

60 meter FCC comments Needed

Dear ARRL Pacific Division Member:

We need your assistance, and we need it NOW. We strongly encourage you

to assist the ARRL and the entire U.S. Amateur Radio community by

submitting comments to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

before October 30th to save the privileges we have fought to gain on 60

meters. Even if you are not currently active on 60 meters, the proposed

reduction in power from 100 watts to an equivalent of less than 10 watts

is the most sweeping reduction of HF privileges in decades.

If Amateur

Radio opposition to this proposed change is weak and the FCC goes

through with the change, will a lackluster response from the Amateur

Radio community embolden the FCC to remove or modify more HF privileges?

Please read this message in full to understand why your help is needed

prior to submitting your comments.

The FCC has issued Notice of Proposed Rulemaking's (NPRM) Docket

Number 23-120 which would reduce power on 60 meters from 100 watts ERP

(Effective Radiated Power) to the equivalent of 9.5 watts ERP. The NPRM

would replace the current five channels (currently each with a 100-watt

power limit) with a 15 KHz continuous spectrum from 5351.5 to 5366.5

KHz, but limiting power to the equivalent of 9.5 watts ERP.

ARRL is

proposing to keep the current five channels AND add the docket's

proposed 15 KHz of continuous spectrum, all at a power level of 100

watts ERP.

It's important to note that in 2022 our neighbor, Canada, enacted

ARRL's position by keeping the five current channels AND adding the

expanded 15 KHz of continuous spectrum, all at 100 watts.

ARRL is

advocating for the FCC to adopt the identical allocations and power

limits which Canada put in place over a year ago.

When the FCC authorized 60-meter access for Amateur Radio operators in

July 2003, the Commission cited the positive propagation attributes for

emergency communications. Over the past twenty years during hurricanes,

Caribbean Amateur Radio stations used 60 meters to relay critical

weather and situational reports to U.S. operators. Clearly, 9.5 watts

ERP would be woefully inadequate to maintain communications for these

purposes.

In the May 2023 ARRL survey, members overwhelmingly pointed to Spectrum

Defense as the #1 priority of the League. The Pacific Division takes

this priority seriously. For the maximum impact, the FCC needs to hear from ARRL members in California, Nevada, and Hawaii to underscore the importance of 60 meters in our geographically diverse region. Having a consistent bandplan with Canada will also ensure harmonious communications throughout most of North America.

PLEASE support the ARRL's filing in this matter.

To learn more about the NPRM and its impact on our 60-meter privileges, please visit <https://www.arrl.org/60-meter-band> . On this webpage you will find the links to file comments with the FCC. Please don't delay. A substantial response from the Ham community before the October 30 deadline is the only way to forestall the loss of our valued operating privileges. Please urge your fellow Hams to file comments as well. Protection of our Amateur Radio spectrum is our number one priority.

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