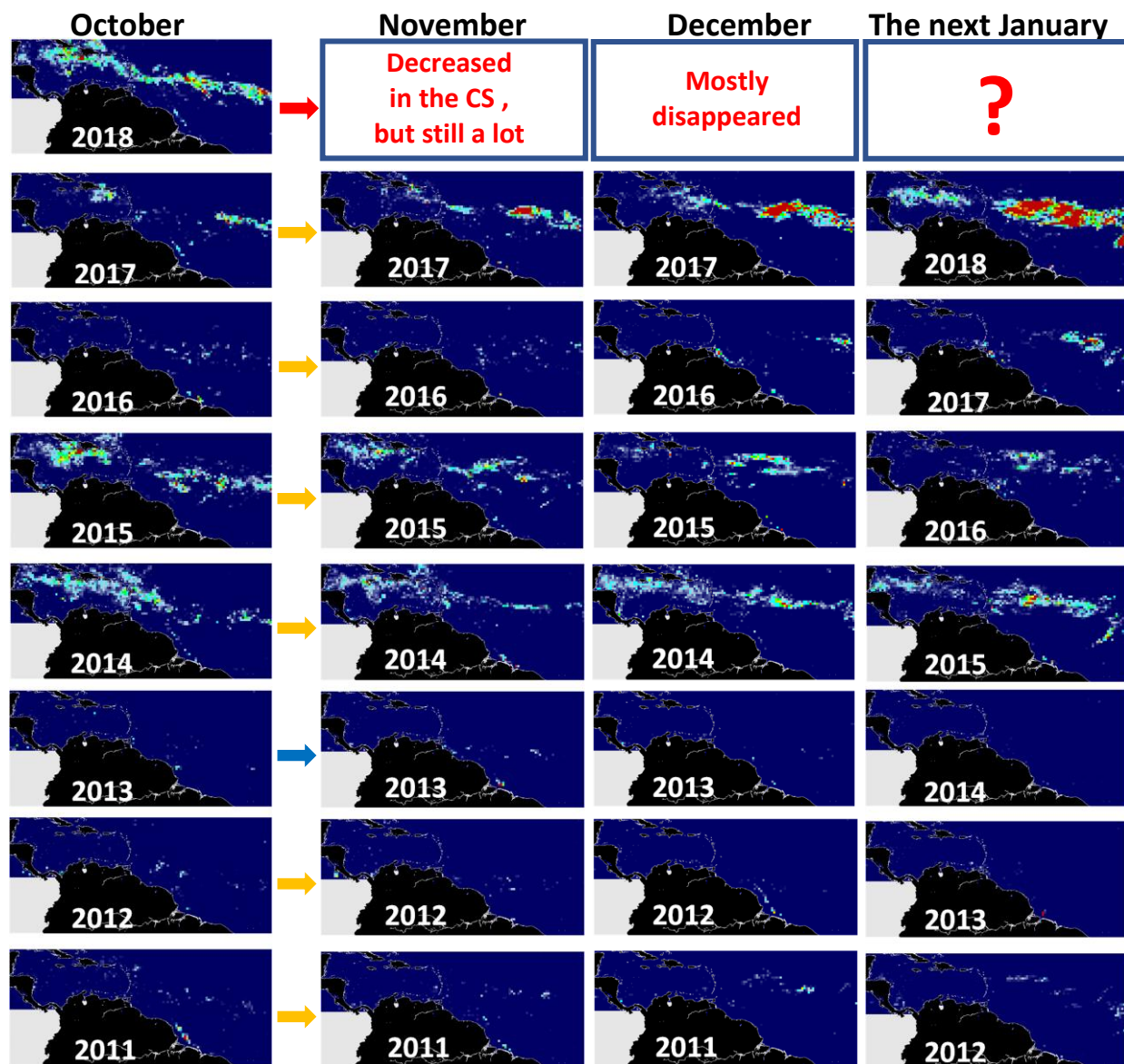


So far the Caribbean Sea (CS) has experienced a record-high *Sargassum* bloom ever since January 2018. The maps below show *Sargassum* abundance, with warm colors representing high abundance. In October 2018, the overall bloom intensity continued to decrease from September, but still comparable to the bloom extent in October 2015. There is also significant amount of *Sargassum* in the central West Atlantic, which will be transported to the CS ocean currents. Based on these observations we predict that although the bloom intensity in the Caribbean will continue to decrease in November, the northern CS will still see considerable amount of *Sargassum*. The southern CS will be nearly free of large *Sargassum* mats, and by December most *Sargassum* mats in the CS may have dissipated.

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.