



The maps below show *Sargassum* abundance, with warm colors representing high abundance. **In May 2022, the total *Sargassum* amount continued to increase across the tropical Atlantic, the Caribbean Sea (CS), the Central West Atlantic (CWA, i.e., the region east of the Lesser Antilles in the maps below) and the Gulf of Mexico (GoM), which sets a new historical record for the month of May.** In all regions combined, the total *Sargassum* amount increased from ~14.0 million tons in April 2022 to ~18.8 million tons in May 2022, exceeding all previous major bloom years. Correspondingly, significant beaching events may have occurred around the Caribbean nations or islands. Furthermore, large amount of *Sargassum* was already found in the GoM since April (~1.4 million tons in May). Small amount was also found in the Florida Straits and along the east coast of Florida, indicating possible beaching events.

**Looking ahead**, *Sargassum* amount will likely continue to increase in June – July, but this trend may reverse in July – August based on the historical record. This means that the *Sargassum* amount in 2022 may reach its peak value in the next one or two months, possibly setting a new historical record. 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 June 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>).

