

SARGASSUM

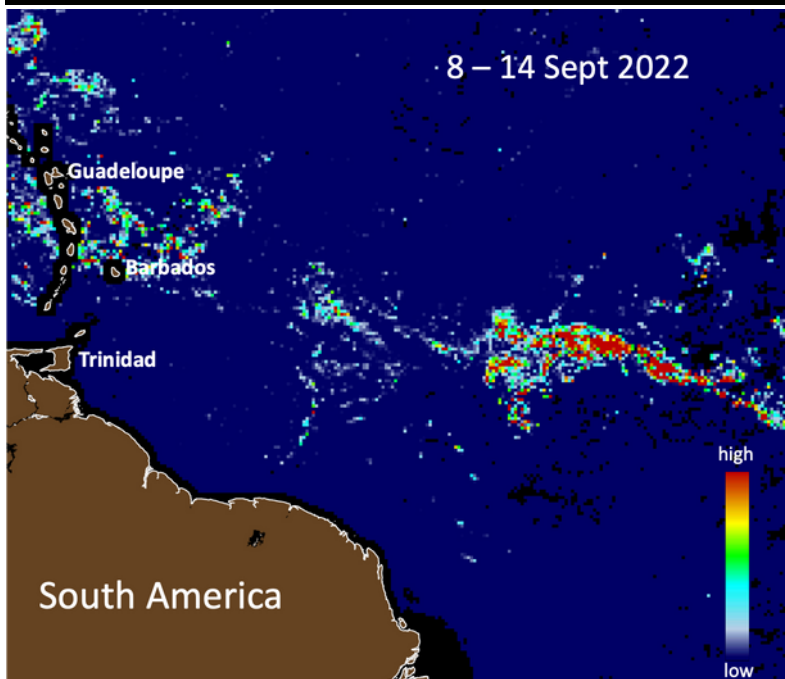
SUB-REGIONAL OUTLOOK BULLETIN



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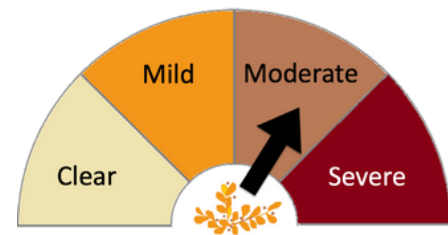


Sargassum image sourced from Optical Oceanography Laboratory USF.
Click on picture above to access the source image.

The map above is a satellite image processed to show sargassum abundance over a 7-day period. Warm colours represent high sargassum abundance. **Sargassum Watch System (SaWS)** website: <https://optics.marine.usf.edu/projects/saws.html>

SARGASSUM INFLUX EVENTS WILL BE MILD TO MODERATE OVER THE NEXT 3 MONTHS (SEPT-NOV 2022)

- The Eastern Caribbean islands experienced moderate to severe sargassum influxes in the third quarter of 2022. [\(Click here to view photos\)](#)
- The level of sargassum arriving is moderate and is expected to decrease in the coming weeks.
- There is 34% more sargassum visible out in the Atlantic than this time last year, more than seen in 2018, the worst year to date.

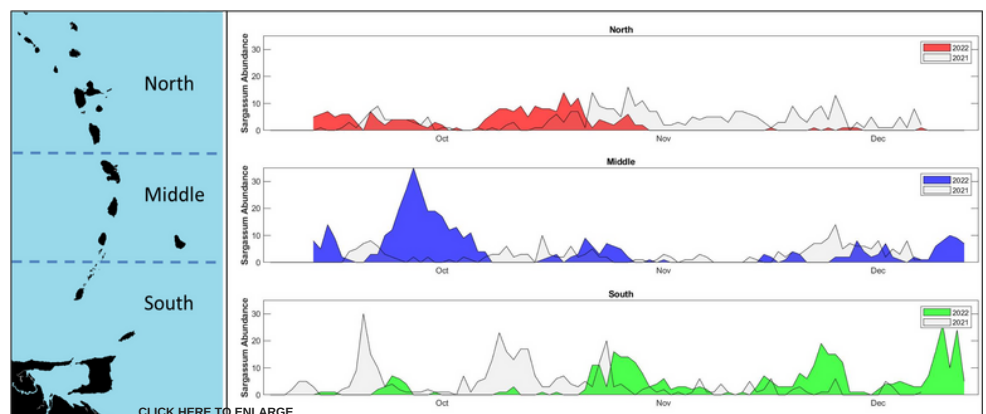


Sargassum abundance intensity level
(based on image 8 - 14 September 2022)

CURRENT OUTLOOK (SEPT-NOV 2022)

Overall, the islands of the Eastern Caribbean can expect mild to severe influxes over the next 3 months. Compared with last year (grey) the northern islands will likely get slightly higher influxes in October, but less for the rest of the year, whilst the middle islands can expect much more in late Sept-Oct than last year.

- **Northern islands** are set to receive moderate influxes from now until the end of October, when influxes are expected to decrease to mild levels.
- **Middle islands** will experience moderate to severe influxes until early October, when levels are expected drop to mild until December when sargassum will start building up again.
- **Southern islands** are expected to receive mild to moderate influxes of sargassum from now through late October and then several moderate peaks through early November to mid December.



IMPLICATIONS FOR THE TOURISM SECTOR

- Influxes are likely to decrease by the beginning of the winter season. This is good news for the sector given the highly anticipated start of the winter season at the beginning of November.
- Hoteliers and tourism practitioners especially in the southern islands, should communicate sargassum forecasts and potential impacts to manage the expectations of guests.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FISHERIES SECTOR

- There have been reports of a significant increase in amberfish landings, resulting in a decrease in market prices. These catches are welcomed ahead of the anticipated 2022/2023 pelagic fishing season in October/November.
- Fishers should desist from catching juvenile dolphinfish associated with sargassum during September and October.
- Fisherfolk in the southern islands can expect some disruption at windward landing sites from mid November due to moderate influxes.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

- Beached sargassum and large mats extending from the shoreline may provide a challenge for turtle hatchlings trying to make their way to the ocean.

SPOTLIGHT ON SARGASSUM INNOVATION

ORIGIN BY OCEAN

Origin by Ocean, founded in 2019, is a platform-based algae refining company based in Finland. The company began operations in Dominican Republic in June 2022 with its first export of sargassum from Punta Cana to its bioprocessing plant in Finland.

Read more here: <https://dominantoday.com/dr/bavaro-punta-cana/2022/06/20/origin-by-ocean-starts-exporting-sargassum-from-the-dominican-republic/>



Origin by Ocean starts exporting sargassum from the Dominican Republic.

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LATEST PUBLICATIONS

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- Sinking sargassum (Putman and Hu 2022).
- Trace metal content from holopelagic Sargassum spp. sampled in the tropical North Atlantic Ocean: Emphasis on spatial variation of arsenic and phosphorus (Gobert et al. 2022).
- Multiscale distribution patterns of pelagic rafts of sargassum (Sargassum spp.) in the Mexican Caribbean (2014–2020) (Uribe-Martinez et al. 2022)
- **Visit the UWI-CERMES Sargassum Reference Repository for more publications:**
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