

## **Proposal for 495 – 505kHz Amateur Band**

### **RSGB**

#### **BACKGROUND**

Monitoring of the international distress and calling frequency 500kHz ceased in many parts of the world at the end of 1997. Dutch radio amateurs, showing interest in an allocation at 500kHz, approached their licensing authority, who were interested to know if neighbouring countries would support such an allocation.

It is known that the UK's licensing authority are considering a proposal for an amateur allocation around 500 kHz.

Initial request for interest from UK amateurs actively experimenting on 136kHz produced a response from 20 amateurs. In addition, although not asked support was received from amateurs in Belgium, Holland, USA and New Zealand.

The allocation of spectrum around 500kHz would enable amateurs to revisit sky wave propagation understanding that ceased around the 1920s with the advent of ground-wave maritime communication at these frequencies. An allocation around 500kHz would prove a good balance between the technical difficulties and LF propagation effects at 136kHz and the well know, but challenging, long-distance communication at 1.8MHz. Propagation characteristics are sufficiently different from both bands to make 500kHz an interesting band.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Region 1 Societies approach their licensing authorities to seek agreement for a limited temporary amateur allocation to allow the requirement, band loading, propagation and harmonisation with services on adjacent spectrum allocations to be determined.