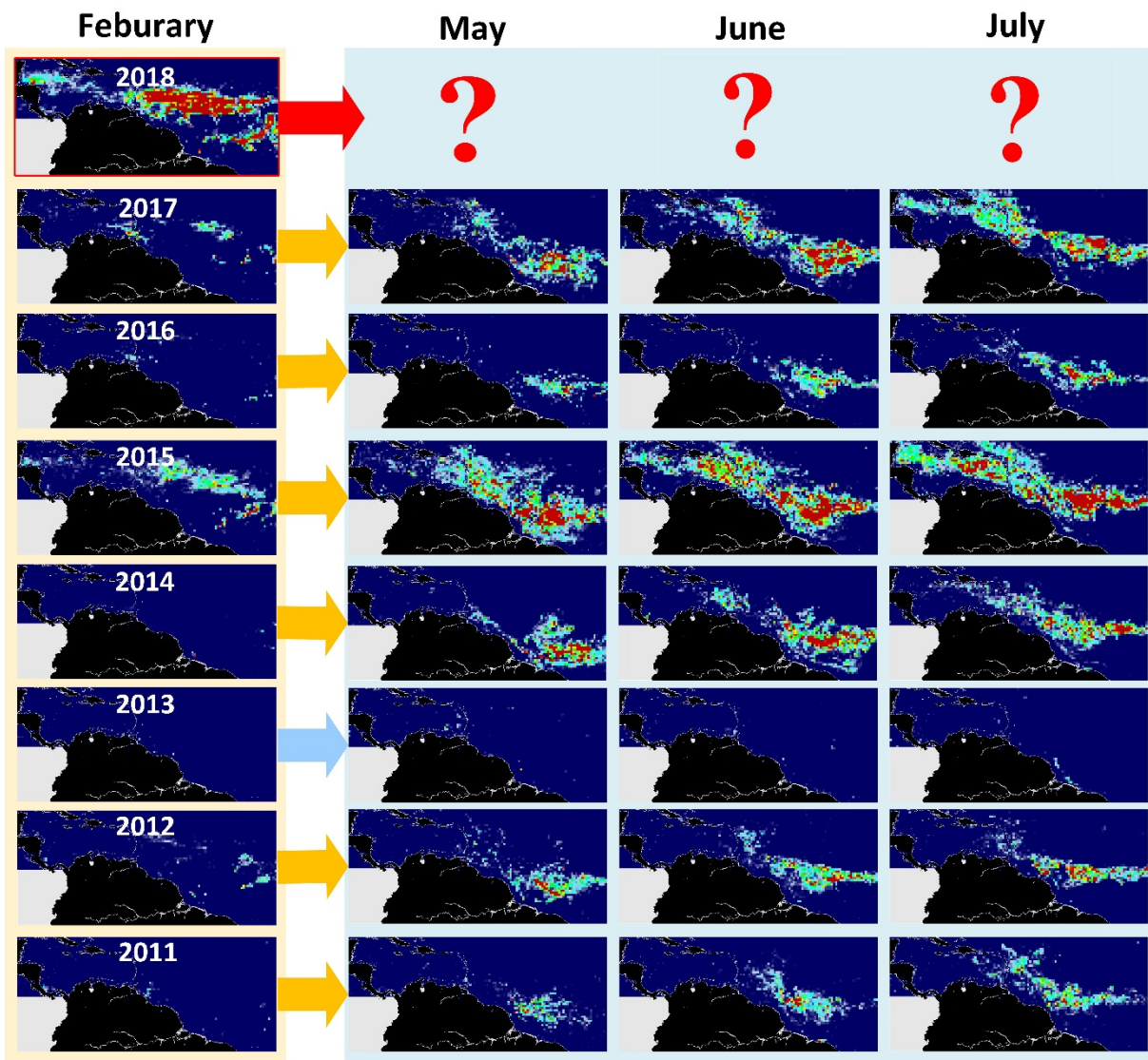


Outlook of *Sargassum* blooms in the Caribbean Sea for 2018\*  
 March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, by University of South Florida Optical Oceanography Lab  
 Sargassum outlook bulletin CS.2018.02; [mengqiu@mail.usf.edu](mailto:mengqiu@mail.usf.edu)

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 months of January and February 2018 showed the largest bloom in the central West Atlantic, as compared to the same months in history. Therefore, there is a high chance that 2018 will be another major bloom year for the Caribbean.

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.



Disclaimer: The information bulletin is meant to provide a general outlook of 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.