

2018 outlook of *Sargassum* blooms in the Caribbean Sea

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According to past experience, a winter bloom in the central West Atlantic often evolved into a major bloom in the Caribbean Sea in spring and summer. The past month of January 2018 showed the largest bloom in the central West Atlantic, as compared to the same month in history. Therefore, there is a high chance that 2018 will be another major bloom year for the Caribbean. By end of February or early March, we will have an update on this prediction. Further information can be found in: Wang, M., and C. Hu (2017), Predicting *Sargassum* blooms in the Caribbean Sea from MODIS observations, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 44, 3265–3273, doi:10.1002/2017GL072932.

