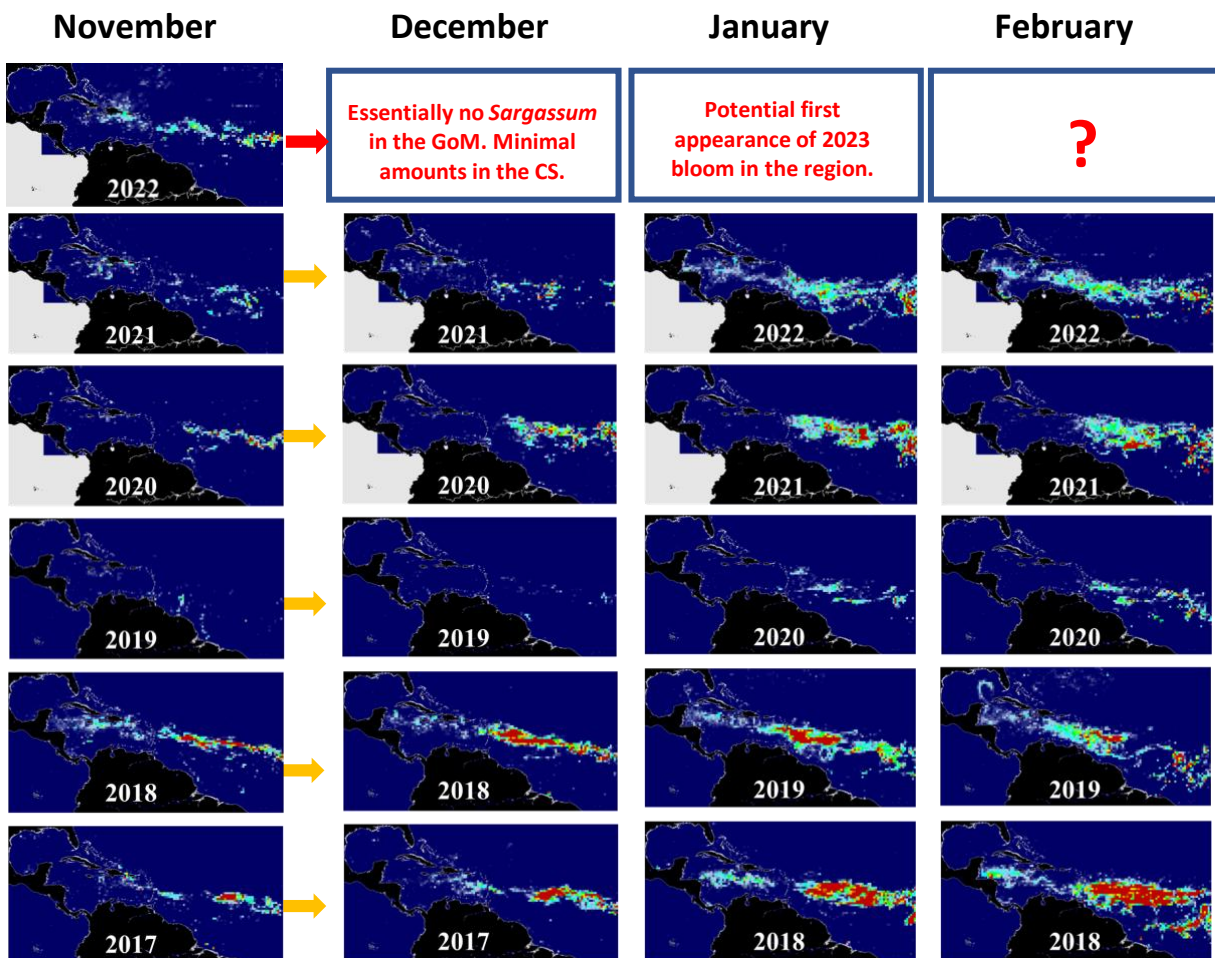




The maps below show *Sargassum* abundance, with warm colors representing higher values. As expected, the overall *Sargassum* quantity in the central Atlantic Ocean continued to decline from previous months into November. Nevertheless, approximately 3 million tons were observed, which is exceptionally high for this time of year. The *Sargassum* aggregation in the east-central Atlantic (noted in previous bulletins) continued to migrate westward, and still accounted for nearly half of the total quantity in the entire Central Atlantic. Such continued movement may reach the Lesser Antilles in early 2023. Moderate *Sargassum* coverage lingered in the northern Caribbean Sea (CS), especially near Hispaniola and Puerto Rico, while essentially none was observed in the Gulf of Mexico (GoM).

Looking ahead, *Sargassum* abundance in the western Atlantic, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico will likely continue to decrease into December, while the abundance in the entire central Atlantic may remain stable or even increase. The *Sargassum* trend from November to December will also be informative, as overall increases during this span have historically preceded major blooms in the following years. Thus, we will continue to closely monitor *Sargassum* coverage, with more updates provided by the end of December 2022. 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.