



The maps below show *Sargassum* abundance, with warm colors representing higher values. As expected, the *Sargassum* quantity in the central Atlantic (including the Caribbean Sea [CS] and Gulf of Mexico [GoM]) continued to decline during the month of October 2023. The wet weight of *Sargassum* detected during the month was under 1 million metric tons, right at the 25th percentile for all previous October months since 2011.

Of the *Sargassum* remaining in the central Atlantic, nearly half was in the eastern central Atlantic (extending westward from the Guinea / Sierra Leon coast). Averaged over the entire month, approximately 0.15 million metric tons of *Sargassum* were detected in the CS, although much of that had dissipated by the end of the month. Only a few substantial patches remained in the CS, while the GoM saw very little *Sargassum* overall. Even for this time of year, these abundances are quite small compared to recent years.

Looking ahead, the *Sargassum* abundance within the central Atlantic will likely remain stable in November. The first indications of the 2024 bloom will potentially begin to appear in December 2023, likely in the eastern Atlantic. As such, we will closely monitor and track *Sargassum* in each region, and will provide more summary updates by the end of November 2023. Meanwhile, daily updates through near real-time imagery can be found under the *Sargassum* Watch System (SaWS, <https://optics.marine.usf.edu/projects/saws.html>).

