



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission

Sargassum & Oil Spill Project Report



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Sixteenth Session of the IOC (of UNESCO)
Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
Virtual Meeting





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IOCARIBE –XVI

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Sargassum & Oil Spill Monitoring

- IOCARIBE, GEO Blue Planet and other partners to support the development monitoring capabilities for “other coastal hazards” to augment the Caribbean Early Warning System for Tsunamis and other Coastal Hazards
- Sargassum & oil spills are the focus as outlined in recommendation SC-IOCARIBE-XV.9 from IOCARIBE XV

SARGASSUM AND OIL SPILL MONITORING

The IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (IOCARIBE),

Aware of the significant impacts of elevated levels of sargassum seaweed, and oil spills on the environment and economies of the Wider Caribbean and the lack of a coordinated region-wide monitoring and forecasting system,

Recalling SC-IOCARIBE XIV.4 Recommendation to establish a working group to develop a strategy and action plan to improve the understanding of the occurrence of sargassum events and contribute to a guide on best management practices for sargassum events,

Recognizing the collaboration between IOCARIBE of IOC, IOCARIBE GOOS, GEO Blue Planet and other partners to develop an integrated sargassum and oil spill information and forecasting system for the Wider Caribbean,

Acknowledging the financial support of IODE, the Government of Flanders (Kingdom of Belgium) and the Government of Mexico for the 2018 planning meeting,

Requests IOCARIBE of IOC, IOCARIBE GOOS, GEO Blue Planet and other partners to continue efforts to:

- i) develop an operational region-wide information and forecasting system for sargassum and oil spills and,
- ii) develop of a guide on best management practices for sargassum events in the coastal environment,

Urges Member States to contribute to the development of the system by supporting coordination between existing and developing efforts and collecting and sharing relevant data,

Invites other organizations and programmes active in the region to contribute to the development and maintenance of the system, and

Encourages Member States to explore approaches to research and test regional solutions for the mitigation of oil spills and sargassum events, including harvesting of sargassum at sea.

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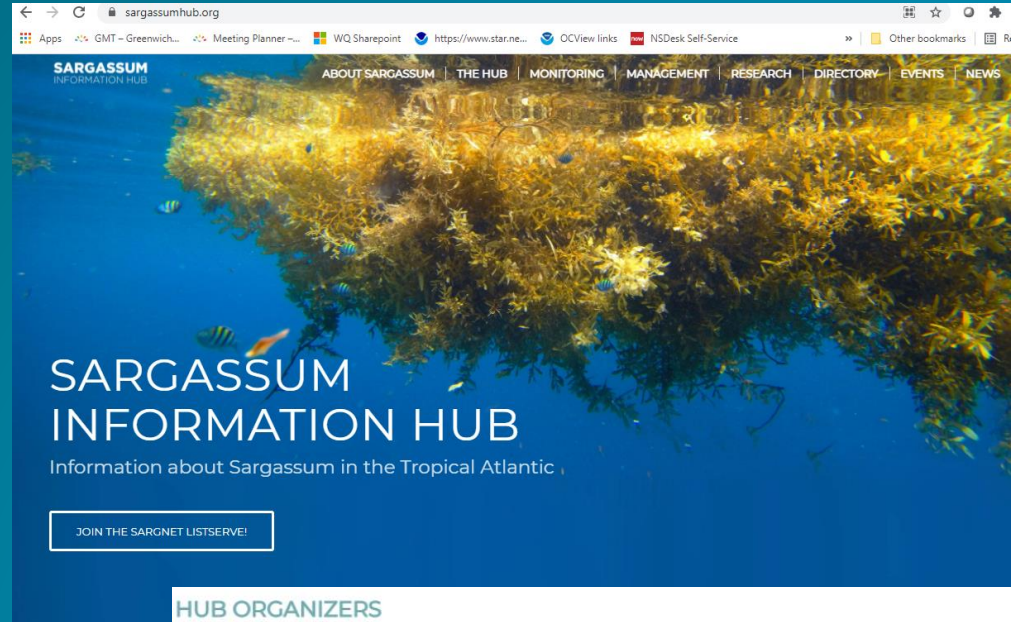


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Sargassum Progress

- Sargassum Information Hub
- Sargassum Webinar Series
- Management Best Practices
- Sargassum Data Sharing
- Maintaining Inundation Reports and Products



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Sargassum Next Steps

- Translate the Sargassum Information Hub into Spanish and French
- Produce country/regional pages for the hub and make other improvements
- Work with UNEP and AtlantOS on compiling best practices for management
- Collaborate with NOAA on the distribution of Sargassum data and products and improvements to inundation forecasts



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Oil Spill Progress

- Partnerships with the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre – Caribe and AmeriGEO
- Oil Spill Information System Workshop



- Satellite oil spill analysis training for Trinidad and Tobago's Institute of Marine Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago's Institute for Marine Affairs (IMA), Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries (MEEI) and Environmental Management Authority (EMA)

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Oil Spill Next Steps

- Work with IMA, MEEI, EMA to determine capacity for routine oil spill monitoring in the region
- Work with AmeriGEO and other partners to develop a pilot project for the GIS-based oil spill information toolkit



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UN Decade Involvement

- Participation in the Western Tropical Atlantic Working Groups
- Considering submitting the Sargassum activity as a UN Decade Project



2021 United Nations Decade
2030 of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

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MUCHAS GRACIAS



THANK YOU



MERCI BEAUCOUP



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