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des sargasses*



# Plausible scenarios of sargassum (*Sargassum spp.*) population based on satellite-detection and beaching indices.





The sargassum phenomenon is considered a Wicked problem - problème enchevêtré.





**Climate change**  
Hemisphere, Periods  
of 6 -7 decades in the  
Atlantic Ocean

**Northequatorial circulation System**  
Transatlantic Africa-South America  
annual / stational

**Currents System in the Caribbean**  
South America - Caribbean – G. México  
Stational / monthly

**Subregional Currents System**  
Local / beaches  
days/ weeks

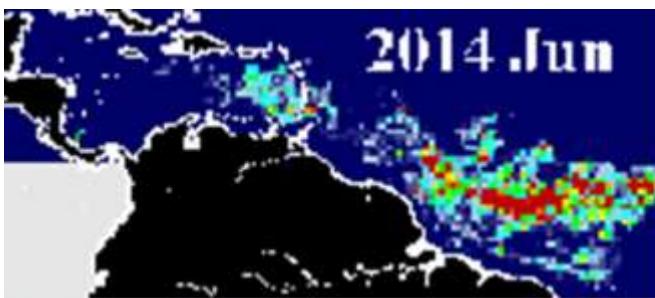
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**3**

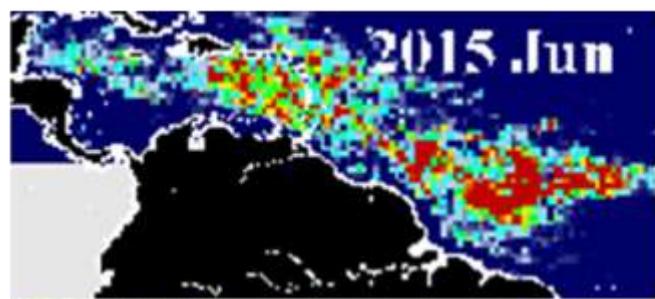
**2**

**1**

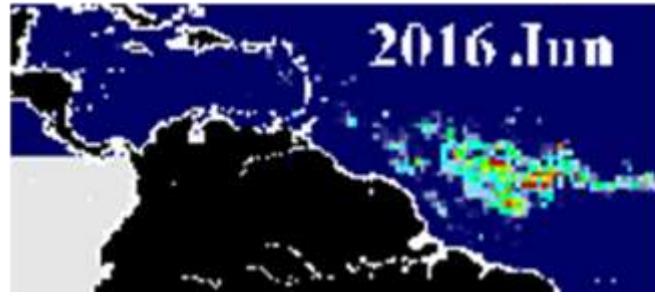
**Dynamic processes inter-connected at different geographic  
Scales and times**



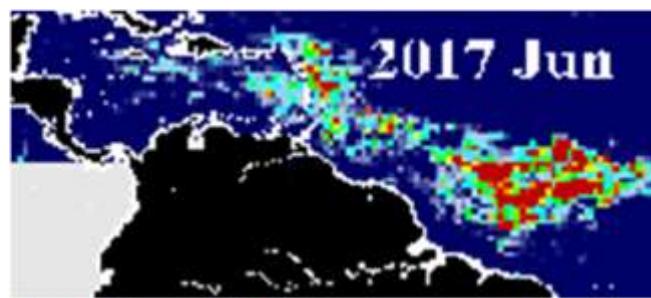
2014.Jun



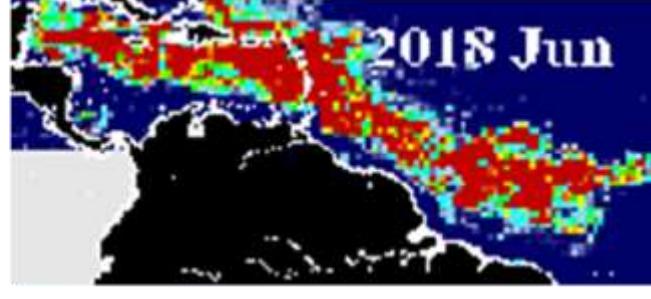
2015.Jun



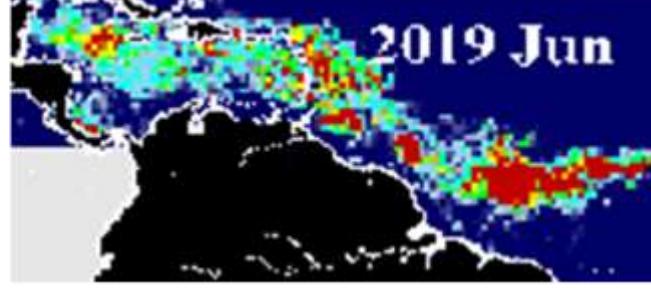
2016.Jun



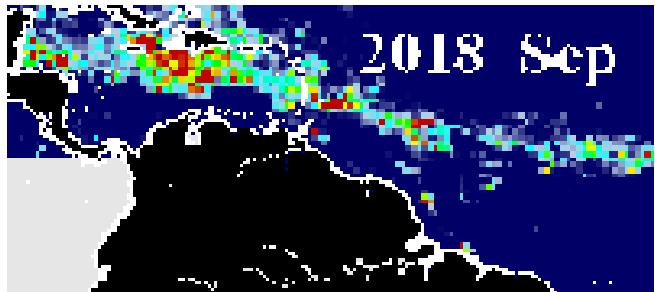
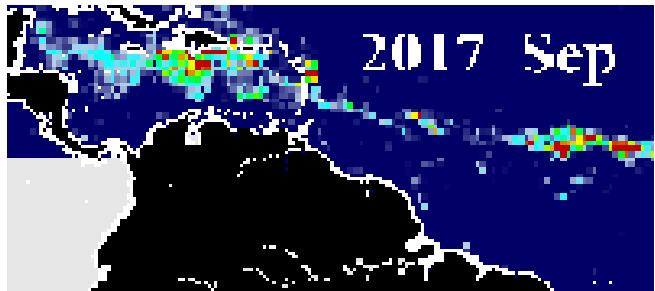
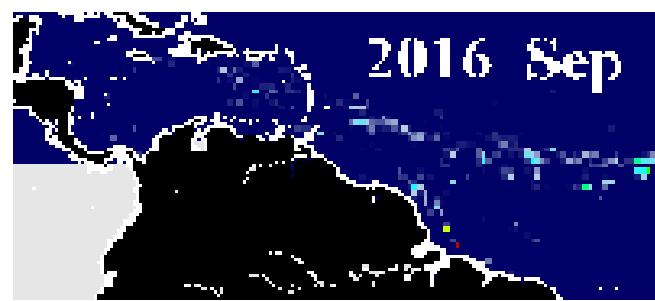
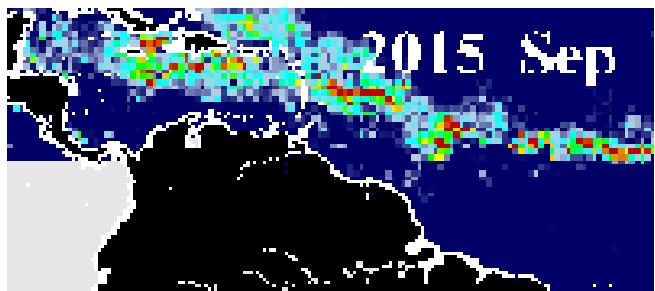
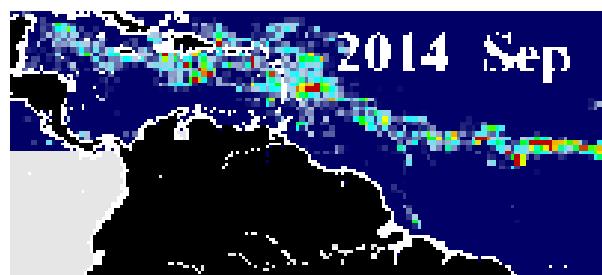
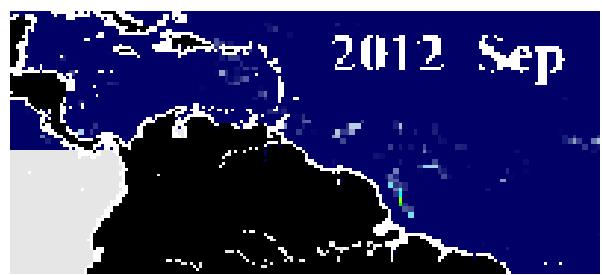
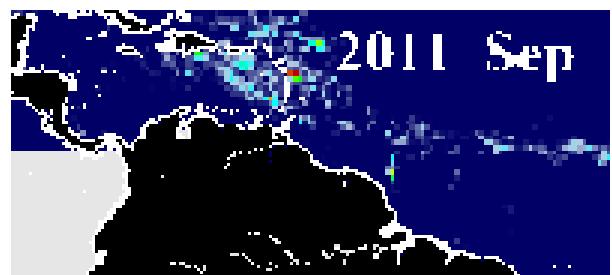
2017 Jun



2018 Jun



2019 Jun

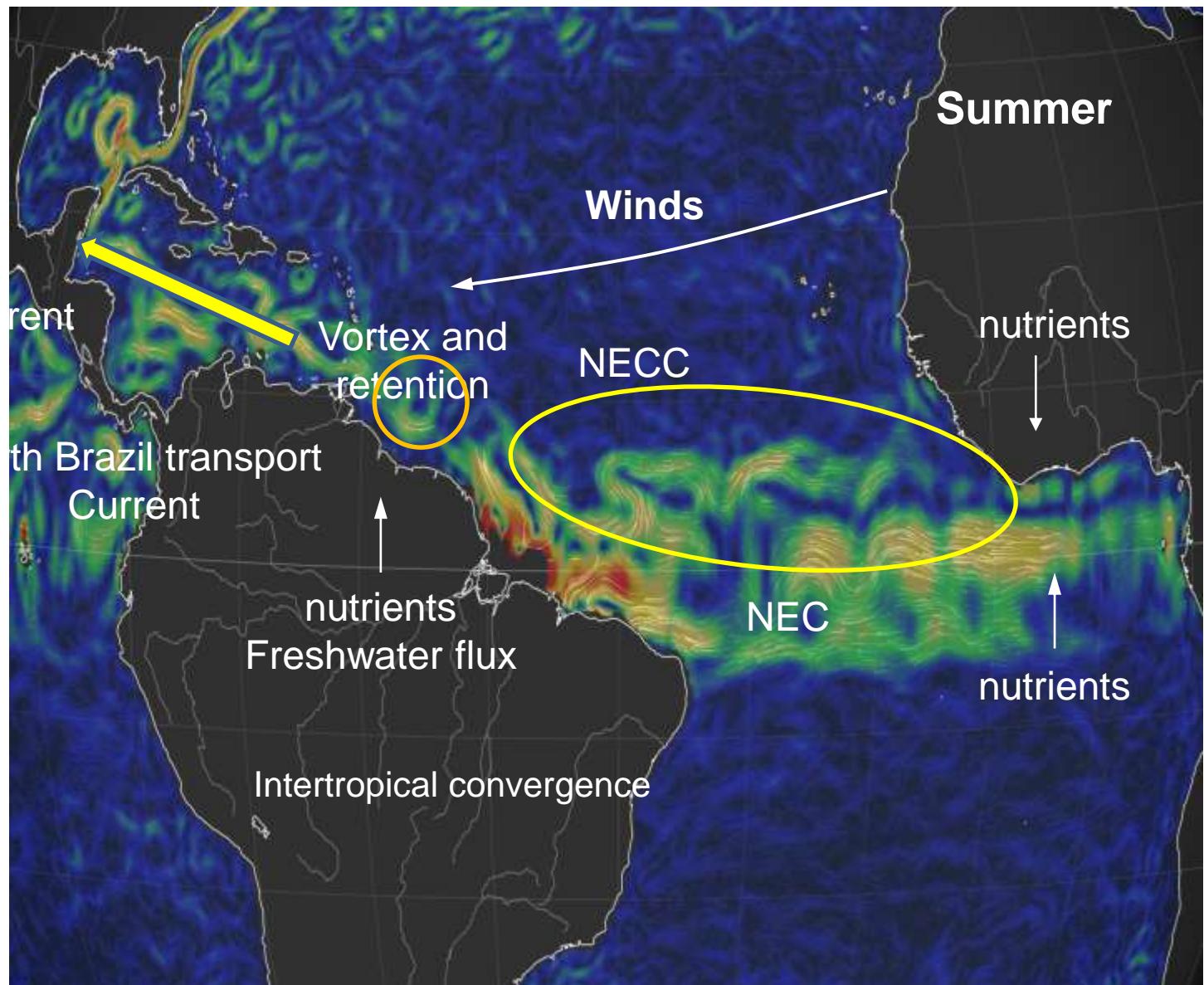




- ❑ Brazil is pass-through region....not a source region.

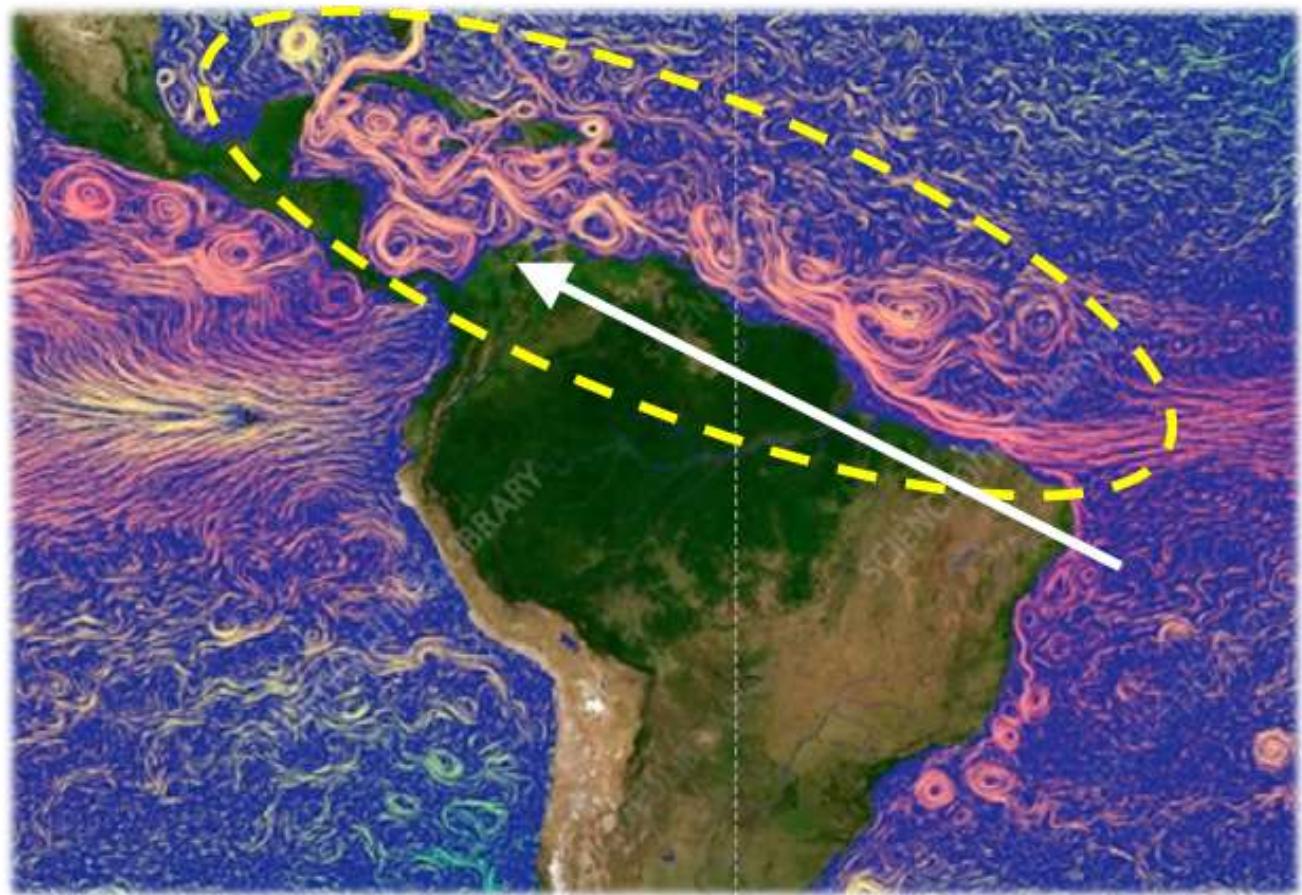


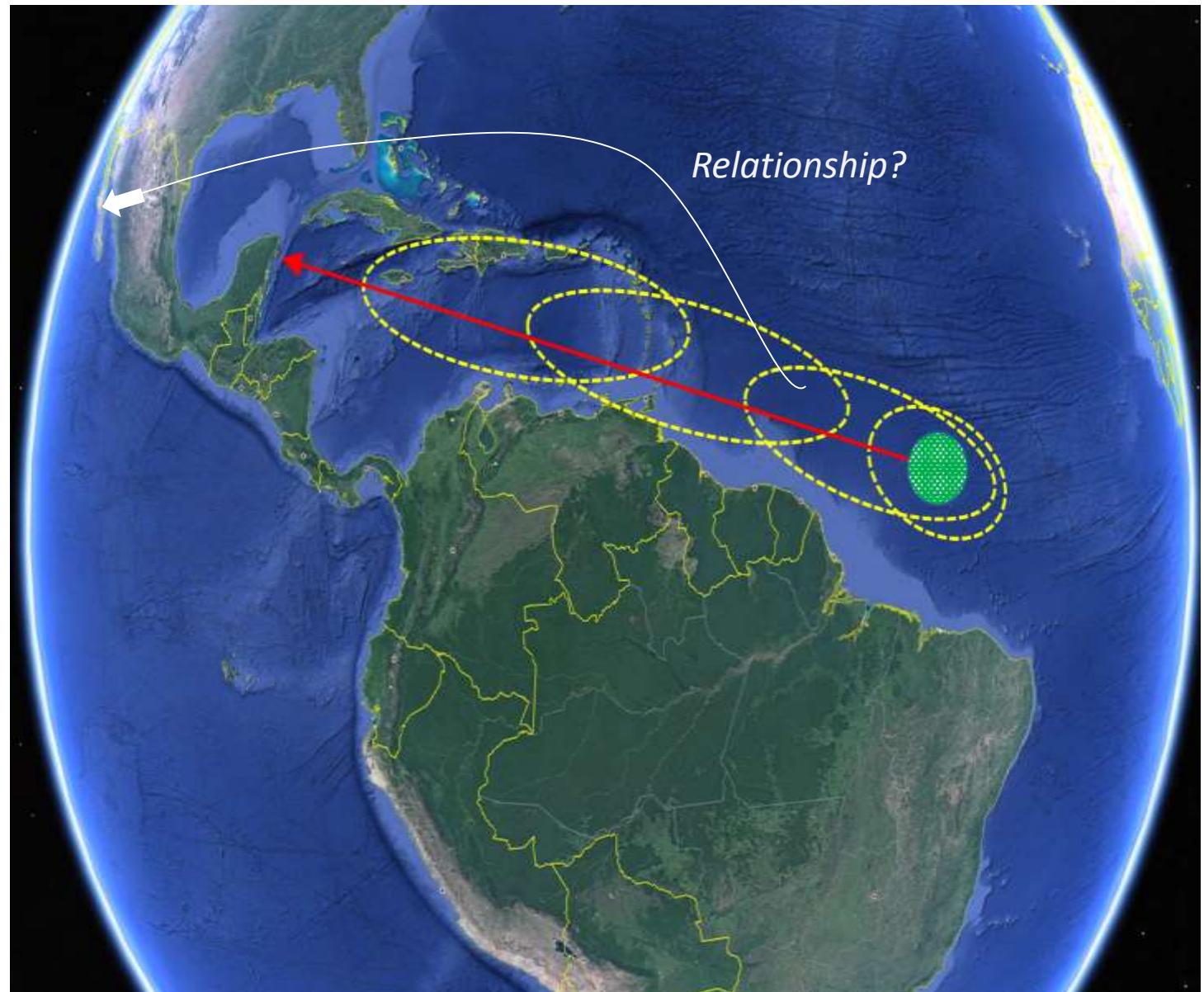
Proposed: Consolidation Regions are regions of Sargassum

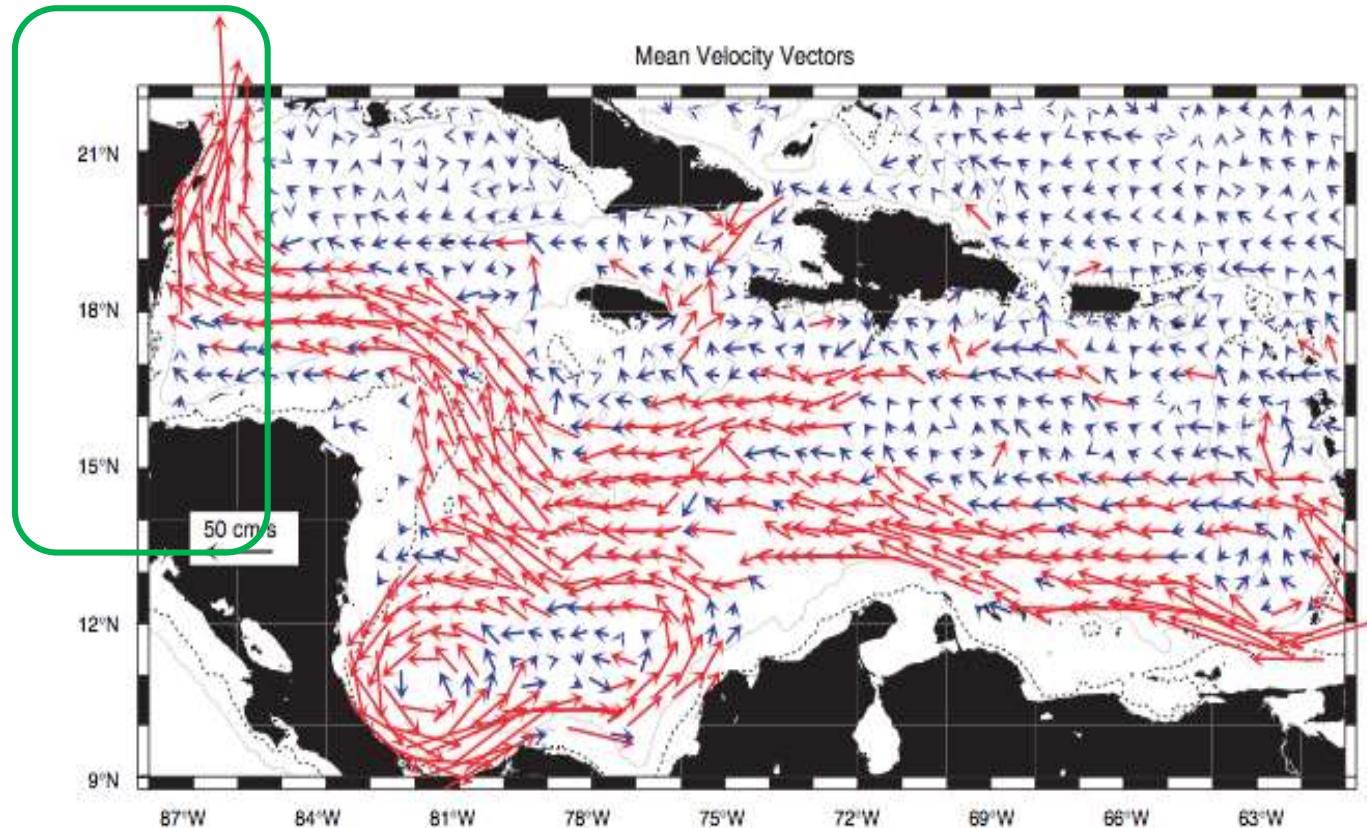




## Transportation to the Great Caribbean







Caribbean current general pattern



Collection of sargassum in front of the  
Moon Palace Hotel



Reporte Meterológico Playa Moon Palace										
Día	Cantidad de pastos (Semaforo)	Condiciones Climatologicas	Dirección del Viento	Rachas de Viento	Especie de sargazo o pasto	Fase de mayor afectación	Volumen extraido m3	Volumen procesado m3	Fenómeno Meteorológico Reportado	Observaciones
1	1	PN	E	11-15	SF	Sunrise	140			MB
2	2	DLL	SE	10-16	SF,TT	Sunrise	378	7		MB
3	2	CD	SE	17-22	SF,TT	Sunrise	63			MB
4	3	CD	SE	8-12	SF,TT	Sunrise	147	7		MB
5	3	CD	SE	7-11	SF,TT,SA	Sunrise	105			MB
6	2	CD	SE	8-10	SF,TT,SA	Sunrise	77	7		MB
7	2	CD	NE	4-8	SF,SA	Sunrise	21			MB
8	1	CD	ESE	11-13	SF	Sunrise	21			MB
9	2	CD	ESE	8-10	SF,TT,SA	Sunrise	133			MB
10	3	PN	NE	9-15	SF,TT,SA	Sunrise	308	7		MB
11	2	CD	NE	15-20	TT,SA	Sunrise	189			MA
12	2	CD	NE	11-18	SF,TT,SA	Sunrise	70			MB
13	2	DLL	NE	20-15	TT,SA	Sunrise	63	14		MB
14	1	CD	NE	11-22	SF,TT	Sunrise	35			MB
15	1	CD	O	14-18	SF	Sunrise	35			MB
16	3	CD	SE	5-14	TT,SF,SA	Sunrise	245	21		MB
17	3	CD	SE	12-15	SA,SF	Sunrise	259			MB
18	3	CD	SE	15-20	TT,SF,SA		119			MB
19	2	CD	SE	10-20	SF,SA		154			MA
20	2	CD	NE	10-22	SF,SA		91			MB
21	2	CD	NE	15-18	SF,TT		70			MA
22	3	CD	SE	12-16	SA,SF		112			MA
23	2	CD	NE	6-14	SF,TT		56			MA
24	3	PN	E	7-10	SF,SA		126			MA
25	3	CN	E	12-15	SF,SA		175			MB
26	3	CD	O	4-12	SF,SA		186			MB
27	3	CD	O	10-14	SF,TT		126			MA
28	3	PN	NO	12-17	SA,SF		98			
29	3	CD	SE	16-21	SA,SF		364			
30	3	CD	SE	10-20	SA,SF		378			
31										
						Volumen total mensual	4344	63		
						Promedio mensual	144.8			
						Máximo diario	378			
						Mínimo diario	21			

Etapas del sargazo basadas en la cantidad de Sargazo o Pastos marinos en playa: 1 (0-20%), 2 (20-40%), 3 (40-60%), 4 (60-80%) y 5 (80,100%)

Condiciones climatológicas: Se refiere a cielo despejado (CD), Cielo parcialmente nublado (PN), cielo nublado (CN), Lluvias parciales

Fenómenos meteorológicos reportados: Ciclón tropical (CT), depresión tropical (DT), tormenta tropical (TT), huracán (H)

Fase hotelera de mayor afectación: S (Sunrise); N (Nizuc); MG (Moon Grand)

Especies de algas o pastos marinos: S: Sargassum; Sf: Syringodium filiforme; Th: Thalassia testudinum



*Thalassia testudinum*



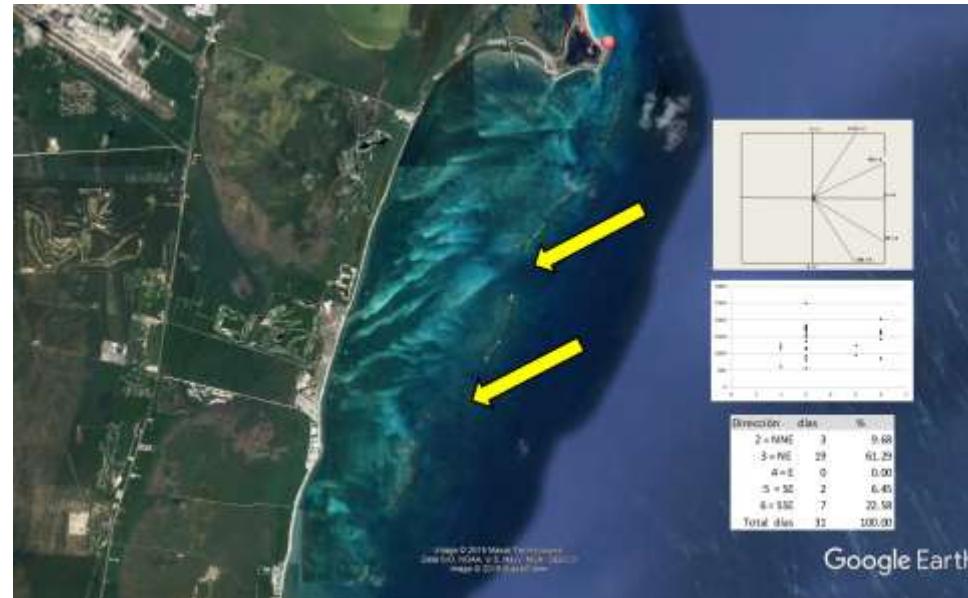
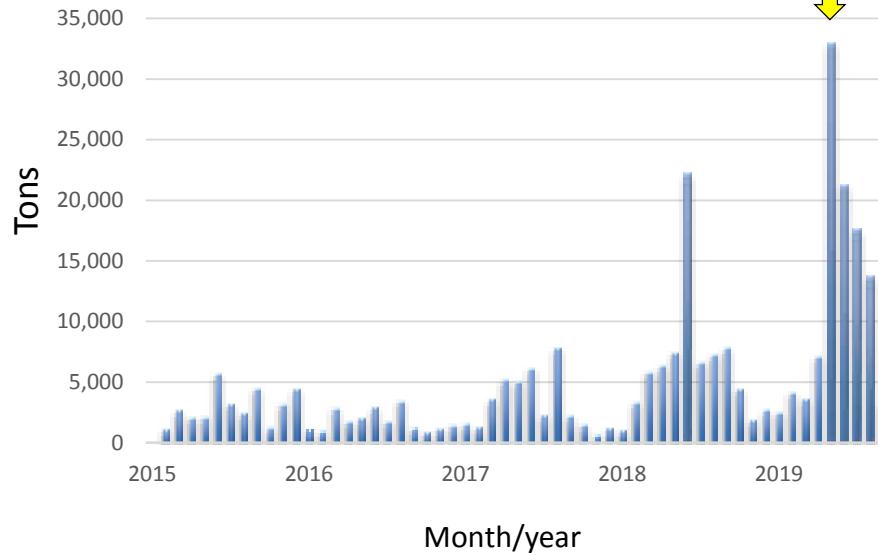
*Syringodium filiforme*



*Sargassum alga*

## Biomass (Tons) of Sargassum per month/year Moon Palace Hotel

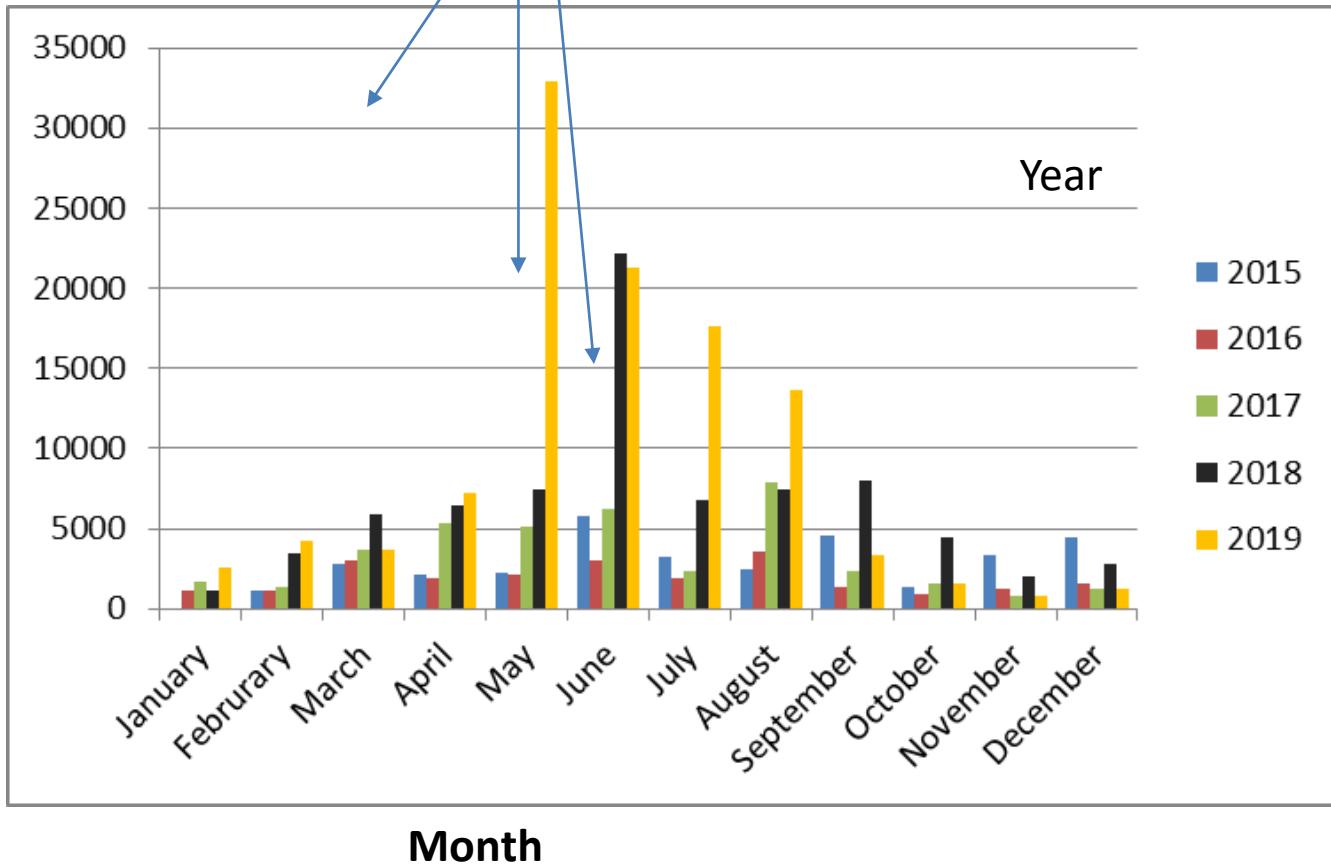
May

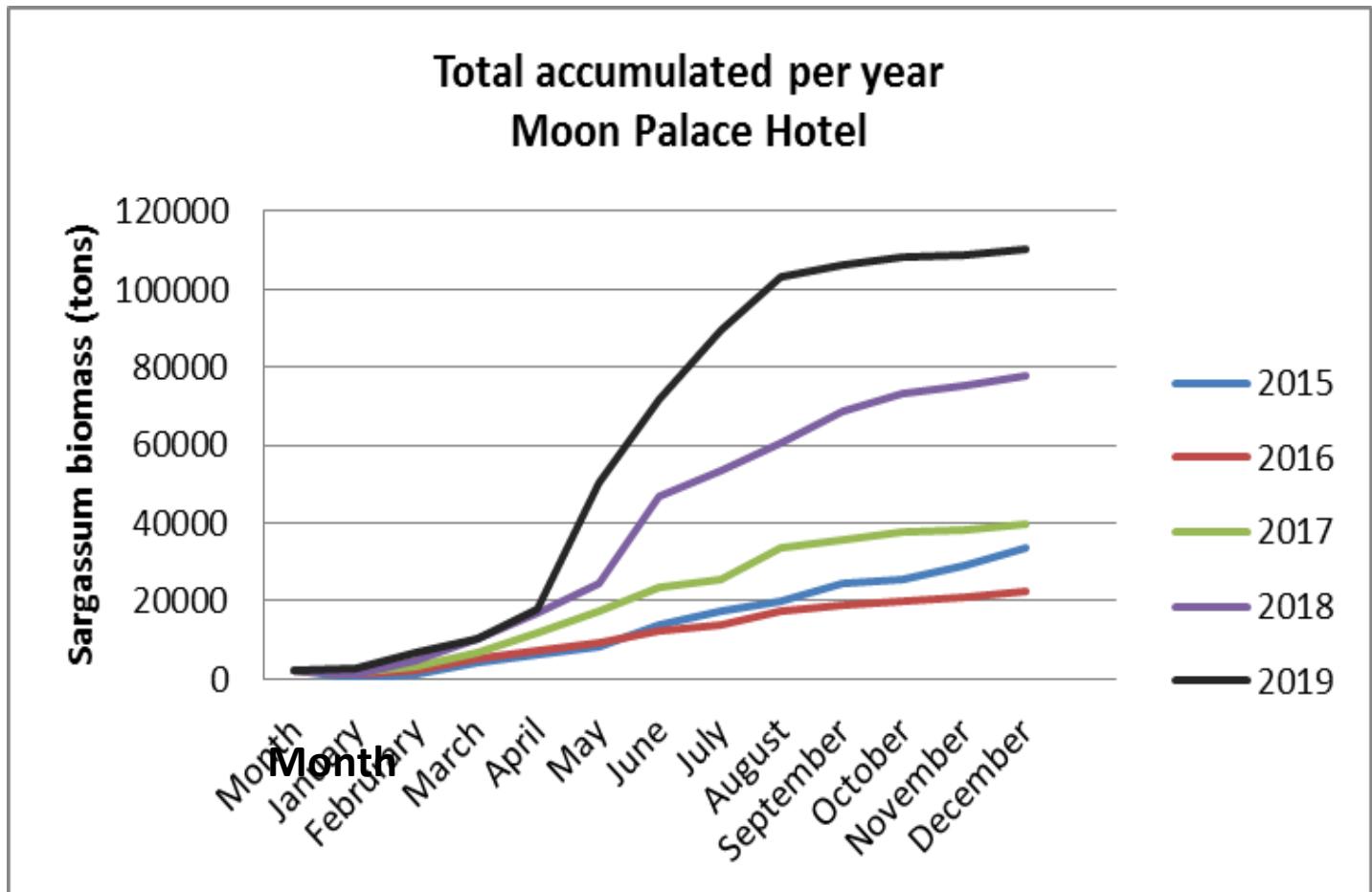




Tons of sargassum per month registered  
at Moon Palace Hotel

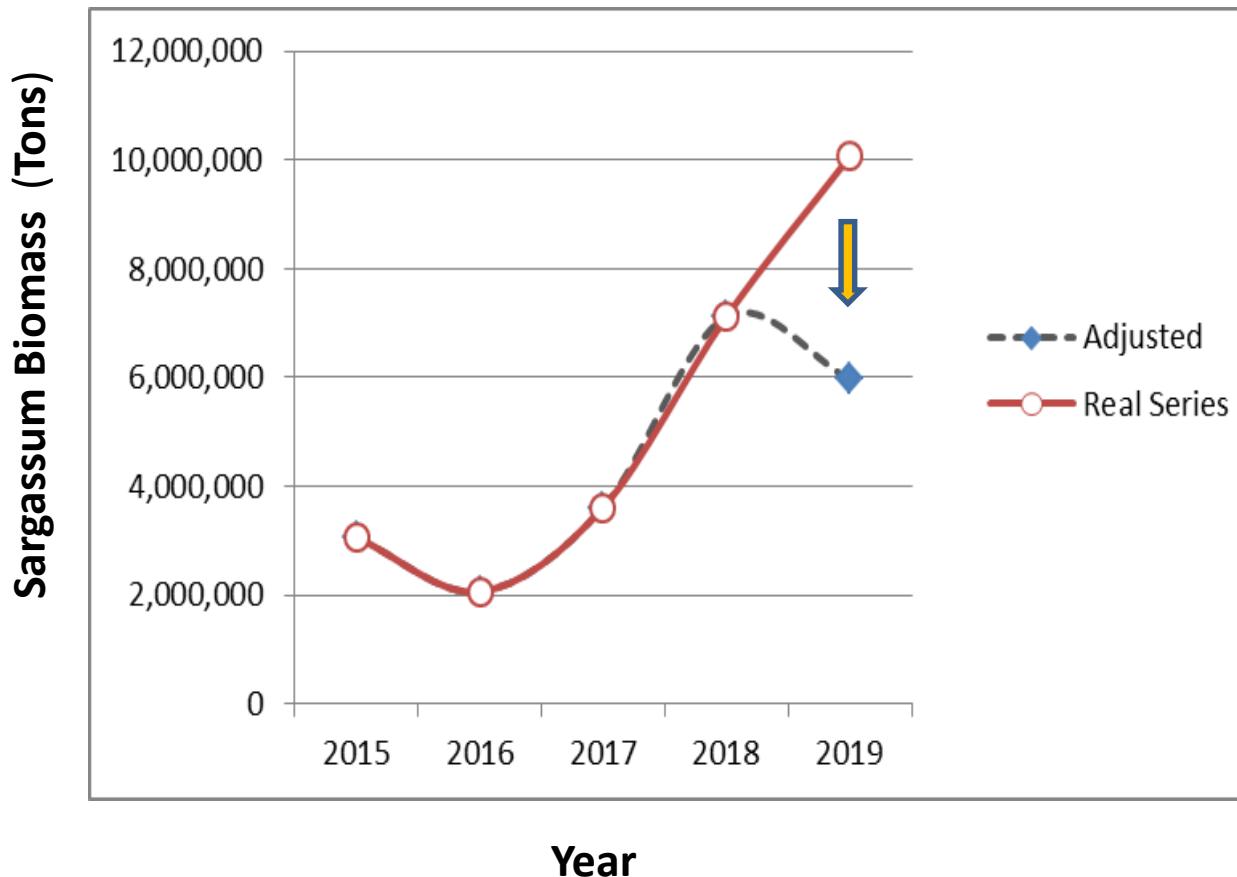
Wind effect





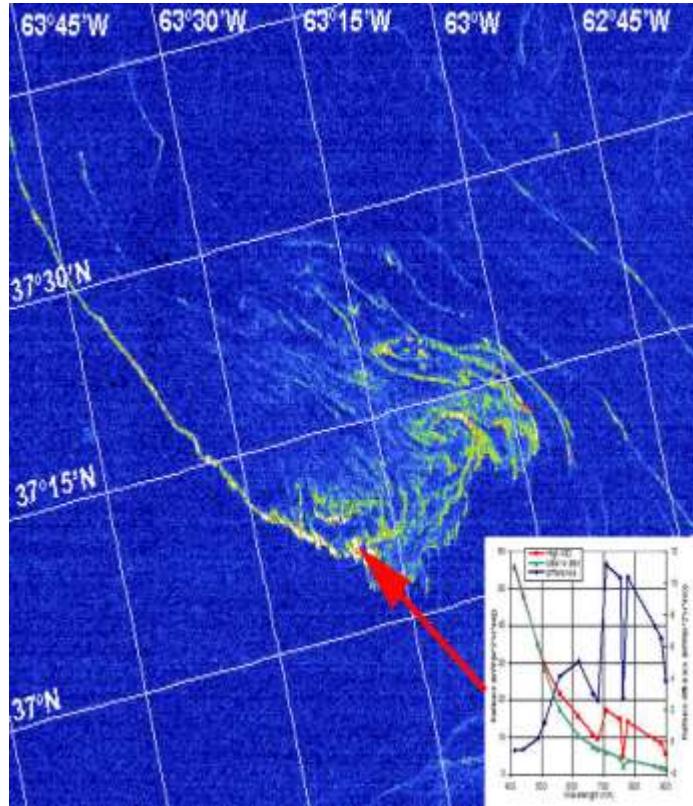


## Whole coast of Quintana Roo, Mexico





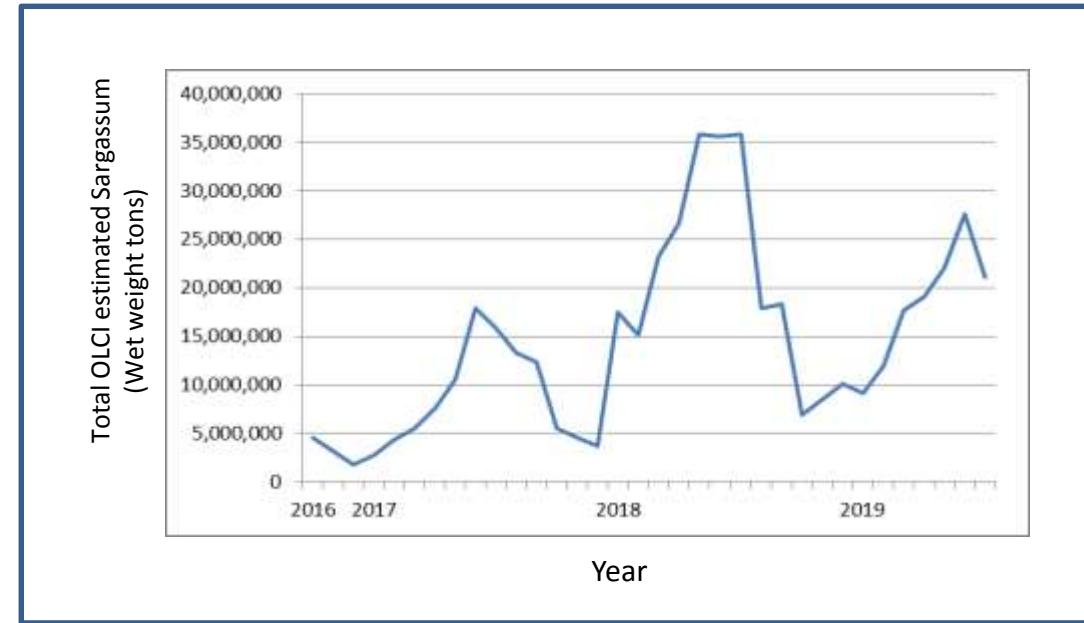
## *Sargassum spp.* Total Biomass estimates



MCI values observed with MERIS and OLCI, forming monthly maximum values for period August To August 2019.

MERIS and OLCI  
Medium Resolution Imaging Spectrometer optical sensor  
It allows to rectify for definitive Signal when clouds, haze and sunlight

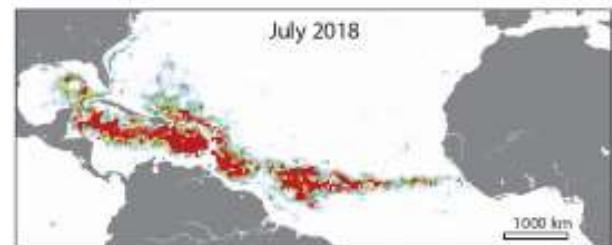
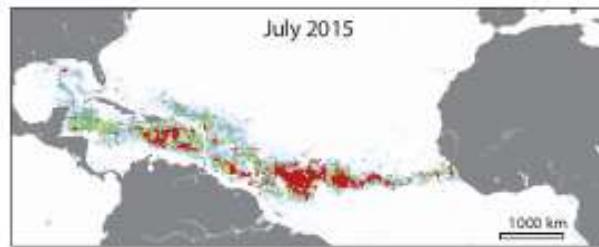
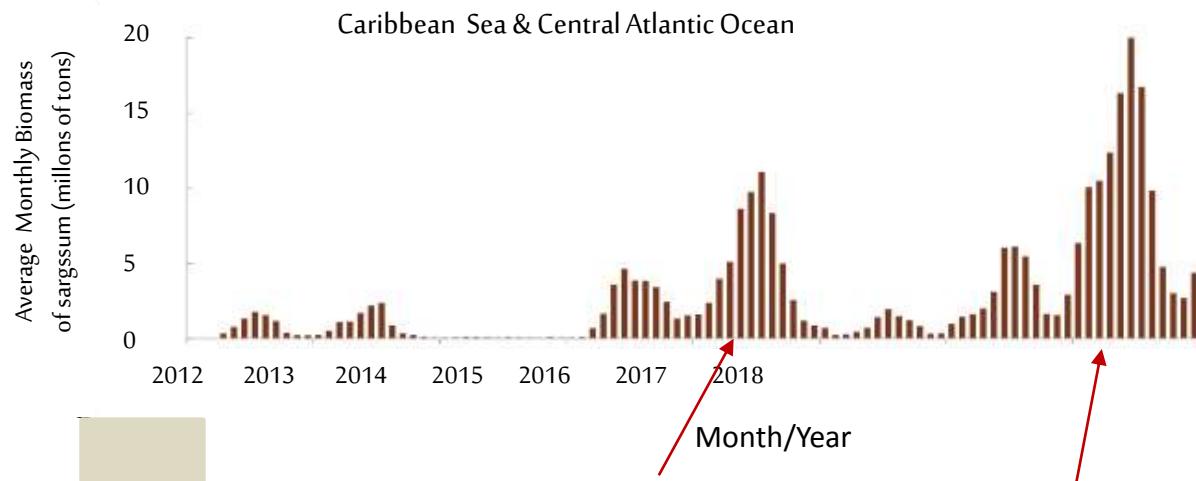
OLCI



MCI values observed with MERIS and OLCI, forming monthly maximum values, adding over areas and scaling to historical ship-tow data in the Atlantic, as described in Gower and King, Int JRS, 32, 1917-1929, 2011.

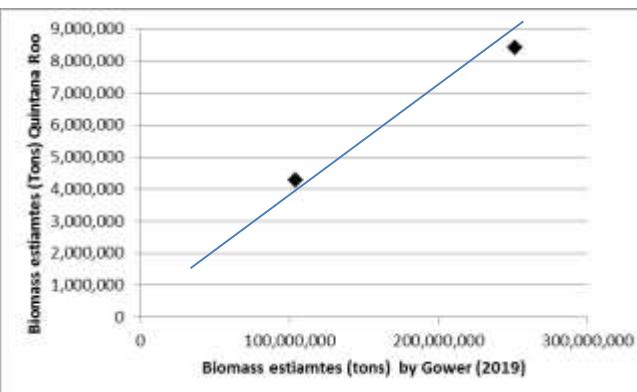
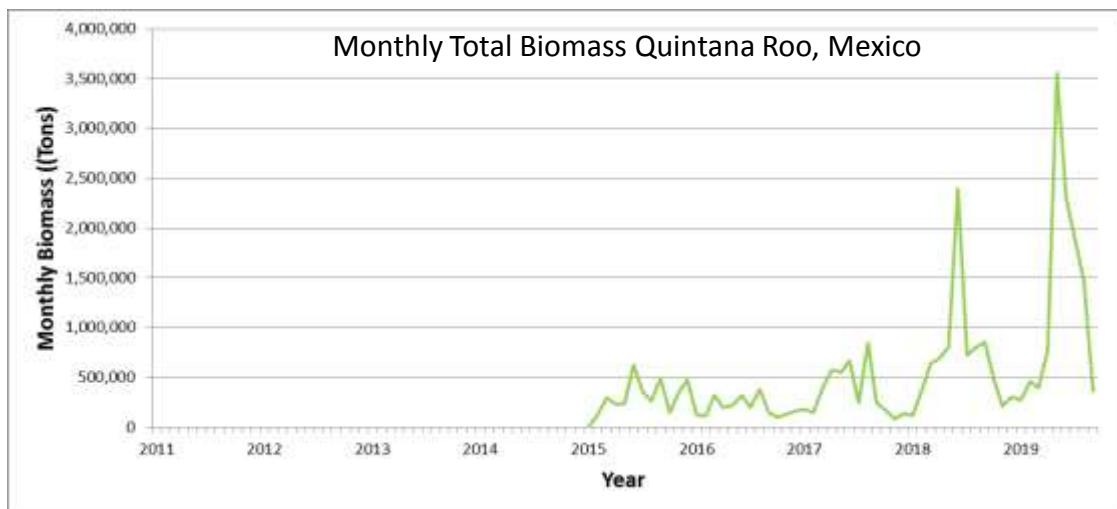
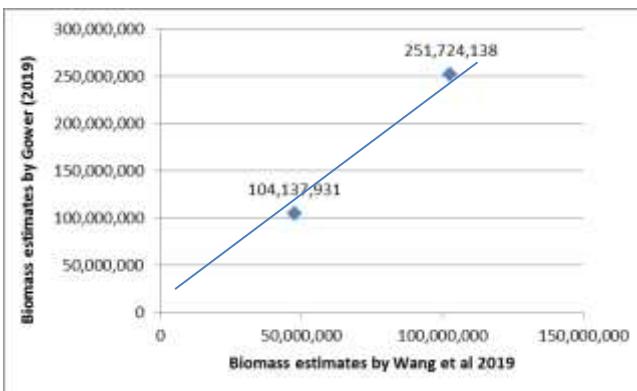
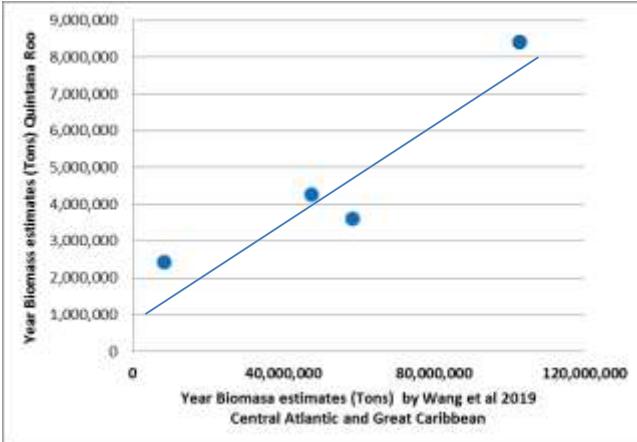
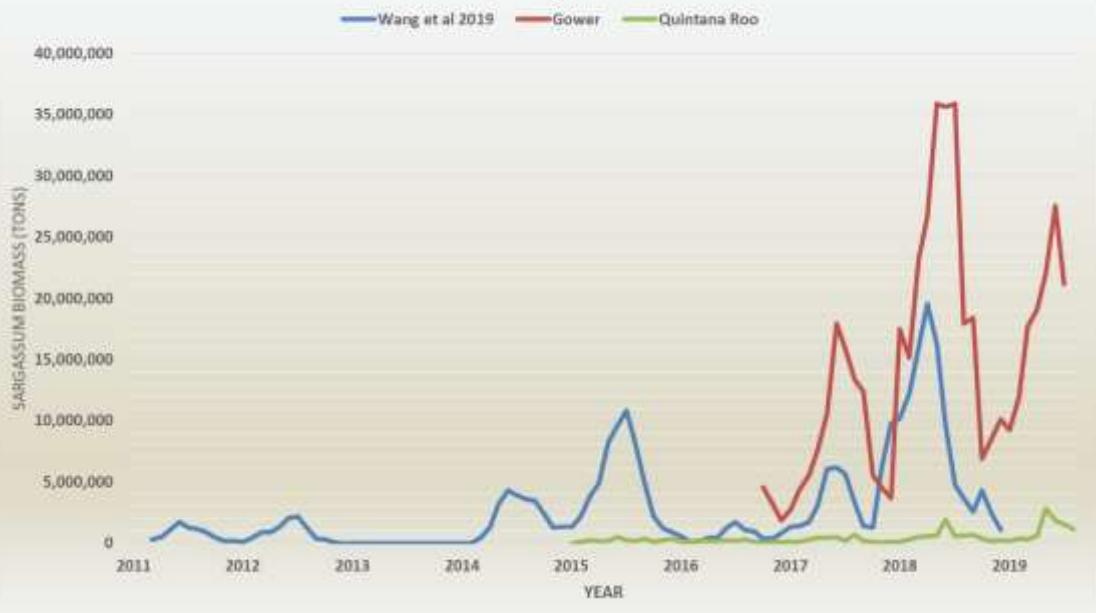
Period (end of 2016 – 2019)

MERIS and OLCI: Medium Resolution Imaging Spectrometer optical sensor. It allows to rectify for definitive Signal when clouds, haze and sunlight



By: Wang et al. (2019)

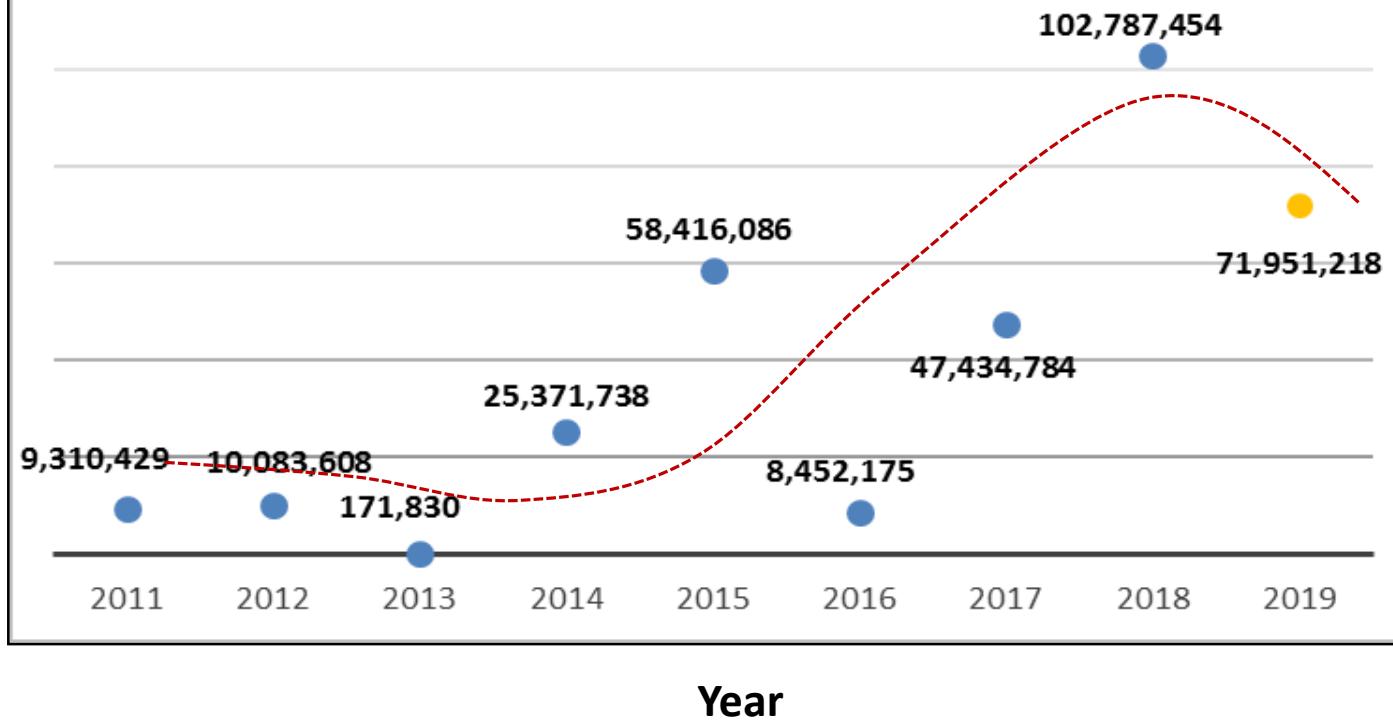
## Time series of Biomass (tons) at three scales & methods





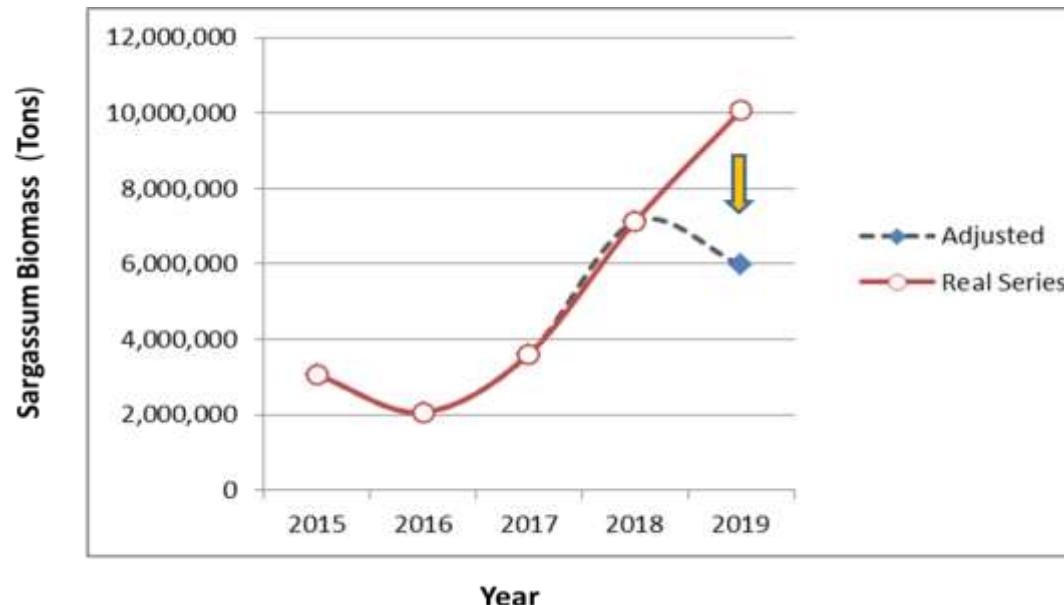
Year average biomass (Millions of Tons)

### Sargassum (Tons) by Wang et al, 2019



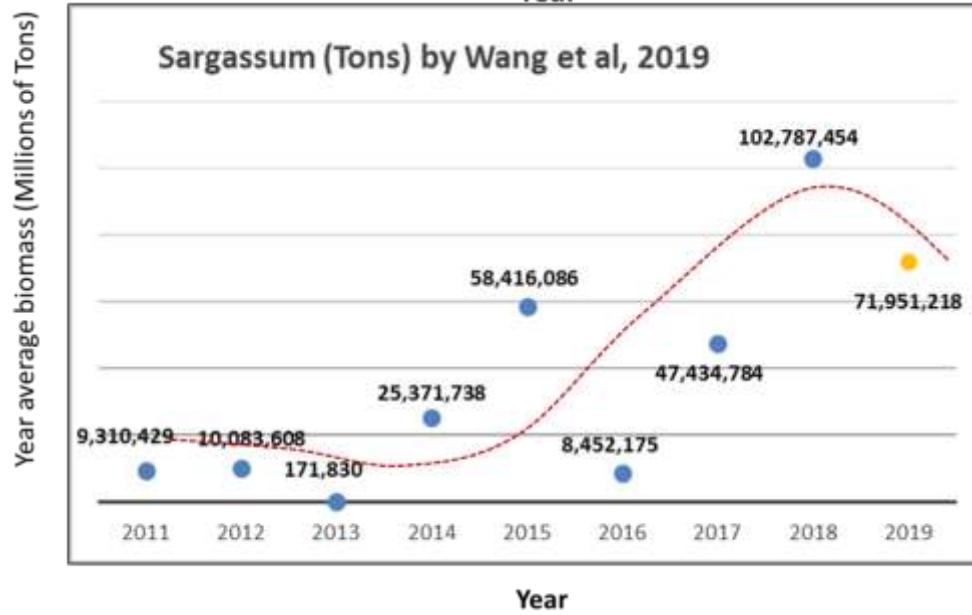


## Coast of Quintana Roo, Mexico



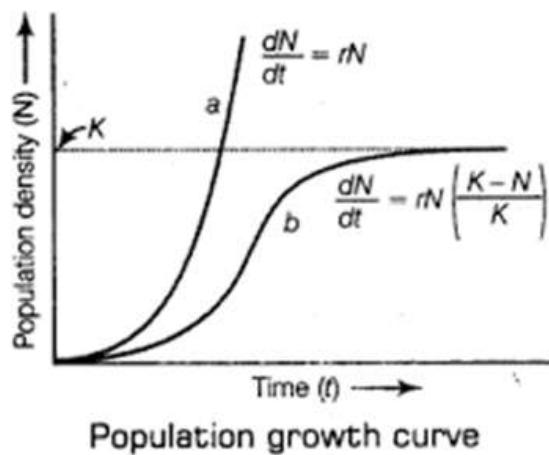
Effect of  
winds

## Caribbean Sea Central Atlantic Ocean

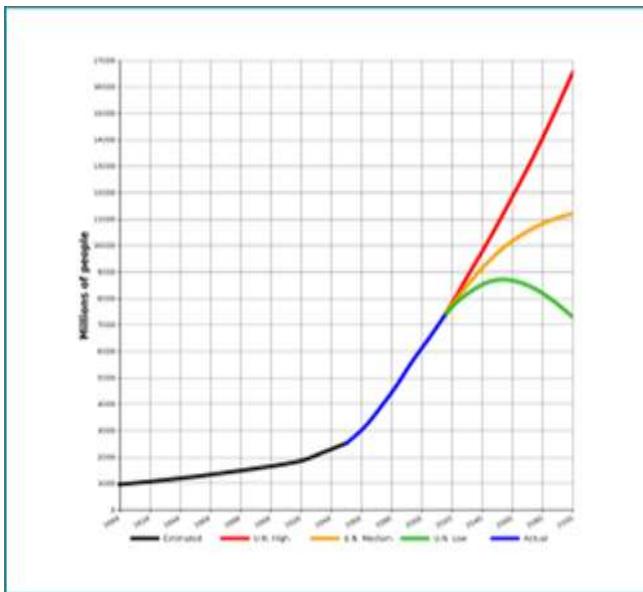




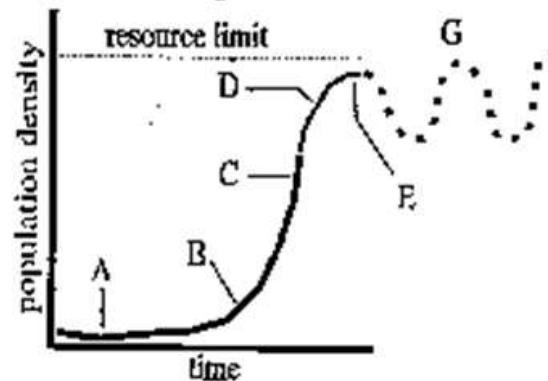
(i)



Population growth curve

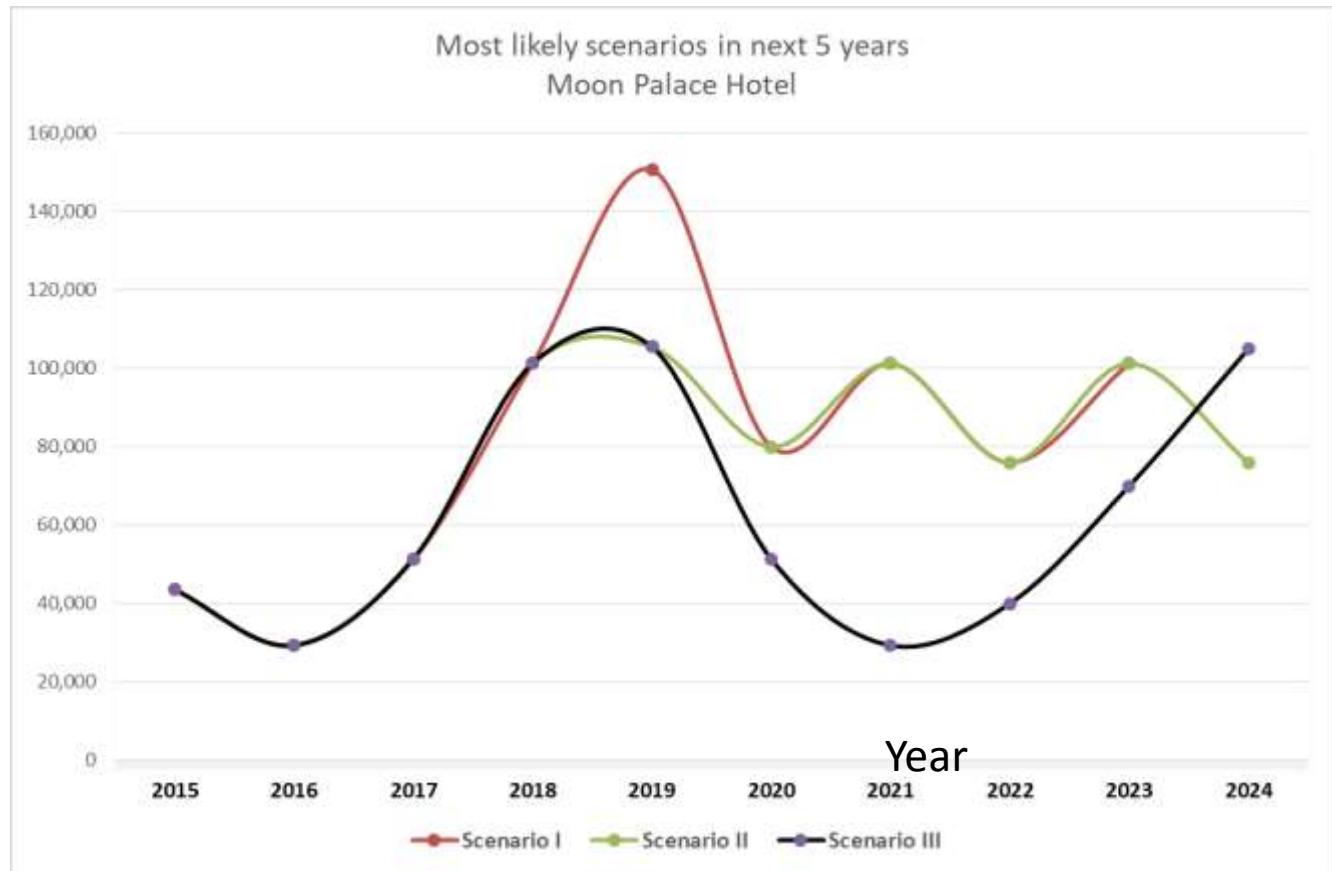


## Sigmoid Curve



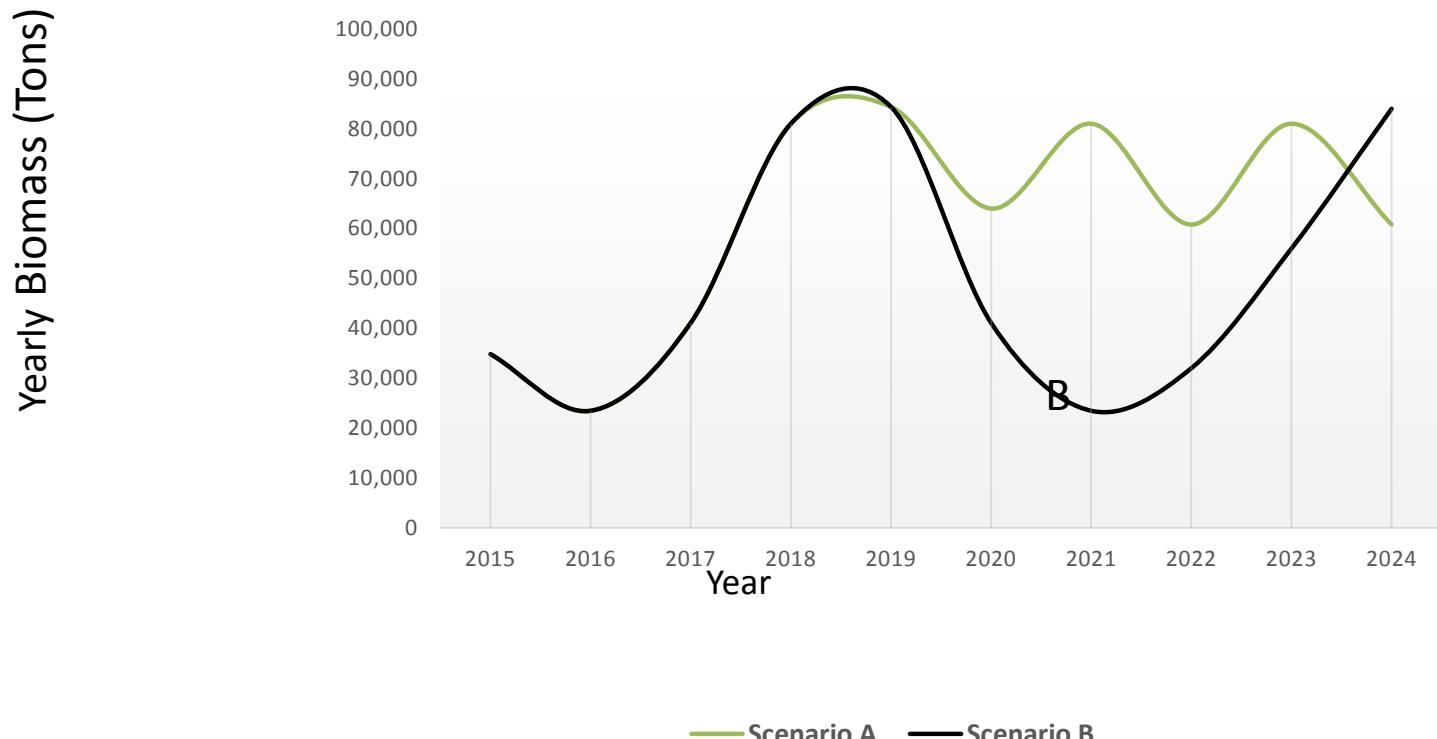


Yearly Accumulated Sargassum (M3)





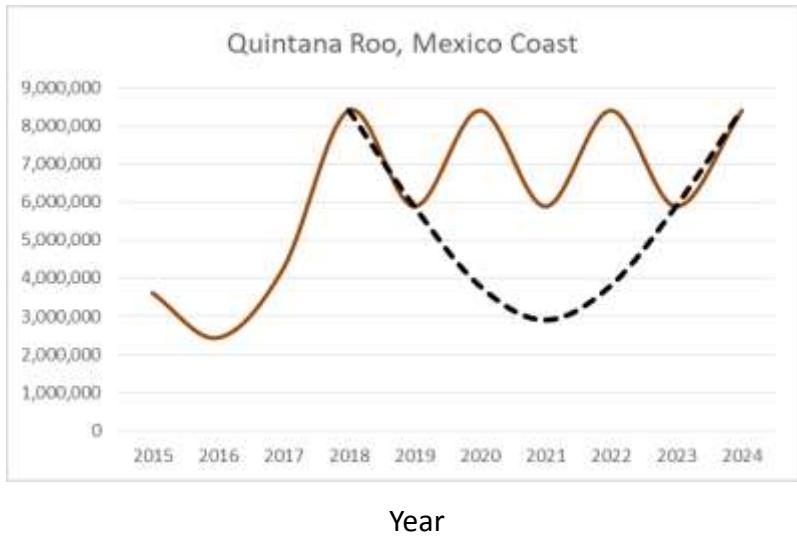
Most likely scenarios in next 5 years  
Moon Palace Hotel, QP Mexico



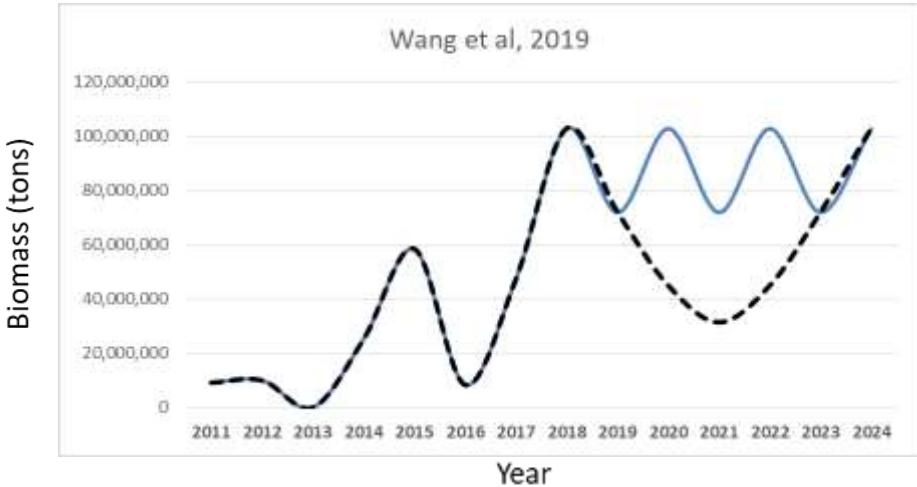


Quintana Roo, Mexico Coast

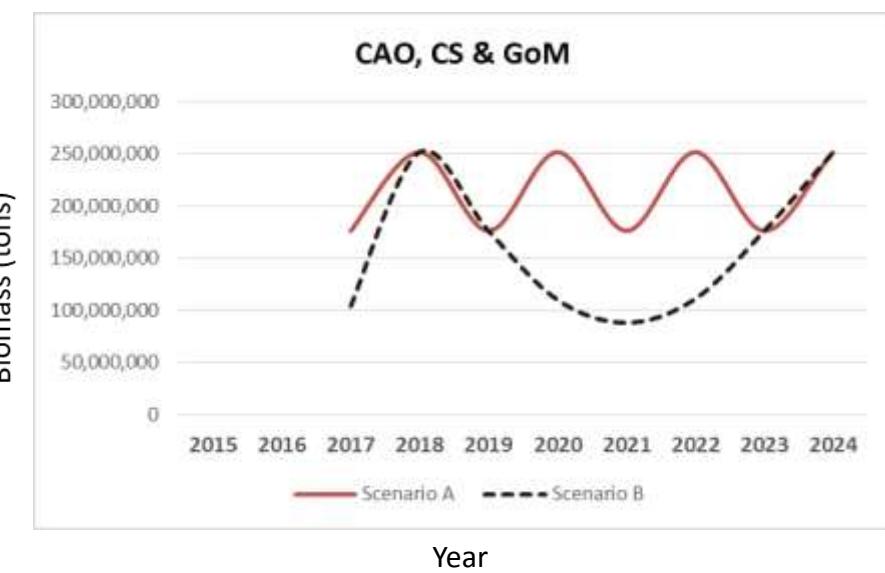
Biomass (tons)



Wang et al, 2019

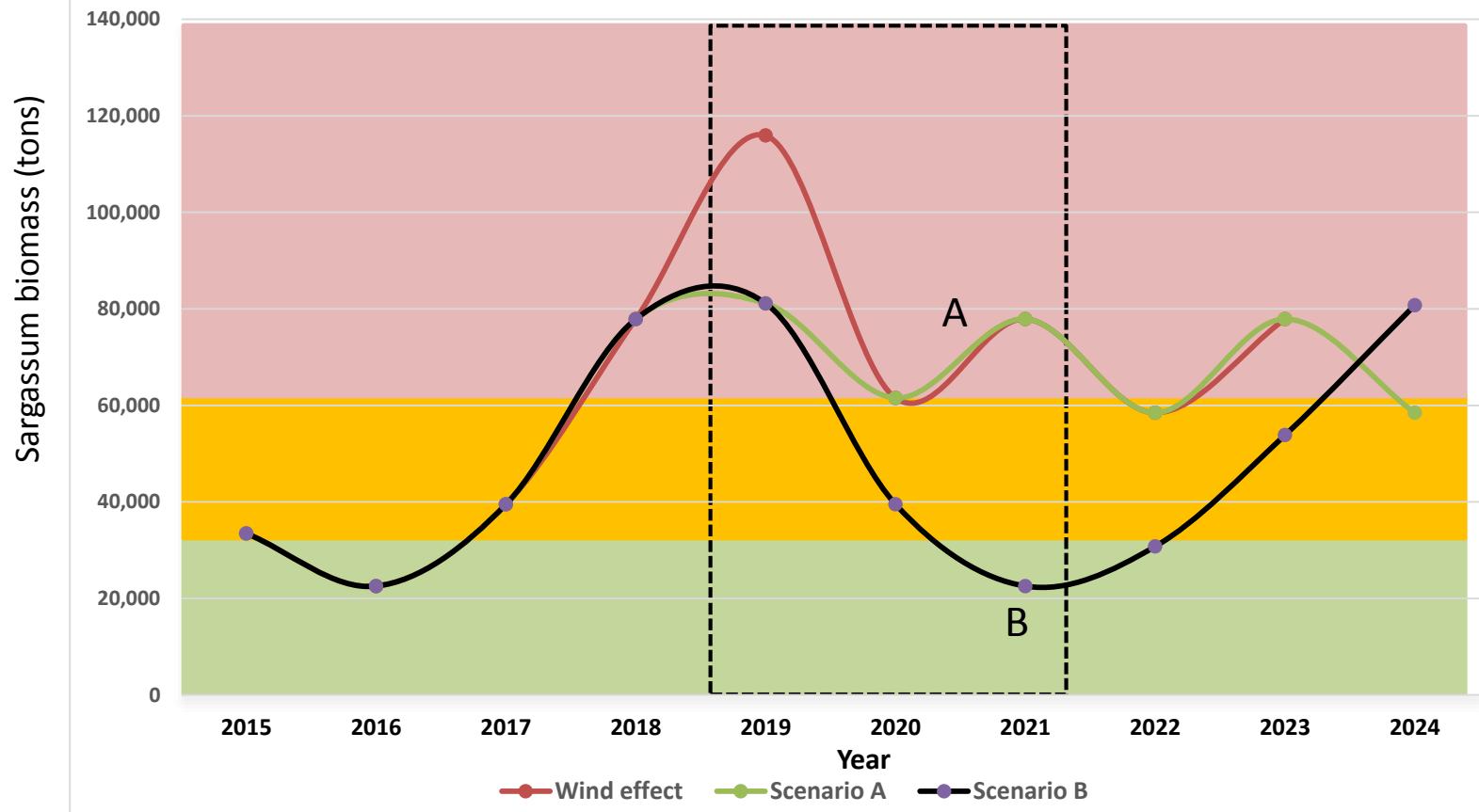


CAO, CS & GoM





### Most likely scenarios in next 5 years Moon Palace Hotel





## **Conclusions:**

- Records of beaching sargassum indices in Puerto Morelos, Quintana Roo were used to build a reliable index which accords with signal of Total biomass of sargassum in the Central Atlantic Ocean and the Great Caribbean.
- We found strong positive correlations between beaching index in Moon Palace Hotel Puerto Morelos and Total Biomass estimates based on Satellite observed values by Gower and his team and Wang et al, 2019.
- Sargassum population peaked and there is a downturn movement after 2018 .
- Decreasing of total sargassum population Biomass might follow one of the scenarios described as **A or B**.  
Each one has completely different implications at all levels.
- Monitoring of beaching events at different sites within the Caribbean (Country level) are of much importance to compare the drifting of sargassum to coastal areas during advection movements of sargassum from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico.



- It is of outmost importance to standardize a methodology to generate indices to estimate beaching biomass of sargassum at coastal level in different countries and sites.
- It is necessary to analyse and compare those indices to assess the impact of sargassum in each country and be able to alert, in advance, the strength of the sargassum population during upstream movements.
- It is important to recognize and study, in detail, wind direction and strength, to understand the accumulation of sargassum on the beaches.

### **Important remarks:**

- Future sargassum Total Biomass estimates and beaching indices in next two years, will indicate in more detail, which factors and their levels are implicated in the population dynamics of *Sargassum spp.*
- If biomass estimates and beaching indices follow **Scenario A**: it will imply density-dependence behavior.
- If on the contrary, total Biomass estimates and beaching indices behave according to **Scenario B**, it would indicate the need to incorporate Global factors such as North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), AMOC and to study their effect on Sargassum population dynamics in the area of distribution.

**THANKS !  
MERCI !  
GRACIAS!**



