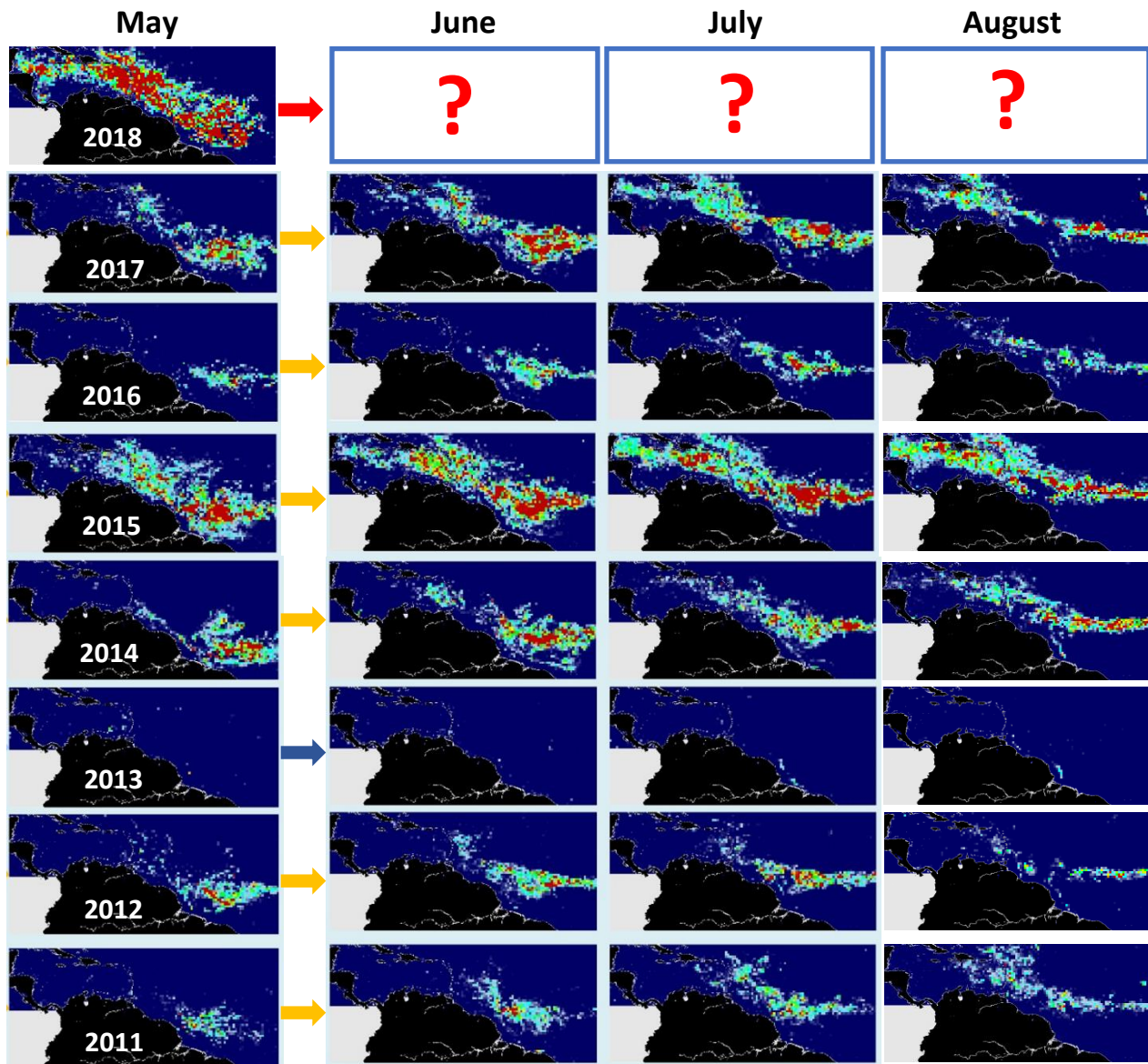


Outlook of *Sargassum* blooms in the Caribbean Sea for 2018\*  
June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, by University of South Florida Optical Oceanography Lab  
([mengqiu@mail.usf.edu](mailto:mengqiu@mail.usf.edu))

Back in early February 2018, we predicted that 2018 would be another *Sargassum* year for the Caribbean. The prediction was based on historical bloom patterns and on the observed bloom in the central West Atlantic in January 2018. Recent months in February – May 2018 confirmed this prediction, when the largest bloom (as compared to the same months in history) in both the central West Atlantic and the Caribbean was observed. In the coming months there is a high chance that the bloom and *Sargassum* beaching in the Caribbean will continue to at least August 2018, and possibly exceed the historical record in 2015.

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 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.