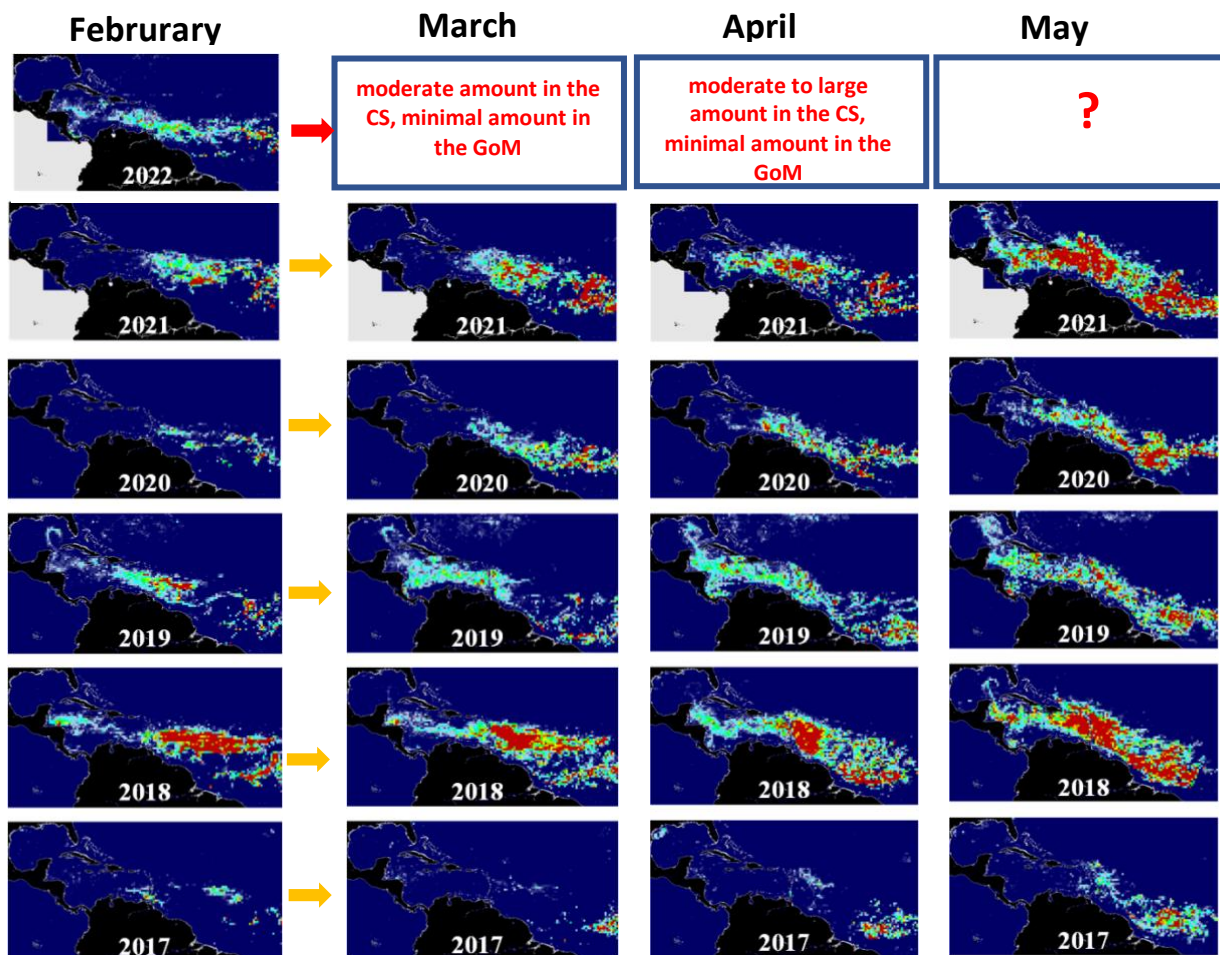


The maps below show *Sargassum* abundance, with warm colors representing high abundance. In February 2022, the overall *Sargassum* amount continued to increase from previous months, but only slightly from January, across the Central West Atlantic (CWA) and the Caribbean Sea (CS). CWA refers to the region east of the Lesser Antilles in the maps below. Moderate amount was observed in the eastern CS, but mostly restricted to the southern portion. A small amount reached the western CS near Honduras and Belize, while the Gulf of Mexico (GoM) and Florida Straits were still largely free of *Sargassum* mats. In all regions combined, the total *Sargassum* amount is about ~4.3 million tons in February 2022, comparable to that in February 2021 and 2019 and much higher than in all other previous February months except February 2018, ranking the third since the first “*Sargassum* year” of 2011. Based on these observations, 2022 is likely going to be another moderate or major *Sargassum* year.

**Looking ahead**, *Sargassum* will likely continue to increase in the Central Atlantic, which is then transported westward in the following months. This will lead to continuous *Sargassum* increase in the CS and CWA. 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 March 2022, 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.