



The maps below show *Sargassum* abundance, with warm colors representing high abundance. **On one hand, the overall *Sargassum* amount in August 2021 decreased from July 2021 by about 30%. On the other hand, it still sets a new historical record for the month of August.** Compared with the previous month, the amounts in the Central West Atlantic (CWA, i.e., the region east of the Lesser Antilles in the maps below) and the Caribbean Sea (CS) have reduced by ~50% and 13%, respectively. Despite the decrease, large amounts were still observed in the CWA and most of the CS. *Sargassum* was continuously transported from the CS to the Gulf of Mexico (GoM), mostly restricted to the left and northern edges of the Loop Current. The transport to the Florida Straits was minimal. Correspondingly, beaching events were restricted to the Caribbean nations and islands.

**Looking ahead**, the reduction in the *Sargassum* amount is expected to continue but the amount may still be higher than in the same months of most previous years. Meanwhile, *Sargassum* transport to the GoM will also continue, but at a lower level. The Florida Keys and east coast of Florida may be free of large beaching events. 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 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>).

