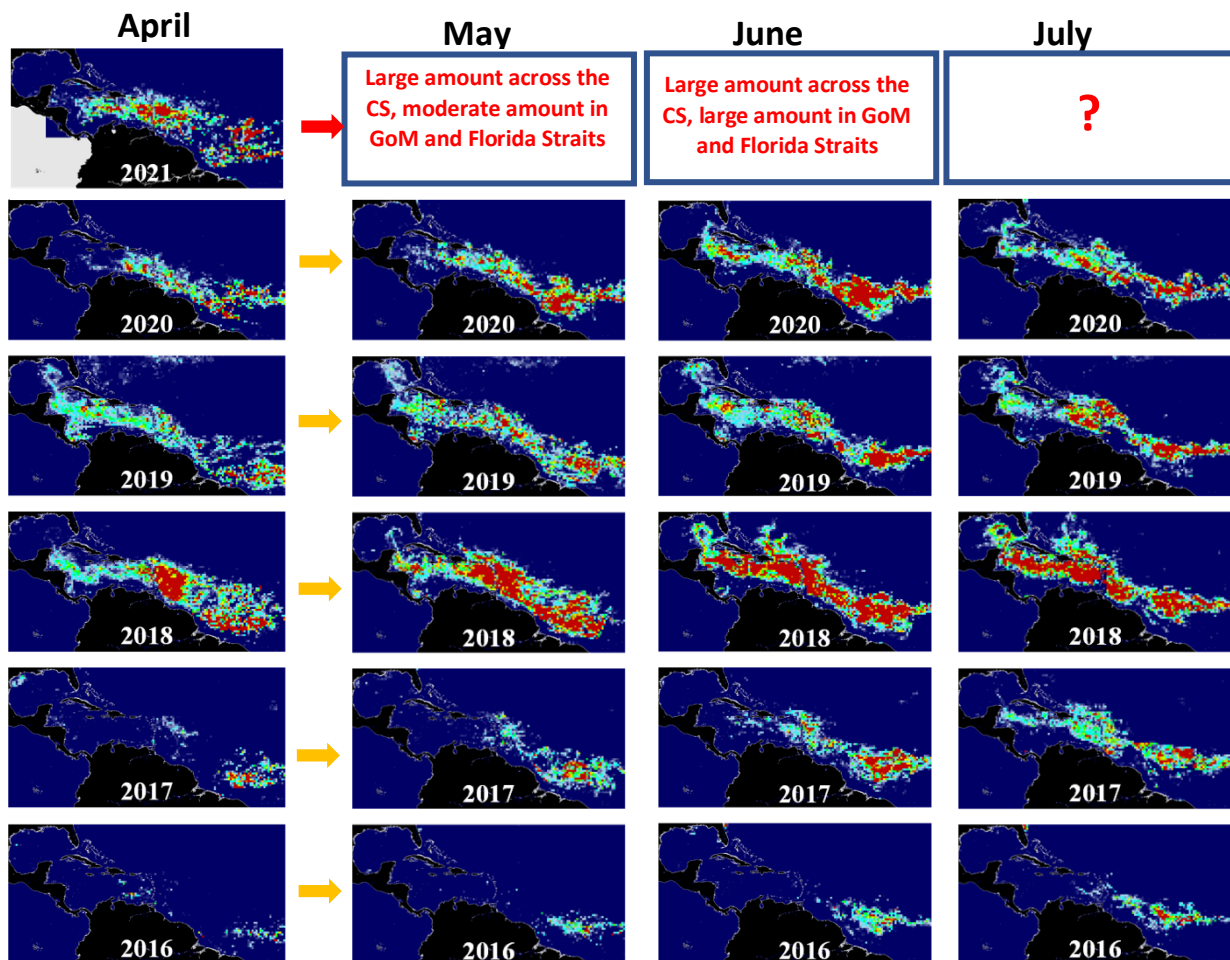


The maps below show *Sargassum* abundance, with warm colors representing high abundance. **In April 2021, the *Sargassum* amount increased across the central west Atlantic (CWA) and the Caribbean Sea (CS), while decreased in the central east Atlantic (CEA).** Large amount of *Sargassum* was observed in the CWA, i.e., the region east of the Lesser Antilles in the maps below, and the eastern CS. Moderate amount was observed in the western CS, with large rafts observed 250 km NE of Costa Rica by end of April. In other regions, *Sargassum* amount remained to be small. These regions include the Gulf of Mexico (GoM) and the Florida Straits. *Sargassum* transport from the CS to the GoM through the Yucatan was observed. In all regions combined, the total *Sargassum* amount increased from ~10.1 M tons in Mar 2021 to ~10.6 M tons in Apr 2021, only second to Apr 2018 (12.6 M).

Looking ahead, both the eastern and western CS will likely experience increasing amounts of *Sargassum* in May to July 2021. Some of the Lesser Antilles Islands will continue experiencing beaching events on both their windward leeward beaches. The GoM will experience more *Sargassum* transport from the CS. This situation may continue into summer, and the overall bloom intensity is likely to be higher than in 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 May 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.