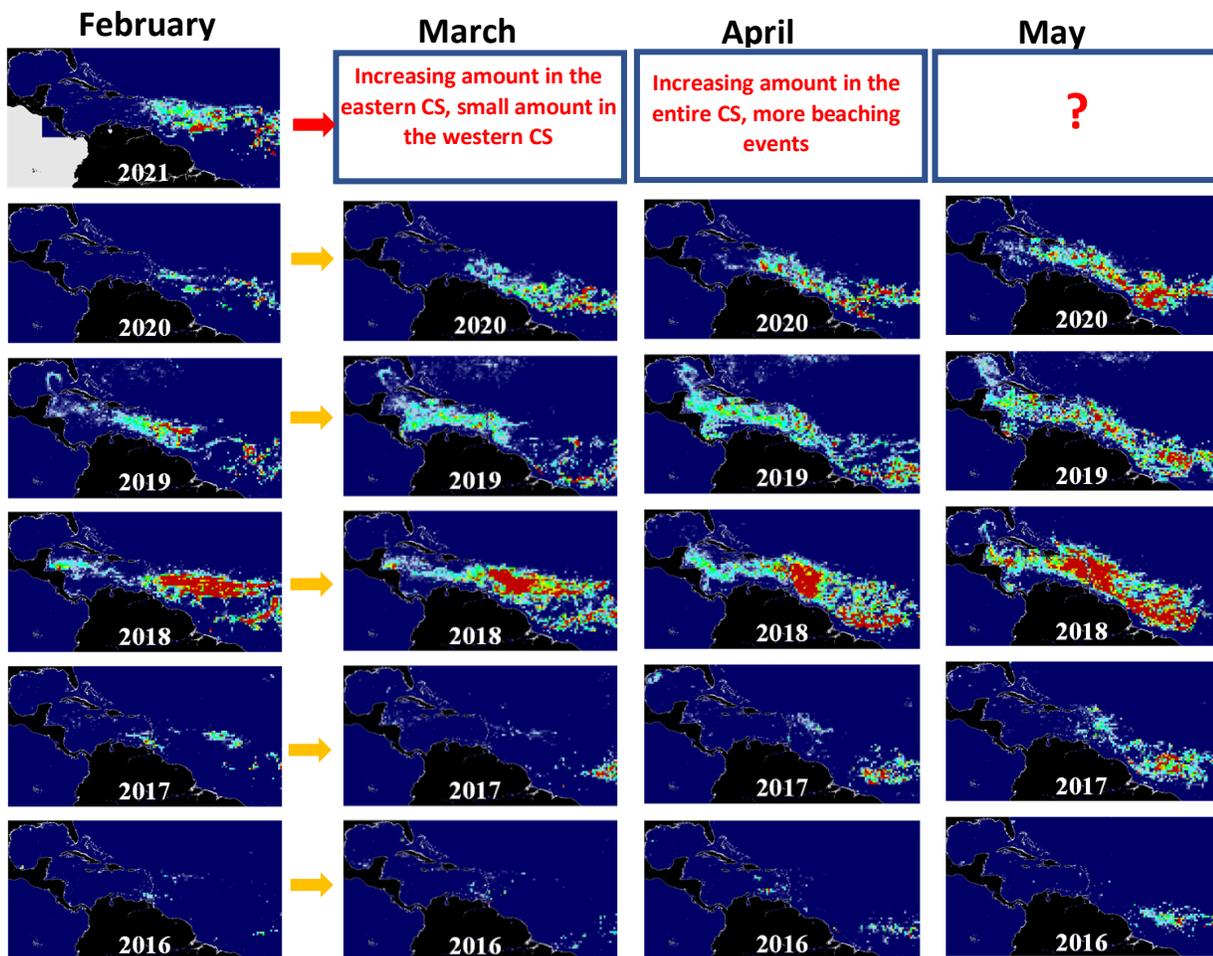


The maps below show *Sargassum* abundance, with warm colors representing high abundance. **In February 2021, the *Sargassum* amount remained high across the central Atlantic.** Large amount of *Sargassum* was observed in the Central West Atlantic (CWA, i.e., the region east of the Lesser Antilles in the maps below) while the amount in Central East Atlantic (CEA) decreased. Moderate amount appeared in the eastern Caribbean Sea (CS), while the following regions are still largely free of *Sargassum* mats: western CS, Gulf of Mexico (GOM), and Florida Straits. In all regions combined, total amount decreased from ~5.1M tons in Jan. 2021 to ~4.6M tons in Feb. 2021, similar to February 2019 (4.3M) but much larger than all previous February months except Feb. 2018 (10.3M).

Looking ahead, the eastern CS will likely experience increased amounts of *Sargassum* in Mar and Apr 2021, while some of the Lesser Antilles Islands will continue experiencing beaching events on both their windward leeward beaches. This situation may continue into the summer when *Sargassum* may be transported to the GoM. Overall, this year appears to be similar to 2019. 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 February 2021, and more information and near real-time imagery can be found under the *Sargassum* Watch System (SaWS, <https://optics.marine.usf.edu/projects/saws.html>).



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.