

IOTA PROGRAMME: NEW ISLAND GROUPS

ELEVEN NEW IOTA GROUPS were announced at IOTA's 50th Anniversary Convention, held in Windsor, England over the weekend 4 to 6 July 2014. Some result directly from the rule changes announced in the latest IOTA Directory, published in May 2014 (a note of the main changes can be seen at IOTA Rule Changes 2014 on <http://www.g3kma.dsl.pipex.com>).

All new groups have provisional numbers. This means that they will need to be confirmed by an operation taking place after 5 July 2014 that meets the 1000 QSO and other normal validation requirements. Only after confirmation of the number will credit for past operations be considered. Most of the new groups have not seen a previous amateur radio operation. Where however there has been an operation with contacts credited to an IOTA group, IOTA Management will at some point arrange transfers of credits to the new group if it has clear-cut information covering all operations in the old group. In two cases this may not be possible.

The addition of these new groups necessitates in some cases the renaming of the titles of existing groups and amendment of the 'co-ordination boxes' as currently appearing in the new Directory. 'A' and 'W' refer to the regional awards as shown in the Directory.

AF-118P CN Mediterranean Sea Coast group, Morocco (=Jaegerschmidt, Los Farallones) 34°59–35°56N 002°13–006°15W

Comment: New 'coastal islands' group. These islands were not previously shown on a 1:1,000,000 scale map but now qualify from being shown and named on Google Earth. No known previous amateur radio activity.

AF-119P S7 Coetivy Island, Seychelles (=Coetivy) 06°58–07°18S 056°08–056°25E

Comment: New 'remote island' group. This island (previously AF-024) lies a distance of some 170 km from Platte Island, the nearest island in the rest of the Seychelles. Permission to land and operate is required from the owners. No Known previous amateur radio activity.

Note: Coetivy will be deleted from AF-024 and the 'co-ordinates box' amended.

AS-200P JA5 Shikoku's Coastal Islands, Japan (= [islands to be listed]) 32°40–34°35N 132°00–134°52E

Comment: Shikoku, one of the four main Japanese islands, has hitherto not had its own coastal islands IOTA group and these all previously counted for AS-076. This is being changed. The main valid islands will be listed on the scroll down list on the application page on the RSGB website shortly. There has been regular previous amateur radio activity. Contacts do not count until a new valid operation has taken place. It may not be possible to transfer past credits that now qualify for AS-200P.

Note: The island entry against AS-076 will be amended.

AS-201P TA Sea of Marmara Islands, Turkey (=Avsa [aka Turkeli], Imrali, Marmara, Pasalimani, Prince Isls [namely Burgazada, Buyukada, Heybeliada, Kasik, Kinaliada, Sedef, Sivriada, Tavsan, Yassiada]) 40°18–41°04N 026°10–029°31E

Comment: The case for the Sea of Marmara islands counting as a separate group for IOTA has been reviewed and, given the special treatment afforded the Black Sea islands, is considered on balance worthy of acceptance. The main valid islands are on the Asiatic side of the Sea of Marmara. There has been occasional previous amateur radio activity but contacts do not count until a new valid operation has taken place.

AS-202P A9 Hawar Islands, Bahrain (=Hawar Isls [namely Hawar, Rabad al Gharbiyar, Rabad ash Sharqiyah, Suwad al Janubiyah, Suwad ash Shamliyah]) 25°32–25°47N 050°41–050°51E

Comment: This is a self-contained group of islands (previously AS-002), which nestle close to Qatar and are physically separated off from Bahrain. No known previous amateur radio activity.

Note: The island entry against AS-002 and the 'co-ordinates box' will be amended.

AS-203P R0X Shelikhova Bay group, Asiatic Russia (=Dobrzhanskogo, Konus, Rovnyy, Skala, Tretiy, Zubchatyy) 59°00–62°41N 159°40–165°05E

Comment: The currently named Shelikhova Bay group (AS-091) is being split to allow islands north of Ptichiy Island to count separately. Dobrzhanskogo Island is situated some 600 km from Ptichiy and the others mentioned above

some 500 km. This distance spread in a group is quite exceptional. All previous activity has been from Ptichiy Island (AS-091) – by UA0X/EK250RA (August 1991), RZ0ZWA/0 and UE0XYZ (both July 2001) – and this will remain AS-091.

Note: The title of AS-091 will be renamed ‘Sea of Okhotsk Coast group’ and the ‘co-ordinates box’ amended.

A EU-190P RI1FJ Viktoriya Island, Franz Josef Land (=Viktoriya) 80°05–80°12N 036°30–037°10E

Comment: New ‘remote island’ group. This island (previously EU-019) lies a distance of 158 km from Zemlya Aleksandry, Franz Josef Land. Previous Amateur Radio Activity was by Nikolay Povalyayev (1985-1991 as UA10/UA0BCA, then 1991 to 1994 as 4K2BCA and, lastly 1994 when the station was closed as R1FJV) but contacts do not count until a new valid operation has taken place.

Note: Viktoriya will be deleted from EU-019 and the ‘co-ordinates box’ amended.

EU-191P YO, UR Fericirii Island, Romania/Ukraine (=Fericirii) 45°09–45°13N 029°45–029°47E

Comment: New ‘split sovereignty island’ group. This is a newly established split sovereignty island in the Black Sea just outside the Danube Delta. It is 2km from the mainland and approximate 4.78Km long. A recent International Court of Justice decision split sovereignty over the island between Romania and Ukraine. It cannot be joined with Saculinu Mare because the latter is not split sovereignty. No known previous amateur radio activity.

W NA-247P PJ7 Sint Maarten’s Coastal Islands (=Guana Key of Pelikan, Molly Beday [aka Mal Aborder]) 18°00–18°04N 062°57–063°10W

Comment: New ‘coastal islands’ group of a split sovereignty island. These islands were not previously shown on a 1:1,000,000 scale map but now qualify from being shown and named on Google Earth in the same way that the coastal islands of St Martin FS count (NA-199). No known previous amateur radio activity.

A NA-248P VE8, VY0 NWT (Melville Island) group, Canada (=Borden, Brock, Eglinton, Emerald, Mackenzie King, Melville, Prince Patrick) 74°20–78°50N 105°00–123°30W

This leaves NA-009 as follows:

NA-009 VY0 Nunavut (Devon Island) group, Canada (=Baillie-Hamilton, Bathurst, Byam Martin, Cameron, Coburg, Cornwall, Cornwallis, Devon, Graham, Grosvenor, Lougheed) 74°24–77°51N 079°00–106°10W

Comment: The very large territorial/sea area covered by NA-009, Nunavut (Parry Islands) is divided administratively between NWT and Nunavut by straight line co-ordinates (in some cases across an island). Following practice elsewhere, these islands are now split into two IOTA groups. Devon and Melville Islands, the largest islands in each, are among the next largest “large islands” in size after others that have been given separate numbers because of size. There has been regular previous amateur radio activity from NA-248P. Contacts do not count for this group until a new valid operation has taken place. It may not be possible to transfer past credits from NA-009 that now qualify for NA-248P.

OC-296P T8 Tobi and Helen Islands, Palau (=Helen, Tobi) 02°40–03°10N 131°00–132°00E

Comment: New ‘remote island’ group. These two islands (previously OC-248) lie a distance of about 152 km from Merir Island, the nearest of the remaining South Palau group. No known previous amateur radio activity.

Note: The title of OC-248 will be renamed ‘Sonsorol Islands group’ and the ‘co-ordinates box’ amended.

The following group is already listed in the IOTA Directory but with the comment “no qualifying islands identified yet” and without a number – this is now being rectified:

SA-100P CE1 Arica and Parinacota/Tarapaca Region group, Chile (=Pajaros Isls) 18°23–21°29S 070°02–070°26W

Comment: These islets were not previously shown on a 1:1,000,000 scale map but now qualify from being shown and named on Google Earth. No known previous amateur radio activity.

In summary:

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In carrying out this exercise the Management Team are indebted to a number of contributors but especially to Simon IZ7ATN for his systematic research which has resulted in the addition of several new groups.

Roger Balister, G3KMA

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