

HF Band Planning Committee Mid-Year Report 2026
July 2026 - ARRL Board Meeting

Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, Chair

This is a report of the activities of the 2026 HF Band Planning Committee to inform the ARRL Board of Directors at the midpoint of its 2026 service. The report will cover activities from January through the present (July).

The HF Band Planning Committee was mostly inactive during the first half of 2026, with only occasional email exchanges needed as a result of a lack regulatory action. It was decided by the President in January 2026 that the committee would only be staffed on an as-needed basis, given the inability to get anything before the FCC.

Once again we have nothing to report on any action at the FCC regarding the two major proposals that would affect band planning.

- RM-11828: expanded Technician Class licensing proposal, filed in 2018
- RM-11759: amendment to facilitate HF data communication, filed in 2016

This is highly disappointing to all of us. As of this year, RM-11759 has been languishing for 10+ years at the FCC. It was hoped that with the recent changes to FCC leadership, and them settling in to their new positions, things would improve. Sadly current indications do not provide any reason for optimism. The outlook remains negative. The impact of the so-called Delete, Delete, Delete initiative at the FCC was only to remove some obsolete provisions from Part 97 regulations.

Proposed Band Plan

The proposed band plan, Rev 4 from July 2020, is in a stable state at this point. It should form the basis for future filings with the FCC. In the current deregulatory environment, should it continue, there may be a reason to revisit this. At the moment, however, the sense is that there is no concrete action to be taken.

Region 3 40 Meter Proposal

The Committee considered this proposal some time ago, and concluded that it was unlikely to be implemented. We have not heard anything further to warrant revisiting this subject at this time.

Inconsistent Band Plan Documents

Vice Director Propper has noted that there are some inconsistencies in the published band plans on the ARRL website that may need correcting. At this point these have not been addressed with staff. There is no new progress to report, though staff has been notified.

Summary

The 2026 HF Band Planning Committee has made essentially no progress. This is a direct result of inaction by the FCC. Without FCC action on proposed changes to the Amateur Service expressed in Part 97, the scope of our available work is limited.

The Chair wants to express her deep gratitude to all of the prior years' HF Band Planning Committee members, most of whom are no longer on the board, for their participation and devotion to the furtherance of cooperative operating on the HF bands.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen A McIntyre, K6WX, Chair
HF Band Planning Committee