

The maps below show *Sargassum* abundance, with warm colors representing high abundance.

**In August 2020, the overall *Sargassum* amount continued to decrease across the central Atlantic.** Large amount of *Sargassum* was still observed in the Central West Atlantic (CWA, i.e., the region east of the Lesser Antilles in the maps below), the Central East Atlantic (CEA), and most of the eastern Caribbean Sea (CS). However, by end of August, the following regions are almost free of large *Sargassum* mats: western CS, Gulf of Mexico, Florida Straits, and east coast of Florida. In all regions combined, the total *Sargassum* amount decreased from 8.0 M tons in July to 4.2 M metric tons in August, lower than August 2018, August 2015, August 2019, and August 2017.

**Looking ahead,** the eastern Caribbean will continue experiencing some moderate amount of *Sargassum* in September 2020 with scattered beaching events. The western Caribbean is likely to experience small amount of *Sargassum*, while the following regions may continue to be largely free of large *Sargassum* mats: Gulf of Mexico, Florida Straits, and east coast of Florida. This situation may further continue to October - November. We will keep a close eye on how *Sargassum* in the CS and the tropical Atlantic may evolve in the next two months.

More updates will be provided by the end of September 2020, and more information and imagery can be found from the *Sargassum* Watch System (SaWS, <https://optics.marine.usf.edu/projects/saws.html>)

