



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

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Source: Tom Kamp, DF5JL, C4 Chair

Subject: Beacons on Bands below 14 MHz

Committee(s): C4

Summary: -

Text: It is IARU Region 1's policy that beacons in continuous unattended operation on bands between 1.8 and 10 MHz are unnecessary and, even where they run low power, they can be a cause of harmful interference to normal operating and of annoyance to operators on these bands.

In recent years a number of beacons have started operation on these bands. They have no clearly defined purpose and are not part of any coordinated programme of development. The bands concerned are fully occupied and their propagation characteristics are already very well established and fairly predictable.

This matter was discussed at the 2005 conference of IARU, which adopted a motion from the Danish national society, EDR, that beacon operation on 7 and 10MHz was 'discouraged', with the exception of 7 MHz in sub-equatorial Africa, where special circumstances apply.

The other exception to this general rule is for beacons used in connection with a propagation research project endorsed by the relevant national society and the HF beacon coordinator, and subject to review by the subsequent triennial regional conference.

But the conference did not specifically refer to 1.8 and 3.5 MHz. So there's an ambiguity.

Proposal: While the decision of the conference did not specifically refer to 1.8 and 3.5 MHz, we have to discuss and make clear how IARU Region 1 relates to this: What is our attitude? We should give all participants in the amateur radio service as well as the national IARU member societies a clear orientation in this regard.

Financial Implications: None.