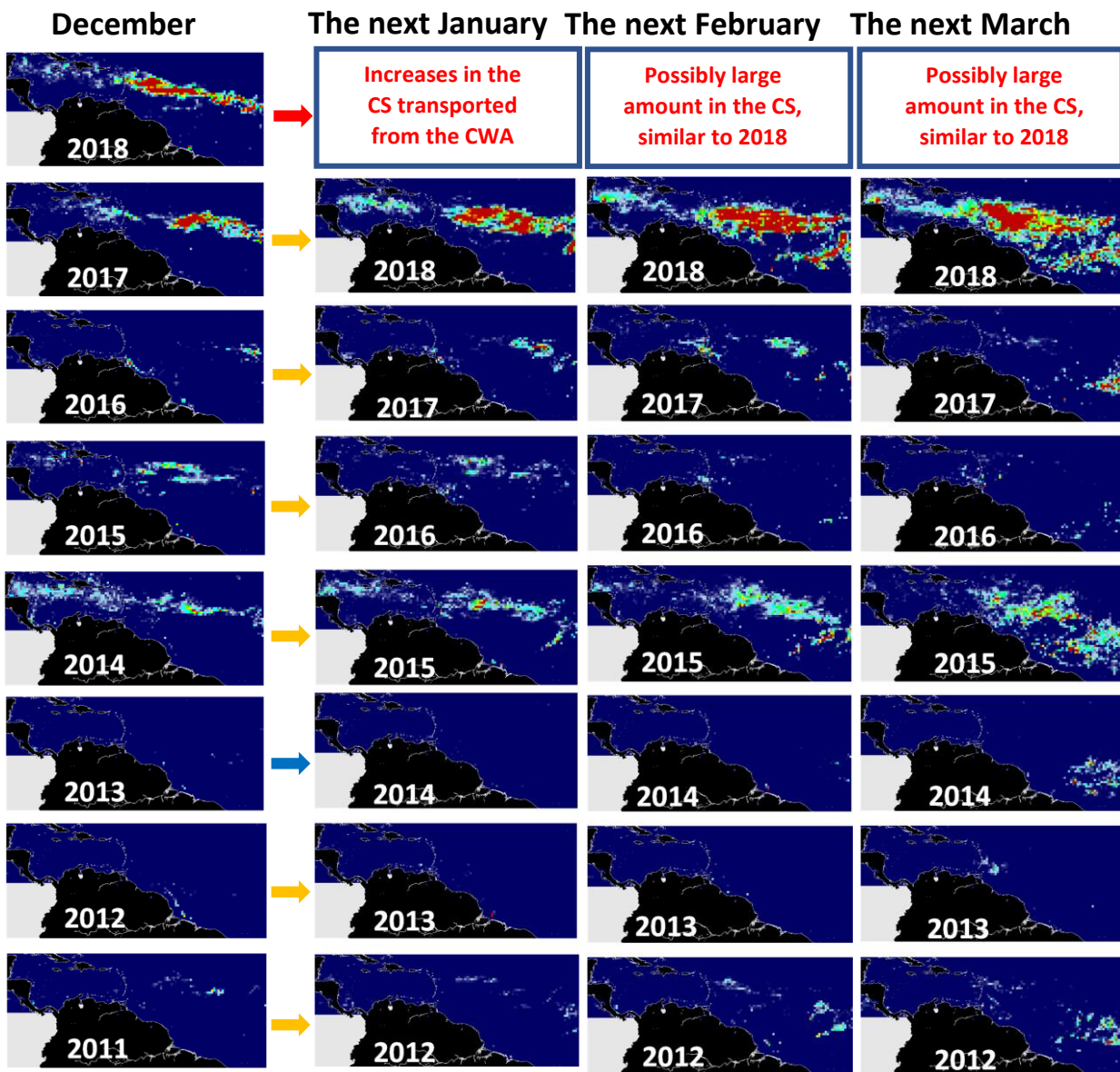




The maps below show *Sargassum* abundance, with warm colors representing high abundance. In December 2018, the bloom intensity in the Caribbean Sea (CS) continued to decrease slightly from November, but the amount of *Sargassum* in the Central West Atlantic (CWA) increased slightly from November, which also represented a historical record for the month of November. Following the dominant ocean currents, the CWA *Sargassum* will be transported to the northeastern Caribbean in the following months. Meanwhile, the southern Caribbean (including coastal waters off Venezuela, Barbados, and Trinidad) may be largely free of *Sargassum*. While it is too early to predict the bloom situation in spring and summer 2019, if the current CWA condition continues to end of January, it is likely that 2019 may be another major bloom year (similar to 2018) for the CS.

Wang, M., and C. Hu (2017), Predicting *Sargassum* blooms in the Caribbean Sea from MODIS observations, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 44, 3265–3273, doi:10.1002/2017GL072932.



Disclaimer: The information bulletin is meant to provide a general outlook of current bloom condition and future bloom probability for the Caribbean Sea. By no means should it be used for commercial purpose, or used for predicting bloom conditions for a specific location or beach. The authors of this bulletin, as well as USF and NASA, take no responsibility for improper use or interpretation of the bulletin.