred to as Novice sub bands, but goes no further. A much wider change is called for because of the growth and popularity of "Phone" modes and the congestion that is associated with the present sub band allocations in the HF spectrum (1.8 khz to 30 mhz). It is clear that Part 97 has not kept up with technological and social changes that would allow more efficient usage of the entire spectrum space allocated to the amateur service. My comments are limited to that one area ... reallocation of the HF sub bands.

Until now the US amateur HF bands basically have been divided in a manner that allows "CW" activity over an entire band and has restricted "Phone" operation to approximately 1/2 of that allowed for "CW". Since the original allocation of the sub bands in the HF spectrum, other modes such as digital modes, have become technologically reasonable and have been fitted into the original plan, which was set down over 50 years ago. Since those allocations were made, the popularity of "Phone" modes has exploded and even the FCC appears, with the rest of the world, to be deemphasizing the "CW" mode.

It is disconcerting to see that a more reasonable approach was not suggested by the ARRL. Recently the FCC enforcement division undertook a bold approach in an effort to help relieve the problem of congestion of the "Phone" sub bands by suggesting, by the issuance of several Advisory Notices, that amateurs should refrain from experimentation and limit the bandwidth used by the "Phone" mode during periods when there was heavy use of the allocated space. Not only is this contrary to one of the basic purposes of the amateur service, it was a clear admission by the FCC that the problem was reaching critical proportions. Even though the rationale behind the Advisory Notices made sense, there has been and should be no rule defining bandwidth of modes in the amateur service, and the problem of over crowding of the "Phone" sub bands should clearly be attacked by reallocation. The most that the FCC enforcement division could hope to scavenge was a few kilohertz of spectrum space when reallocation could add many hundreds of kilohertz of spectrum space and promote the more efficient use of spectrum already allocated to the amateur service.

Please note also that the ARRL petition proposes Novice and General class of licences which would have no Morse code requirement. It would be foolish to think that amateurs that would be added to the ranks of the service would use "CW" as a mode. The most likely mode that they would use would be "Phone" and would further complicate the problem of overcrowding! It should be clear that this problem needs addressing and part of 04-140 would be the perfect time and place to do so.

I would like to refer the Commission to the US sub band allocation for the 160 meter amateur band (1.8 khz to 2.0 khz). There isn't one! It appears that on 160 meters, the Commission has allowed amateurs themselves to determine how to "Dynamically Allocate" the space, as need permits and as

technology permits. It has worked well! While there have been minor disagreements, the band has been used to it's full potential and the lack of assignment of sub bands has been very beneficial in allowing the space to be fully utilized.

Also it should be noted that most other countries do - NOT - subdivide their amateur allocations. Their rules simply define the band edges.

I would like to ask the Commission to consider taking a bold step and consider allowing all modes the full use of the HF amateur allocations, as is allowed in the U.S. on 160 meters and is done by most all other countries on all bands.

Further, allowing Extra class amateurs the full use of the bands and Generals use of a lesser amount and Novices the use of a small amount, would meet several goals that the Commission cites as important, including:

- 1) This would be a huge incentive for all amateurs to upgrade.
- 2) It would not cause any amateur class licensee to lose any privilege.
- 3) Further simplify Part 97 in the area of the definition of sub band allocation.
- 4) This would give proposed Novices a real chance to try amateur radio and build their skills toward advancement.

It is clearly the right time to eliminate the inadequacies of the present allocation methodology and adopt a clean simple solution for the benefit of the amateur service.

Thank you,
Larry Robison W8ER