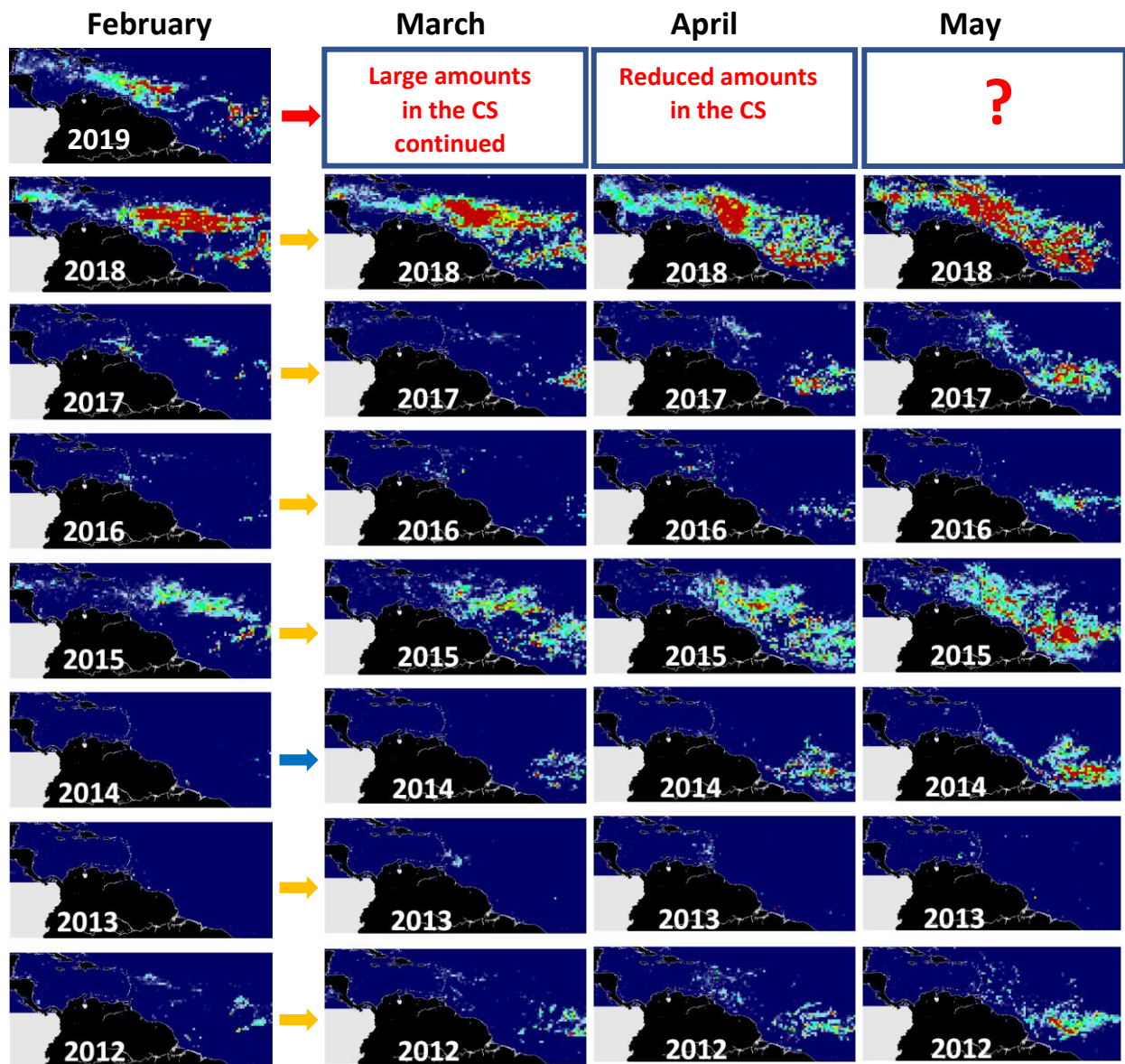




In 2018, the Caribbean Sea (CS) has experienced a record-high and prolonged *Sargassum* bloom. The maps below show *Sargassum* abundance, with warm colors representing high abundance. In Feb 2019, similar amounts as in Feb 2018 appeared in the eastern CS, but amounts in the Central West Atlantic (CWA) were lower. Meanwhile, large amounts of *Sargassum* were found in the western CS from Belize to the Yucatan channel, and then in the eastern Gulf of Mexico through the Loop Current. In Mar 2019, this trend is likely to continue. However, in Apr 2019 the amount of *Sargassum* transported from the CWA to the CS may be lower than in Apr 2018. According to the conditions in the eastern Atlantic, in later months of 2019 the CS may still experience moderate to large amounts of *Sargassum*.

Wang, M., and C. Hu (2017), Predicting *Sargassum* blooms in the Caribbean Sea from MODIS observations, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 44, 3265–3273, doi:10.1002/2017GL072932.



Disclaimer: The information bulletin is meant to provide a general outlook of current bloom condition and future bloom probability for the Caribbean Sea. By no means should it be used for commercial purpose, or used for predicting bloom conditions for a specific location or beach. The authors of this bulletin, as well as USF and NASA, take no responsibility for improper use or interpretation of the bulletin.