UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
College of MARINE SCIENCE

Outlook of 2025 *Sargassum* blooms

A perspective for the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of America*

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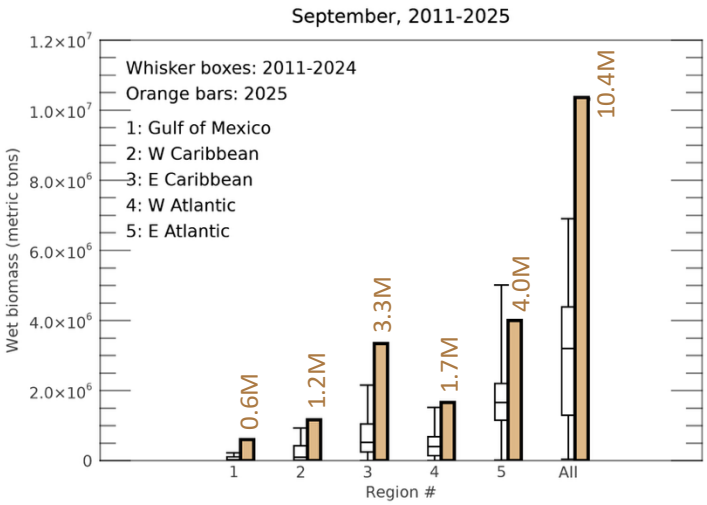
The map below shows the average *Sargassum* abundance for the month of September 2025, with warm colors representing higher abundance. The top color (red) indicates that 0.4% of the ocean surface is covered by *Sargassum*, meaning that *Sargassum* clumps and mats are scattered here and there in the location. The *Sargassum* abundance for each region is compared with historical values in the same month of 2011 – 2024 in the whisker box plot below, where horizontal bars in each vertical box indicate minimum, 25%, 50%, 75%, and maximal historical values, respectively.

As in previous years, the momentum of *Sargassum* decline continued in September, with total *Sargassum* amount in each of the five regions decreased. The decline was substantial in all but the East Atlantic region, with total *Sargassum* amount more than halved. Most *Sargassum* is now in the eastern Caribbean region, followed by the East Atlantic. In the Gulf of America, *Sargassum* amount decreased from 1.9M metric tons in August to 0.6 M metric tons in September, yet due to changes in ocean circulation the amount of *Sargassum* reaching the Straits of Florida increased, likely causing more inundations along the SE coast of Florida. Despite the overall declines, total *Sargassum* amount in every but the East Atlantic region still exceeded the historical record for the month of September, and inundation pressure around many Caribbean regions is still high.



Looking ahead: Total *Sargassum* amount in all regions is likely to continue to decline, possibly reaching the annual minimum around October – November. However, because the absolute amount is still much higher than any previous September, *Sargassum* inundation of variable degrees will continue to occur, especially along the Mexican Caribbean coast and around Haiti, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, among others. On the other hand, whether a beach or small region receives large amount of *Sargassum* depends on local factors that are difficult to predict, including winds and ocean currents.

All previous monthly bulletins as well as daily imagery can be found under the *Sargassum* Watch System (SaWS).