

The maps below show *Sargassum* abundance, with warm colors representing high abundance. **In June 2022, the *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), the Central East Atlantic, and the Gulf of Mexico (GoM).** In all regions combined, the total *Sargassum* amount increased from ~18.8 million tons in May 2022 to ~24.2 million tons in June 2022, thus setting a new historical record. This indicates significant beaching events around many nations/islands in the CS. Furthermore, small to moderate amounts in the Florida Straits and along the east coast of Florida may have resulted some beaching events as well.

Looking ahead, the increasing trend of *Sargassum* amount may stop or even reverse in July, leading to reduced amount. However, considering the historical record-high in June 2022, more *Sargassum* may enter the CS and the GoM in the following months following major ocean currents. 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 July 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>).

