

## ARRL Committee Releases Proposed HF Band Plan Changes

The ARRL's HF Band Planning Committee released a draft proposal for comment in early February on its suggestions for a revised HF band plan to accommodate wideband digital modes, greater use of automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS), and proposed enhanced privileges for both Technicians and Novices. The committee is chaired by ARRL First Vice President Greg Widin, KØGW, and its members include four directors and one vice director.

The plan, which was released on February 5<sup>th</sup> with comments requested by the 19<sup>th</sup>, assumes that three rulemaking proposals currently pending before the FCC will be adopted essentially as proposed, so is subject to additional change based on the FCC's eventual action on those petitions (RM-11759 / realigning the 80/75-meter allocations to provide more space for digital communications and adding RTTY / data privileges for Techs and Novices, pending before the Commission for four years; RM-11708 / Baud Rate-to-Bandwidth, awaiting FCC action for 7 years; and RM-11828 / Technician Enhancement, pending since last March).

Here are the highlights, broken down first by band and then by license class (no changes are proposed for either the 160-meter or 60-meter bands):

### Proposed Band-By-Band Changes

**80 meters:** Reallocate 3600-3650 kHz from Extra-only phone (currently 3600-3700) to RTTY, narrow-band (NB) and wide-band (WB) data, ACDS, for ALL license classes; change Novice / Tech CW-only subband at 3525-3600 to allow RTTY, NB data as well; add Tech phone and image privileges from 3900-4000.

**40 meters:** Designate 7100-7125 kHz for NB/WB data including ACDS, for all license classes except Novice (adding data to current Tech privileges), (expanding ACDS segment from 5 kHz to 25 kHz); Novice privileges remain CW only at 7025-7125; Add Tech phone privileges from 7225-7300.

**30 meters:** Adds WB data between 10.135 and 10.150 MHz; expands ACDS segment by 5 kHz.

**20 meters:** Adds WB data from 14.105-14.150 MHz; moves ACDS segment from 14.095-14.112 to 14.105-14.150; no phone band changes.

**17 meters:** Add WB data to current ACDS segment from 18.105-18.110 MHz.

**15 meters:** Change current Novice / Tech CW-only subband (21.025-21.200 MHz) to CW, NB data (to 21.150), WB data / ACDS (21.150-21.200); move ACDS segment from 21.095-21.100 to 21.150-21.200; add Tech voice / image privileges at 21.350-21.450.

**12 meters:** Add WB data to current ACDS segment from 24.925-24.930 MHz

**10 meters:** Add WB data to current ACDS segment from 28.120-28.129 MHz for ALL license classes; add "experimental data" segment with NB / WB and data / ACDS permitted, from 29.200-29.300 for Extra / Advanced / General; no changes to current Novice / Tech phone privileges.

### Proposed Changes By License Class:

**Novice:** Current CW-only privileges on 80 and 15 meters would be expanded to include RTTY and NB/WB data, including ACDS (RTTY/NB data already permitted on 10 meters); 80-meter CW / RTTY / Data band expanded by 50 kHz for WB data / ACDS.

**Tech:** All current CW-only privileges (80, 40, 15 meters) would be expanded to include RTTY and NB/WB data, including ACDS (RTTY/NB data already permitted on 10 meters); 80-meter CW / RTTY / Data band expanded by 50 kHz for WB data / ACDS; Phone / Image privileges to be added on 75 meters (3900-4000 kHz), 40 meters (7225-7300 kHz) and 15 meters (21.350-21.450 MHz);

**General:** Access to all new WB data segments plus new "experimental data" segment on 10 meters (29.200-29.300 MHz).

**Advanced:** Access to all new WB data segments plus new "experimental data" segment on 10 meters (29.200-29.300 MHz)

**Extra:** Loss of exclusive phone subband from 3600-3650 kHz (3650-3700 would remain exclusive Extra phone); access to all new WB data segments plus new "experimental data" segment on 10 meters (29.200-29.300 MHz)

A graphic presentation of the proposed changes is available on the ARRL website at <<https://tinyurl.com/tkxkzg7>>.