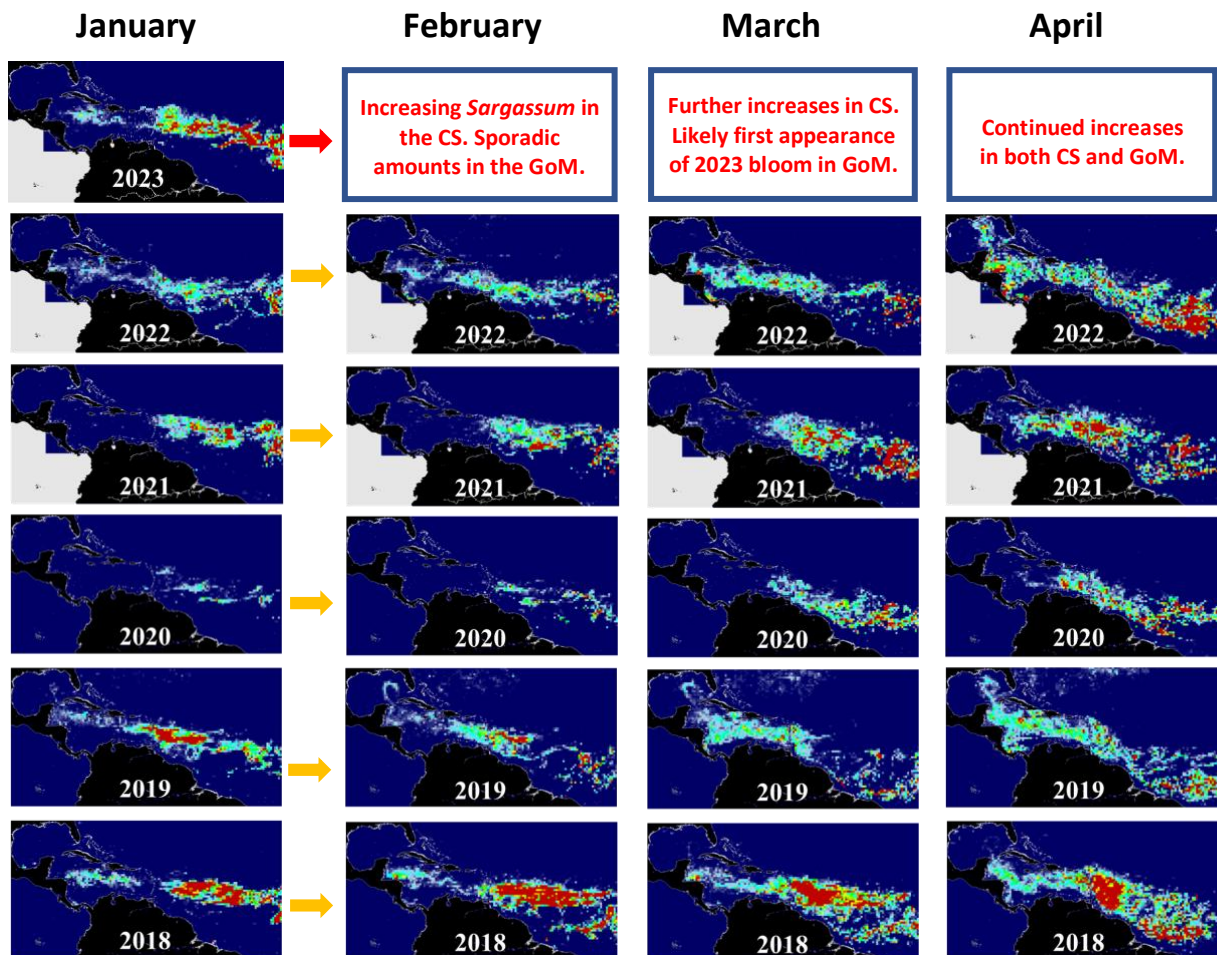


The maps below show *Sargassum* abundance, with warm colors representing higher values. The overall *Sargassum* quantity in the Atlantic Ocean doubled from December to January (8.7 million tons), again setting a new record (previous January record was 6.5 million tons in 2018). Sporadic *Sargassum* patches appeared in the Lesser Antilles near the month's end, with larger aggregations passing south of Martinique. Within the Caribbean Sea (CS), most patches were south of Jamaica, moving westward over the course of the month. Essentially no *Sargassum* was observed in the Gulf of Mexico (GoM).

Looking ahead, this is the second consecutive monthly doubling of *Sargassum*, previously observed only in 2018. All indications are that this biomass will continue to accumulate and migrate westward over the next several months. We will continue to closely monitor *Sargassum* coverage, with more updates provided by the end of February 2023. More information and near real-time imagery can be found under the *Sargassum* Watch System (SaWS, <https://optics.marine.usf.edu/projects/saws.html>).

Processing note: For this and future bulletins, we have transitioned to a new *Sargassum* detection algorithm which leverages machine learning. Relative to the previous method, this new approach shows near-identical sensitivity in detecting *Sargassum*, while reducing false positives and false negatives near clouds and shorelines. While overall quantities slightly differ, relative trends noted in this (and previous) bulletins are the same for both systems.



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.