The islands of the Eastern Caribbean can expect minimal sargassum influxes over the next 3 months (red) especially compared with the same period in 2019 (grey).

- Northern islands are likely to experience mild levels in late January, and be relatively free of sargassum influxes through late March.
- Middle islands are likely to experience mild levels of sargassum influxes over the next 3 months, increasing slightly in late March.
- Similar to last year the Southern islands are likely to remain virtually free of sargassum, except for mild influxes in mid March.
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE TOURISM SECTOR
- Stakeholders in the tourism industry should enjoy minimal sargassum influx events over the next three months, with a slight increase by mid March.
- Beaches and bathing areas should remain essentially clear of sargassum.
- Hotels and other tourism businesses should stay tuned for the next issue!

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FISHERIES SECTOR
- The 2019/2020 fishing season will continue with minimal sargassum influx events, until mid March when levels are likely to increase slightly.
- It should be good news for flyingfish fishers and consumers, although the water temperatures remain a bit higher than normal for this time of year.
- All landing sites should remain relatively clear of sargassum inundations.
- Fisherfolk and fisheries management authorities should stay tuned for the next issue!

SPOTLIGHT ON SARGASSUM INNOVATION
There is a St. Barts based company specializing in the production of sargassum based paper products.

There is a Dominican Republic based company developing new uses, including the production of utensils using a mix of sargassum and cassava.

USEFUL RESOURCES
Click on the titles below to download resources
Report on Sarg Expo and the International Conference on Sargassum
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

LATEST PUBLICATIONS
Click on the titles below to access articles
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)
What nutrient sources support anomalous growth and the recent sargassum mass stranding on Caribbean beaches? A review. (Oviatt et al 2019)
Sargassum invasion in the Caribbean: the role of medical and scientific cooperation (Resiere et al. 2019)
The Great Atlantic Sargassum Belt. (Wang et al. 2019)
Motile macrofauna associated with pelagic Sargassum in a Mexican reef lagoon. (Monroy-Velázquez et al. 2019)

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