

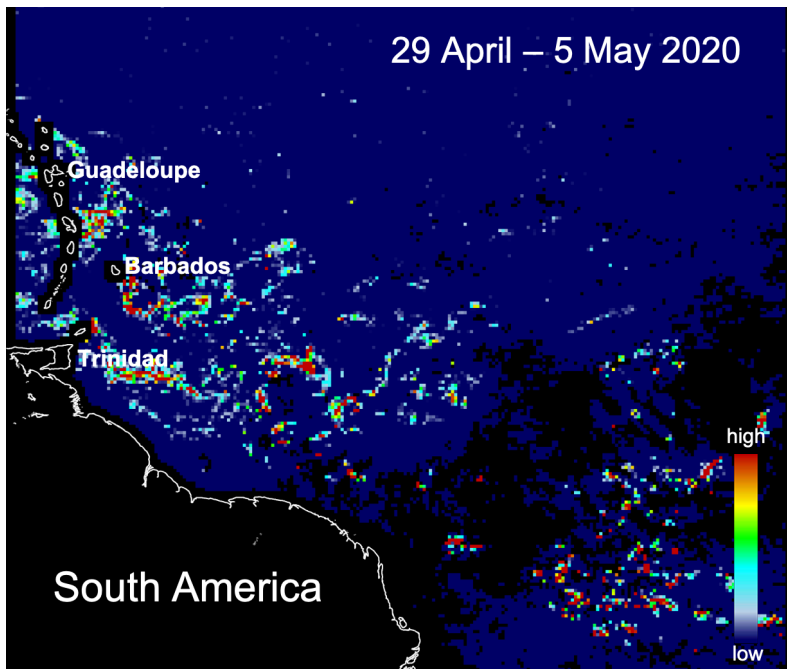
SARGASSUM

SUB-REGIONAL OUTLOOK BULLETIN



MAY 2020 | VOL I | ISSUE 4

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Federal Ministry
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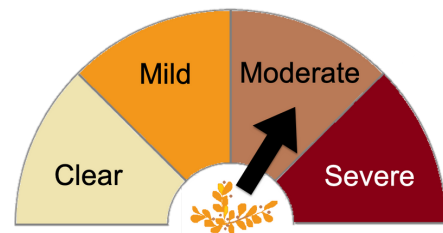


Sargassum image sourced from Optical Oceanography Laboratory USF.
Click on picture above to access the source image.

The map above is a satellite image processed to show sargassum abundance over a 7-day period. Warm colours represent high sargassum abundance.

SARGASSUM INFLUX EVENTS WILL CONTINUE OVER THE NEXT THREE MONTHS (MAY-JULY 2020)

- The Eastern Caribbean islands have seen moderate to severe sargassum influx events from mid March 2020 in the middle and southern islands. [Click here to see photos](#)
- Currently, there is 13% less sargassum visible out in the Atlantic than this time last year, and 52% less than in 2018, our worst year to date.
- However, visibility is poor because of significant cloud cover. This is affecting our assessment of current sargassum abundance.



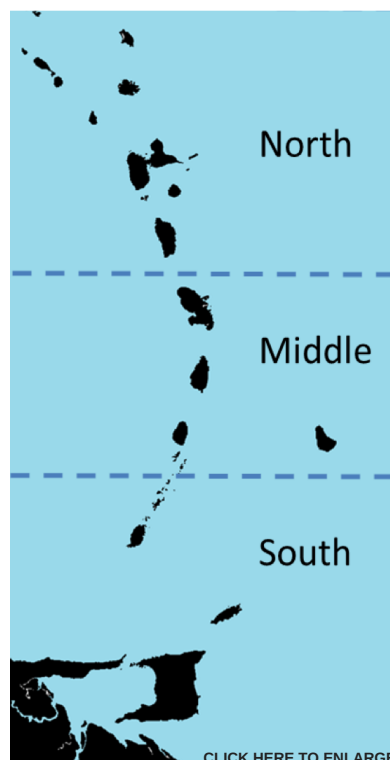
Sargassum abundance intensity level
(based on image 29 April - 5 May 2020)

CURRENT OUTLOOK (MAY - JULY 2020)

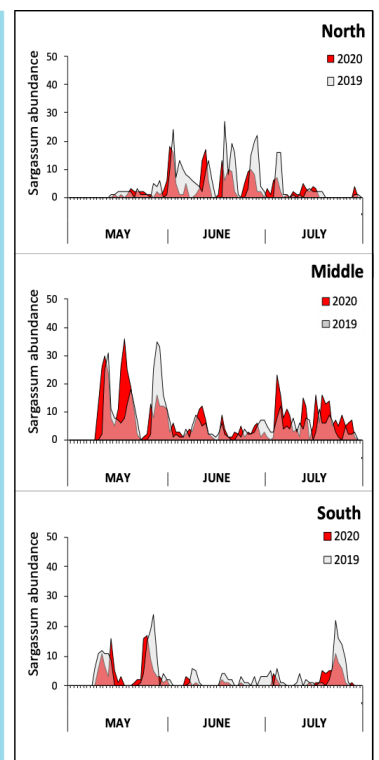
NOTE: Current levels of cloud cover on satellite images are compromising the accuracy of this forecast.

The Eastern Caribbean can expect sargassum influxes over the next 3 months (red) similar to the same period in 2019 (grey). Kindly note that higher levels than predicted may occur, given the limitation caused by clouds possibly covering sargassum in this forecast.

- Northern islands are likely to continue experiencing mild levels of sargassum influx with most coming in June.
- Middle islands are likely to experience moderate to severe levels increasing significantly in mid May then decreasing to mild levels in June, with an increase in July.
- Southern islands are likely to experience mild to moderate levels in May, decreasing considerably to mild levels up to the end of July.



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IMPLICATIONS FOR THE TOURISM SECTOR

- Stakeholders in the tourism industry will experience moderate to severe sargassum influx events over the next three months, decreasing at the end of July.
- Beaches and bathing areas will be periodically inundated with high quantities of sargassum.
- In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, many hotels and other tourism businesses will be closed. However, maintenance crews should remain on alert.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FISHERIES SECTOR

- The 2019/2020 fishing season will continue to be impacted by moderate to severe sargassum influxes for the next three months, decreasing at the end of July.
- Consumers can expect fewer flyingfish and more almaco jacks (amber fish) until the end of the pelagic fishing season.
- Landing sites will be periodically affected by sargassum inundations.
- Fisherfolk should remain vigilant, and report any sightings of large sargassum mats to fisheries management authorities.

SPOTLIGHT ON SARGASSUM INNOVATION

A company based in French Guiana (with activities in the Dominican Republic) that specializes in water, air and the environment in the Caribbean and Latin America, are working with several partners to develop sargassum-based activated carbon for use in water treatment.



[Click here for more information](#)

SARGASSUM CITIZEN SCIENCE APPLICATION

For broadscale monitoring of sargassum strandings across the Caribbean.



epicollect5



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Epicollect5 Sargassum
Citizen Science Methods](#)

USEFUL RESOURCES



[Click on the titles below to download resources](#)

GCFI Sargassum Influx Response Poster. A useful reminder at this time.
Report on Sarg'Expo and the International Conference on Sargassum
Best practices handbook for Caribbean fishers coping with sargassum
Prevention and clean-up of Sargassum in the Dutch Caribbean
CHTA/CAST- Sargassum: A Resource Guide for the Caribbean
CERMES/GCFI/SPAW-RAC Sargassum Management Brief

LATEST PUBLICATIONS

[Click on the titles below to access articles](#)

Pelagic Sargassum for energy and fertiliser production in the Caribbean: A case study on Barbados. (Thompson et al. 2020)

Sargassum Inundations in Turks and Caicos: Methane Potential and Proximate, Ultimate, Lipid, Amino Acid, Metal and Metalloid Analyses. (Milledge, J.J et al. 2020)

Turning seaweed into big business (Edwards 2020).

Element concentrations in pelagic Sargassum along the Mexican Caribbean coast in 2018-2019 (Rodríguez-Martínez et. al 2020)

Creativity from Chaos (UNDP LAC 2020)
Sea Change (UNDP LAC 2020)

The establishment of a pelagic Sargassum population in the tropical Atlantic: biological consequences of a basin-scale long distance dispersal event (Johns et al. 2020)

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