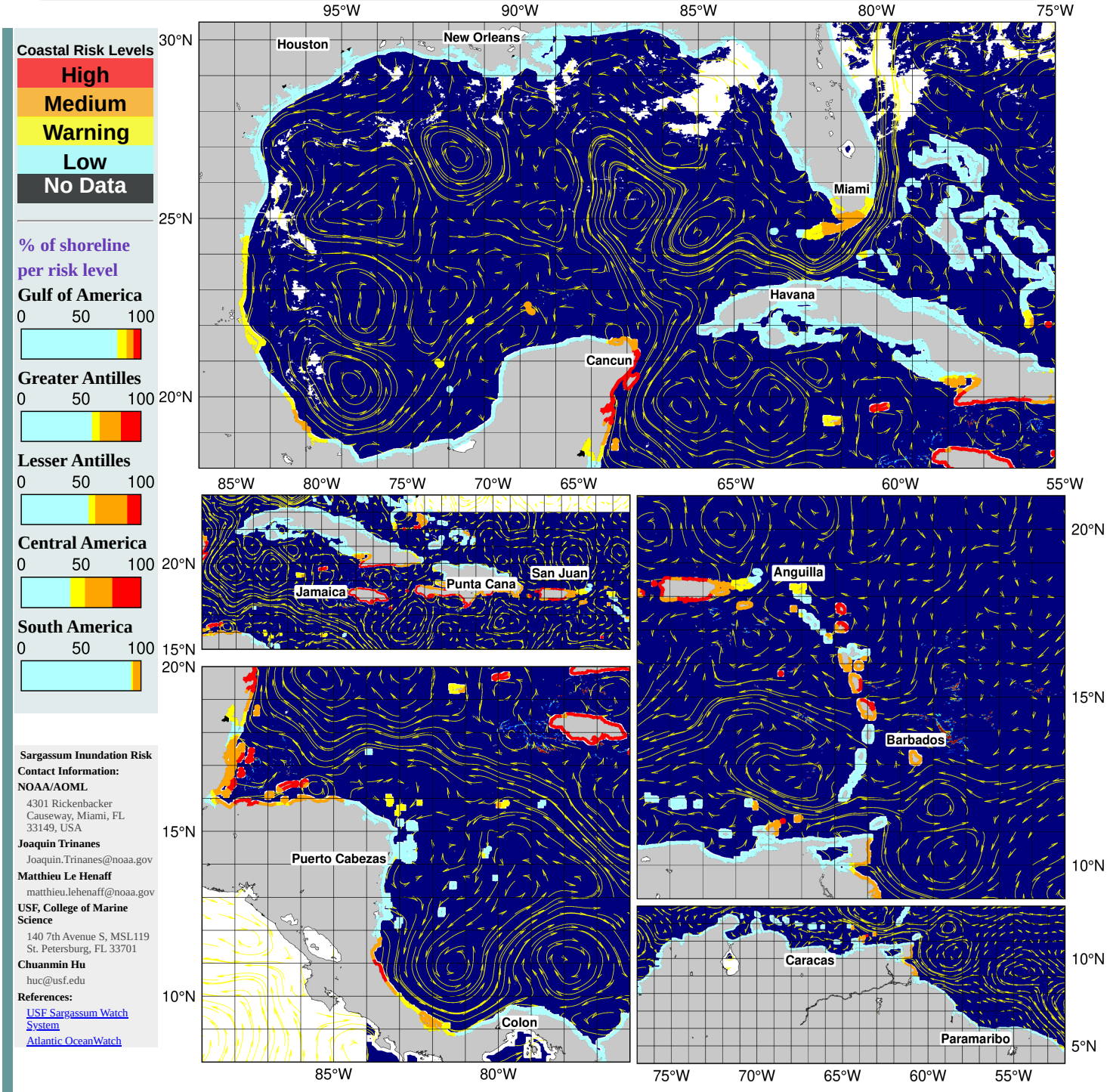
Daily Sargassum Inundation Risk (SIR v1.5)

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

Status: Nov 24, 2026

Since 2011, large Sargassum accumulations have repeatedly affected the Caribbean Sea, Gulf of America and tropical Atlantic, sometimes causing economic, environmental and public health harm. The Sargassum Inundation Risk (SIR) fields provide an overview of the risk of Sargassum coastal inundation in these regions, using satellite-derived floating algae data from the University of South Florida (USF). For each coastal pixel, the algorithm examines these data in the surrounding 50-100 km and compares them with a multiday baseline. The difference is used to classify the coastal risk as low (blue), warning (yellow), medium (orange), or high (red). Black indicates insufficient data, and the vectors on the maps represent geostrophic currents.



Sargassum Inundation Risk

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References:

USF Sargassum Watch System

Atlantic OceanWatch

About the Sargassum Inundation Report, data use and disclaimer

The Sargassum Inundation Report is an experimental product that is refreshed daily and uses satellite-based data to estimate the potential for Sargassum to wash ashore. It is not a forecast.

The Sargassum Inundation Report is a collaborative effort between the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (NOAA/AOML), NOAA/CoastWatch/OceanWatch, and the University of South Florida (USF), using satellite remote sensing data from the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NOAA/NESDIS), NASA, and the Copernicus Programme.

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