Outlook of 2022 *Sargassum* blooms in the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico*

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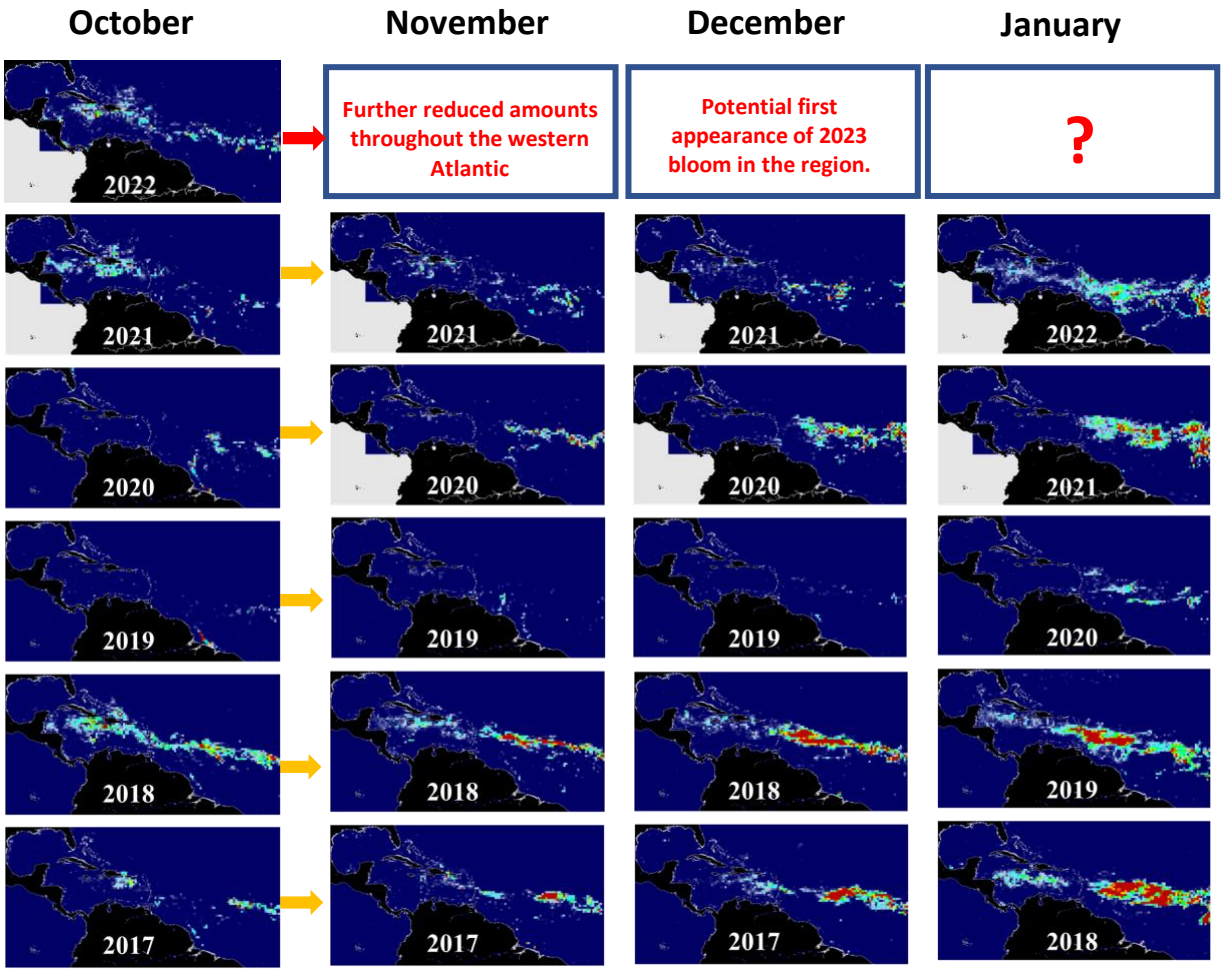
The maps below show *Sargassum* abundance, with warm colors representing higher values. In October, the overall *Sargassum* quantity in the central Atlantic Ocean continued to decline from previous months. While this decline is expected (the annual minimum *Sargassum* coverage in the region is typically in October - December), the total *Sargassum* quantity (~3.8 million tons) is still exceptionally high relative to most previous years. As predicted in the September bulletin, moderate *Sargassum* coverage was observed in the northern Caribbean Sea, while minimal quantities were found in the Gulf of Mexico (GoM).

Looking ahead, *Sargassum* abundance in the western Atlantic, Caribbean Sea, and GoM will likely continue to decrease into November and early December. As mentioned in the previous bulletin, *Sargassum* continued amassing in the east-central Atlantic, and accounted for nearly half of the total quantity in the entire Central Atlantic during October. Similar to what happened in previous years, the large amounts of *Sargassum* in the east-central Atlantic are likely to be transported westward in November and December, reaching the Lesser Antilles in early 2023. More updates will be provided by the end of November 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.