



22 November 2008

TO: ARRL  
Joel Harrison, President  
cc: Dave Sumner  
Chris Imlay

FROM: Central States VHF Society  
Board of Directors

SUBJECT: FCC allocation for the 70 MHz band

Many countries in Europe have had an Amateur Radio allocation in the 70 MHz band (See Appendix A). Notable among these is the United Kingdom, which has allocated 70.0 MHz to 70.5 MHz for Amateur Radio for many years. In addition, Greenland OX, a Region 2 country, also allows its amateurs to use the 70 MHz band. In addition to these, a number of other countries have offered temporary permits to facilitate experimentation by amateurs. These are listed in Appendix B.

This part of the radio spectrum is very interesting for propagation investigations. In particular to determine if, and how frequently, F2 layer propagation is present. Currently, amateurs in the United States have no allocation between 54 and 144 MHz. Therefore, it is important to the amateur radio service to gain access to this portion of the spectrum so that investigations can be conducted regarding all types of ionospheric propagation such as Sporadic-E, Auroral-E, Aurora back-scatter, meteor scatter, TEP and FAI. In addition, tropospheric propagation modes, such as tropo scatter as well as variations in normal tropospheric propagation, can be assessed.

Here in the United States, the FCC is clearing the 70 MHz band of almost all full power Analog TV stations. Exceptions are two Channel 4 stations in Iowa and Kentucky. For the vast majority of the country, the 70 MHz band will soon be free of broadcasting.

Therefore, in order to seek allocations common to those in many European countries, the Central States VHF Society requests that the ARRL petition the FCC for an Amateur Radio Allocation of 70.0 MHz to 70.5 MHz, with whatever restriction the Commission deems necessary to protect whatever television stations continue operating in this section of the spectrum. We urge that this allocation be made available to all license classes except Novice.

The Board of Directors of the Central States VHF Society contends that the above allocation will be in the best interests of the Amateur Radio Service as a whole, allowing communications with Amateurs in Region 1, propagation research, and other such beneficial activities. Therefore, we request that the ARRL petition the FCC for access to the 70.0-70.5 MHz spectrum.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Bill Caldwell, NOLNO  
Chairman of the Board of Directors, Central States VHF Society  
For The Board of Directors of the Central States VHF Society

Appendix A. Countries with a current 70 MHz Allocations:

Crete (SV9)  
Croatia (9A)  
Cyprus (5B)  
Denmark (OZ)  
Dodecanese (SV5)  
Estonia (ES)  
Faroe Islands (OY)  
Gibraltar (ZB)  
Greece (SV)  
Ireland (EI)  
Luxembourg (LX)  
Monaco (3A)  
Slovenia (S5)  
South Africa (ZS)  
UK Sovereign Base areas on Cyprus (ZC4)  
England (G)  
Isle of Man (GD)  
Northern Ireland (GI)  
Jersey (GJ)  
Scotland (GM)  
Guernsey (GU)  
Wales (GW)  
Spain(EA)

Appendix B (Countries allowing temporary amateur operation:

Azores (CU)  
Czech Republic (OK)  
Germany (DI2AL & DI2PM on 69.995 MHz)  
Hungary (HA),  
Italy (I)  
Madeira Is (CT3)  
Norway (LCOVHF)  
Portugal (CT)  
Sardinia (IS)  
SMOM (1A)