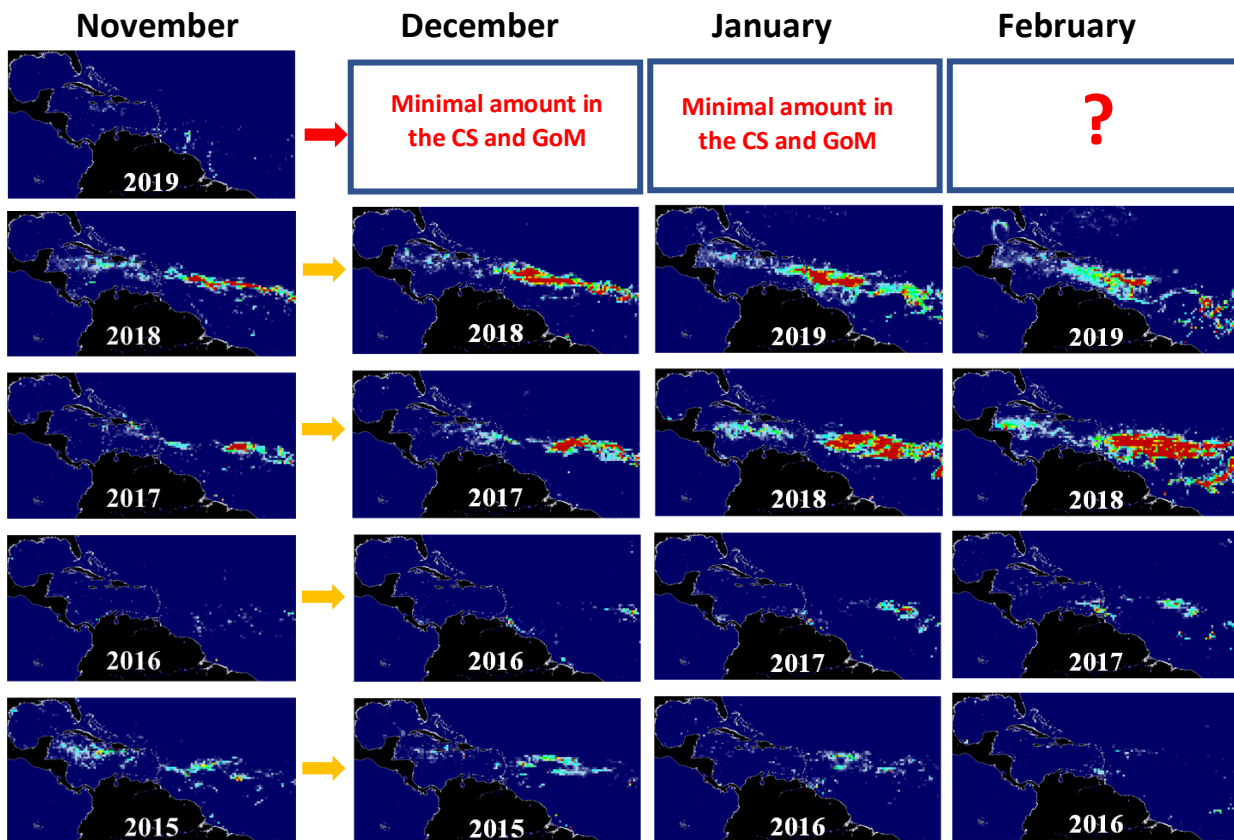




The maps below show *Sargassum* abundance, with warm colors representing high abundance. November 2019 continued the situation of October 2019. Very little *Sargassum* was found in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM), Florida straits, Caribbean Sea (CS), and Central West Atlantic (CWA). In all regions combined, the *Sargassum* amount reduced to ~0.5 million metric tons in November 2019 from 1.5M tons in October 2019. This amount is similar to that in November 2016 (0.7M tons) and much lower than in November 2017 (2.0M tons), November 2015 (1.5M tons), or November 2018 (3.2M tons). Most of the *Sargassum* mats are currently aggregated in the east tropical Atlantic (not shown in the maps below).

Looking ahead, because the *Sargassum* amounts in all regions above (except the east tropical Atlantic) have continued to decrease and because there is currently minimal *Sargassum* amount in the CWA, we predict that all regions will experience minimal or no beaching events in December 2019 and possibly January 2020. However, because there is still some *Sargassum* in the east tropical Atlantic, if these *Sargassum* are transported to the west following the equatorial current, the *Sargassum* amount in the CWA may increase in spring 2020. We will keep a close eye on how *Sargassum* in the east tropical Atlantic may evolve in the next two months.

More updates will be provided by the end of December 2019, and more information and near real-time imagery can be found under the Sargassum Watch System (SaWS, <https://optics.marine.usf.edu/projects/saws.html>).



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.