

# SARGASSUM

## Floating Ecosystem and Invasive Weed

**250+** Number of species supported by floating rafts of Sargassum in the Atlantic Ocean.<sup>1</sup>

Number of endemic species—meaning they are born, reproduce, and die entirely within the Sargassum ecosystem.<sup>1</sup>

**10**

**2011**

- Caribbean beaches experience record levels of Sargassum.
- Normal amounts protect the beaches from wind and water erosion.
- Excessive Sargassum depletes aquatic oxygen and causes mass fish and turtle death.<sup>2</sup>

To prevent erosion, Sargassum must be removed by manual labor. As the Sargassum begins to **DECAY**, it attracts bugs and releases a **TOXIC GAS** which can cause nausea, headaches, and eye irritation to clean up crews. It also wreaks havoc on nearby metals including electrical systems.

**HYDROGEN  
SULFIDE**

**2018**

- Abnormal amounts of Sargassum heading toward the Caribbean—nearly 3X the 2015 record.
- Local governments are scrambling to reduce the impact of Sargassum blooms.<sup>3</sup>
- Leading researchers believe that high levels of nitrogen from fertilizer runoff may be to blame.<sup>4</sup>

## INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

GEI Works deploys innovative solutions to mitigate Sargassum blooms. Our ORION Aquatic Plant and Debris Booms are used across the Caribbean to keep beaches and marinas clear of seaweed. The containment boom floats on the surface and is designed to withstand changing tides, UV exposure, and varying temperatures. Call our experts at 722-646-0597 or visit our website:

Sources

1. <https://www.mbari.org/sargasso-sea/>
2. <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/06/mysterious-masses-seaweed-assault-caribbean-islands>
3. <http://optics.marine.usf.edu/projects/SaWS.html>
4. <http://news.algaeworld.org/2015/09/florida-atlantic-universitys-brian-lapointe-reason-behind-sargassum>

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