

SARGASSUM

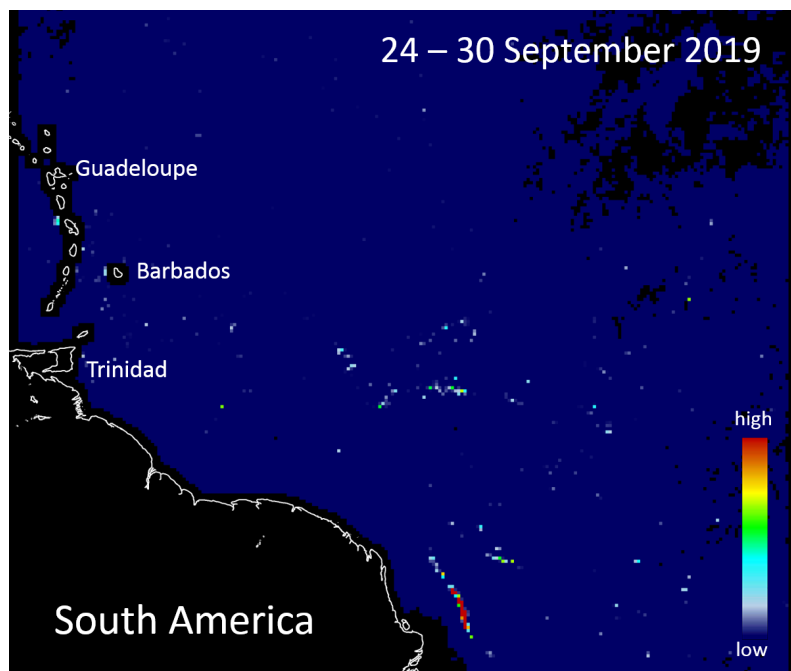
SUB-REGIONAL OUTLOOK BULLETIN



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



OCTOBER 2019 | VOL I | ISSUE 1

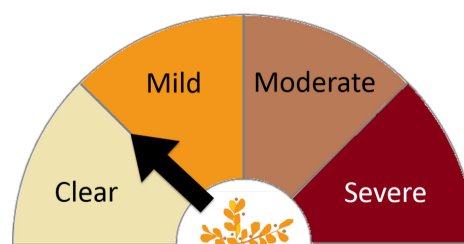


Sargassum image sourced from Optical Oceanography Laboratory USF.
Click on picture above to access the source image.

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 REMAIN MINIMAL OVER THE NEXT THREE MONTHS (OCT-DEC 2019)

- The Eastern Caribbean islands have seen moderate levels of sargassum throughout the summer of 2019.
- The level has now decreased considerably.
- Currently, there is very little sargassum visible out in the Atlantic.

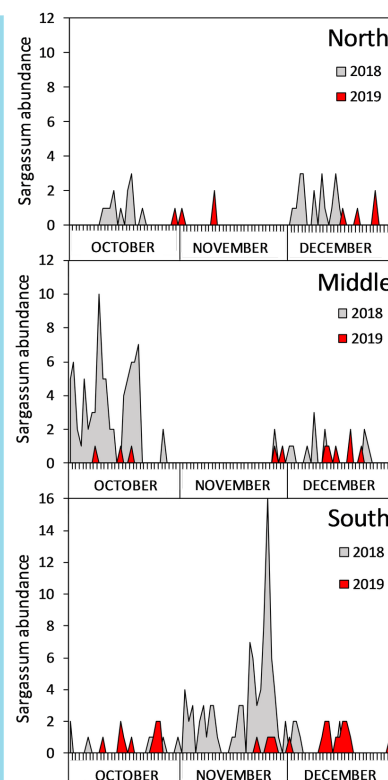
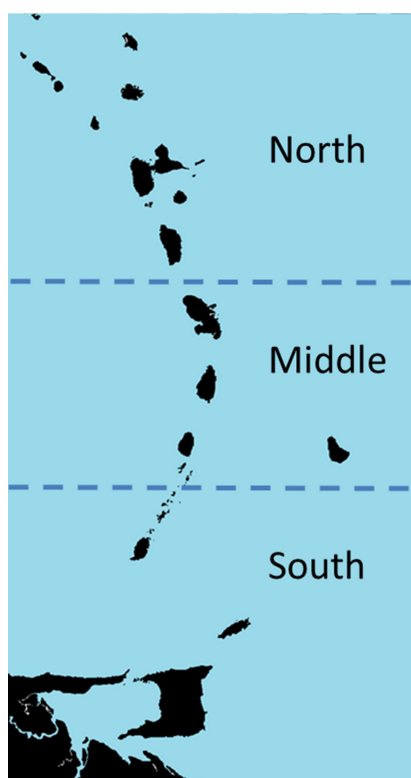


Sargassum abundance intensity level
(24-30 September 2019)

CURRENT OUTLOOK (OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2019)

The islands of the Eastern Caribbean can expect to be relatively free of sargassum over the next 3 months (red) especially compared with the same period in 2018 (grey).

- Northern islands are likely to be free of sargassum influxes through October with mild levels to year end.
- Middle islands are likely to remain relatively free of sargassum to year end especially during late October and November.
- Southern islands are likely to remain relatively free of sargassum to year end especially during early November.



IMPLICATIONS FOR THE TOURISM SECTOR

- The decrease in sargassum influx events is welcomed at the start of the 2019 tourism high season (December - April).
- Beaches and bathing areas should remain relatively clear of sargassum.
- Hotels and other tourism businesses should stay tuned for the next issue!

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FISHERIES SECTOR

- The decrease in sargassum influx events coincides with the start of the 2019 fishing season (November - June).
- It will be good news for flyingfish fishers and consumers but expect fewer almaco jacks (amberfish).
- All landing sites should remain clear of sargassum inundations.
- Fisherfolk and fisheries management authorities should stay tuned for the next issue!

SPOTLIGHT ON SARGASSUM INNOVATION

In Barbados, the grabs used to load sugar cane onto trucks have proven effective at picking up sargassum without removing sand from beaches.



[Click here to watch the video](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



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USEFUL RESOURCES



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

[Best practices handbook for Caribbean fishers coping with sargassum](#)

[GCFI Sargassum Influx Response Poster](#)

[CHTA/CAST- Sargassum: A Resource Guide for the Caribbean](#)

[CERMES/GCFI/SPAW-RAC Sargassum Management Brief](#)

[CRFM Model Protocol for Management of Sargassum Seaweed](#)

LATEST PUBLICATIONS

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

[Sargassum effects on the trophic structure of the sea urchin *D. antillarum* \(Cabanillas-Terán et al. 2019\)](#)

[Motile macrofauna associated with pelagic Sargassum in a Mexican reef lagoon. \(Monroy-Velázquez et al. 2019\)](#)

[The Great Atlantic Sargassum Belt. \(Wang et al. 2019\)](#)

[Faunal mortality associated with massive beaching and decomposition of pelagic Sargassum. \(Rodríguez-Martínez et al. 2019\)](#)

[Scientists slowly unravel sargassum mystery \(Cayman Compass\)](#)

[Will we \(Barbados\) become the land of the amberfish? \(Nation News\)](#)

SARGASSUM EVENTS

[Sarg' Expo \(23-26 Oct 2019\)](#)

[GCFI Conference \(4-8 Nov 2019\)](#)

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