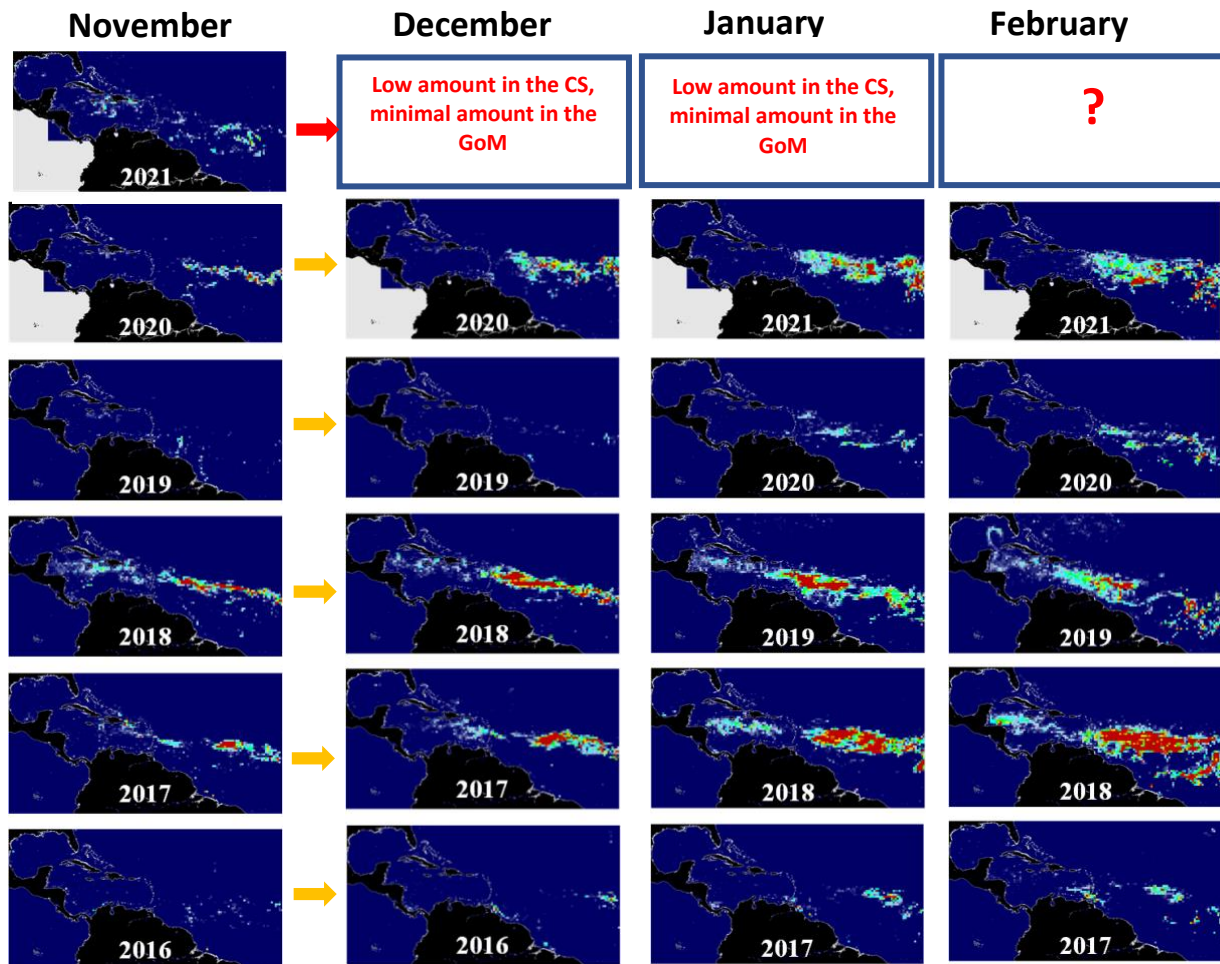




The maps below show *Sargassum* abundance, with warm colors representing high abundance. In **November 2021**, the overall *Sargassum* amount continued to decrease from October (by 35%) across the Central West Atlantic (CWA, i.e., the region east of the Lesser Antilles in the maps below) and the Caribbean Sea (CS). Despite the decrease, moderate amount was still observed in the northeastern CS. Very little *Sargassum* was found in the Gulf of Mexico (GoM) in November 2021. Compared with the same month of previous years, the total amount (1.7 M tons) is lower than in 2018 (3.2 M tons) but similar to 2015, 2017, and 2020.

Looking ahead, the western CS, GoM, Florida Straits, and east coast of Florida will continue to be largely free of *Sargassum* in the coming months. However, it is possible that the westward transport of *Sargassum* by the ocean current may lead to an increased *Sargassum* in the CWA in December 2021 or January 2022. In previous bloom years (2018, 2019 and 2021), the *Sargassum* amounts stopped turned to increase in December of the previous year. Therefore, *Sargassum* changes in the next month will provide important information for 2022. 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>).



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.