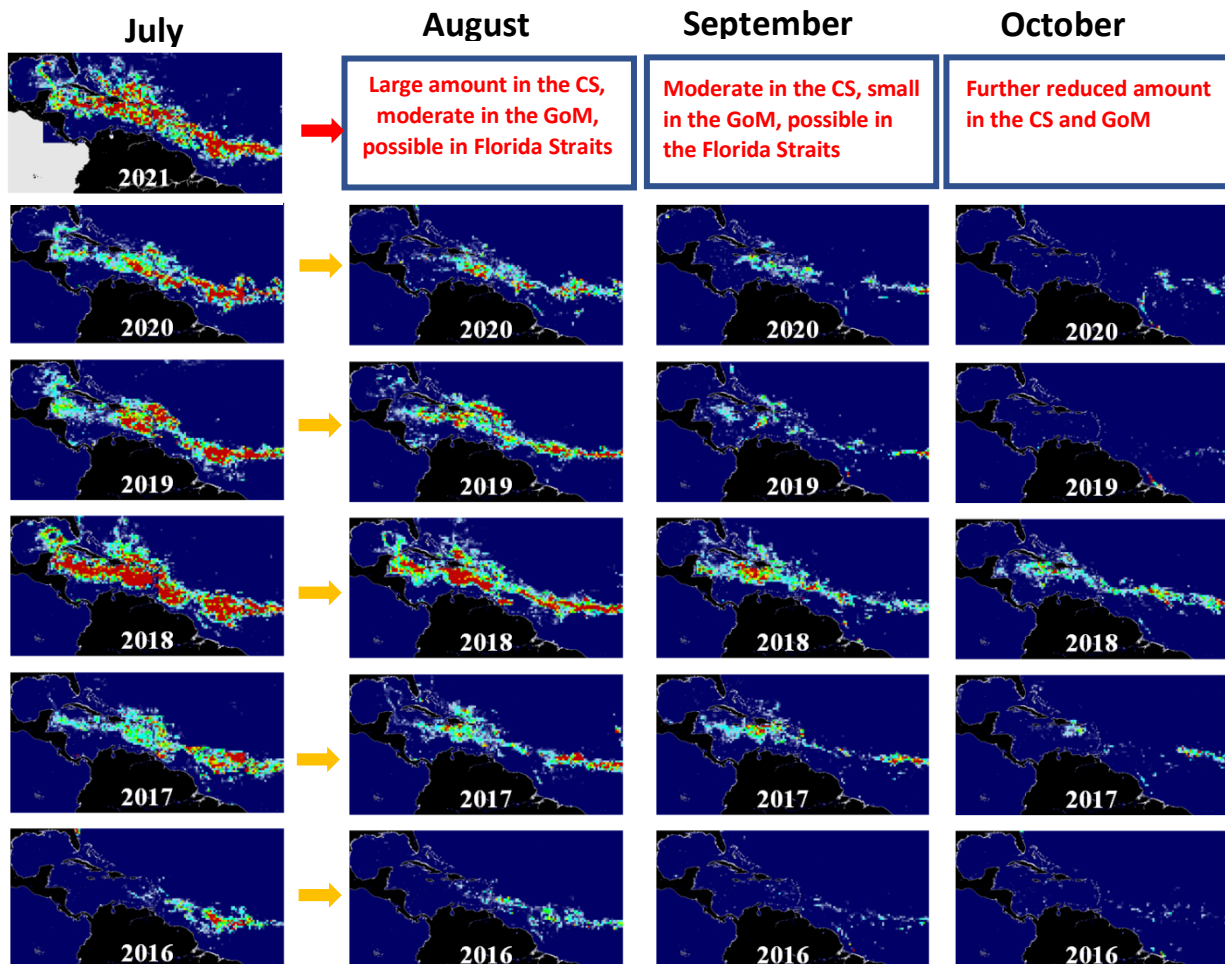


The maps below show *Sargassum* abundance, with warm colors representing high abundance. **In July 2021, the overall *Sargassum* amount decreased from June 2021 across the central Atlantic by about 18%.** This is similar to 2020, while in other years July often had higher amount than June. Despite the overall decrease, large amount was still observed in the Central West Atlantic (CWA, i.e., the region east of the Lesser Antilles in the maps below) and most of the Caribbean Sea (CS). *Sargassum* was continuously transported from the CS to the Gulf of Mexico (GoM), but the transport to the Straits of Florida has decreased due to the Loop Current (LC) eddy shedding. What's noteworthy is the transport from the CWA towards the Great Bahamas, resulting in unprecedented *Sargassum* amount there. The beaching events continued around many Caribbean nations and islands. In all regions combined, the total *Sargassum* amount in July 2021 was higher than in any previous July months except July 2018.

Looking ahead, the *Sargassum* amount is expected to continue to decrease, but will likely remain high to moderate in the CWA and CS this summer. Meanwhile, *Sargassum* transport to the GoM will continue, and depending on the LC dynamics the transport to the Florida Keys and along the east coast of Florida may also occur, but the amount will be reduced. 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 August 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.