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There is very little to report on the HF front, however I can reveal that it is expected that the UK amateur service will join a number of our European colleagues in gaining early access to the expanded 7 MHz band by the end of this year.

Meanwhile within IARU Region 1, HF Managers present at the recent mid conference meeting held in Friedrichshafen have agreed that the usage of 7100 to 7200 kHz will be restricted to morse and telephony modes until the majority of Region 1 Societies have access. The full 7 MHz band plan will be reviewed at that time.

The work on the 7 MHz subject is far from over as the radio amateur service has not yet achieved the full 200 kHz expansion that has been worked for over very many years. Agenda Item 1.13 for WRC-07 will examine the usage of the HF bands between 4 and 10 MHz (excluding those bands agreed at WRC-03), but with the current protection afforded to the marine and aeronautical bands there will be little spectrum left to talk about.

5 MHz has been covered in a separate report, however at the half way stage in the current experiment and subject to satisfactory feedback and justification to the primary user it is intended to attempt to have this period extended. The end date is currently 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

The call for papers for the 2005 IARU Region 1 Conference is expected in September. While the UK and Germany usually lead the way in producing innovative papers there has been a decline in HF associated subject material over recent conferences. Please consider if you could contribute a paper. Remember this is your chance to change the face of amateur radio in Region 1.

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