

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

**In October 2020, the overall *Sargassum* amount continued to decrease across the central Atlantic.** Small amount was still observed in the eastern Caribbean and Central West Atlantic (CWA, i.e., the region east of the Lesser Antilles in the maps below), but mostly restricted to the north and east of the Amazon River mouth. The following regions are largely free of *Sargassum* mats: the western Caribbean Sea (CS), Gulf of Mexico (GoM), Florida Straits, and east coast of Florida. In all regions combined, the total *Sargassum* amount decreased from 3.5 M metric tons in September to 1.4 M tons in October, lower than in October of most previous *Sargassum* years. However, considerable amount of *Sargassum* **was still observed in the Central East Atlantic along the west Africa coast from The Gambia to Liberia** (not shown in the maps below), but the bloom intensity was much reduced since September 2020.

**Looking ahead**, the CS, GoM, Florida Straits, and east coast of Florida will continue to be largely free of large *Sargassum* mats in the coming months, possibly through winter. 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 November 2020, and more information and imagery can be found from the *Sargassum* Watch System (SaWS, <https://optics.marine.usf.edu/projects/saws.html>)

