Experimental Weekly Sargassum Inundation Report (SIR v1.2)

By the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the University of South Florida (USF)

Status: Feb 18-24, 2020

Since 2011, large accumulations of Sargassum is a recurrent problem in the Caribbean Sea, in the Gulf of Mexico and tropical Atlantic. These events can cause significant economic, environmental and public health harm. These experimental Sargassum Inundation Reports (SIR) provide an overview of the risk of sargassum coastal inundation in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico regions. Using as core inputs the AFAI (Alternative Floating Algae Index) fields generated by the University of South Florida (USF), the algorithm analyses the AFAI values in the neighborhood (50 km) of each coastal pixel and, computing the difference between those values and a multiday baseline, classifies the risk into three categories: low (blue), medium (orange) and high (red). In black are areas with not enough data. The two ad-hoc thresholds used for classification are 0.001 and 0.003. The vectors in the images represent the geostrophic currents. SIR is the result of the collaboration between the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (NOAA/AOML), NOAA/CoastWatch/OceanWatch, and USF.
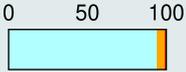

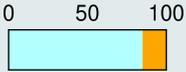**Risk Levels**

High
Medium
Low

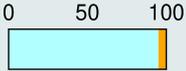**% of shoreline per risk level**
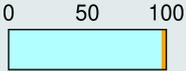
Gulf of Mexico
0 50 100
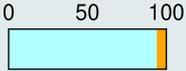
Greater Antilles
0 50 100

Lesser Antilles
0 50 100

Central America
0 50 100

South America
0 50 100

Sargassum Inundation Report
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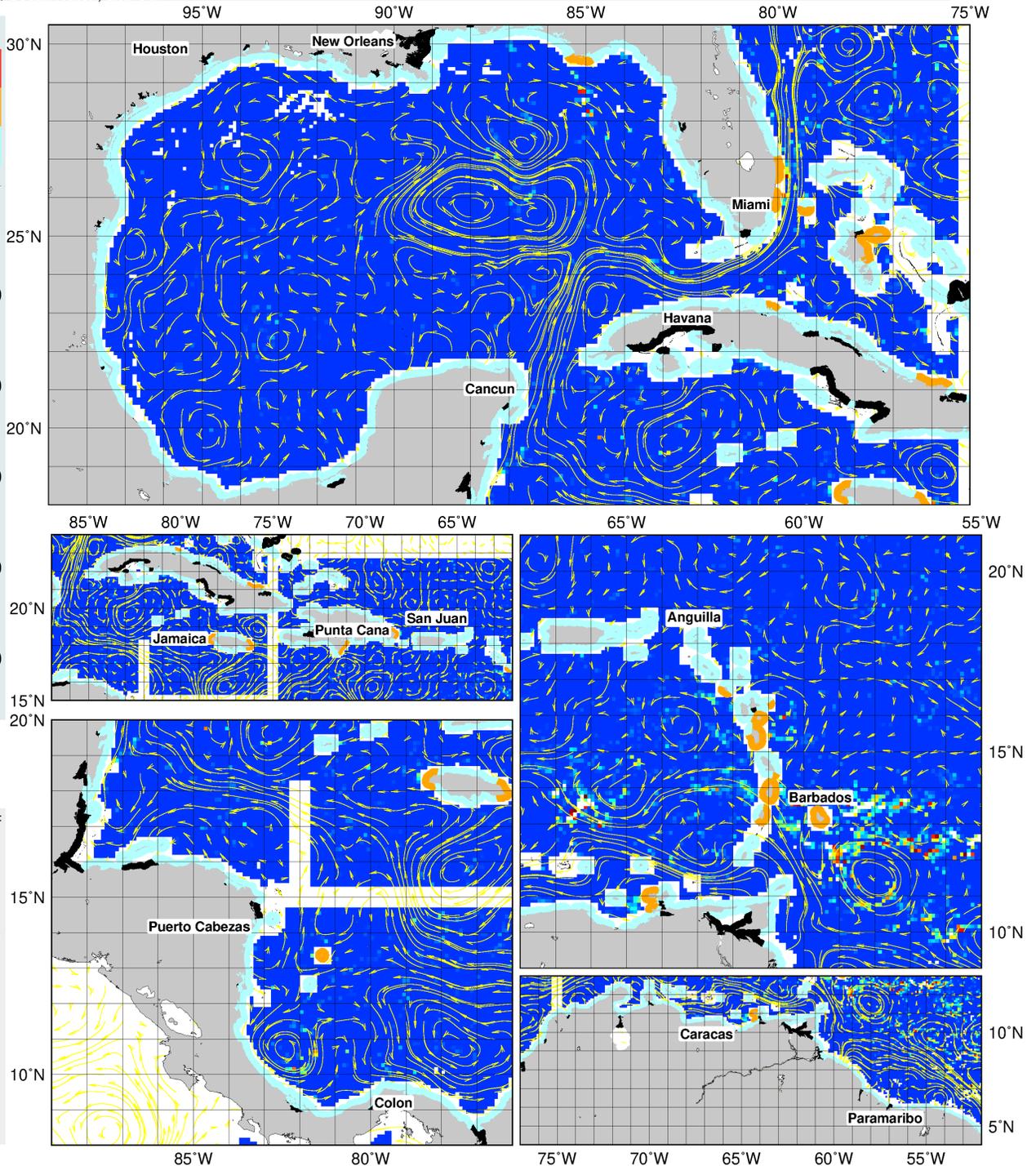**Gustavo Goni**
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References: USF Sargassum Watch System   Atlantic OceanWatch

Disclaimer: This is an experimental product and still subject to validation by NOAA/AOML, NOAA/CoastWatch/OceanWatch, and USF.