



The maps below show *Sargassum* abundance, with warm colors representing high abundance. **In October 2021, the overall *Sargassum* amount continued to decrease from September (a drop of 61%) across the Central West Atlantic (CWA, i.e., the region east of the Lesser Antilles in the maps below), Caribbean Sea (CS), and the Gulf of Mexico (GoM).** Despite the decrease, moderate amount was still observed in the northeastern CS, with most of the southern Caribbean largely free of *Sargassum*. Most of the GoM is free of *Sargassum* in October 2021. However, compared with previous years, the total amount in October 2021 is only second to October 2018.

**Looking ahead**, the reduction in the *Sargassum* amount is expected to continue but the amount may still be higher than the same months of most previous years. Additionally, due to the considerable amount of *Sargassum* in the east tropical Atlantic (not shown in the maps below), the westward transport of *Sargassum* by the ocean current may lead to increased *Sargassum* in the CWA in December 2021 or January 2022. According to history, next two months will be critical to determine whether 2022 may be another major *Sargassum* year for most regions. 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 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>).

