



# **GEO Blue Planet**

***Sargassum Working Group***



**Audrey Hasson, PhD**

Executive Director  
EU Coordinator

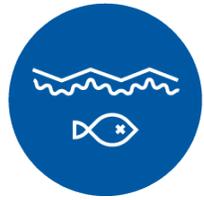
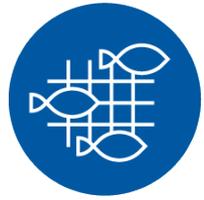
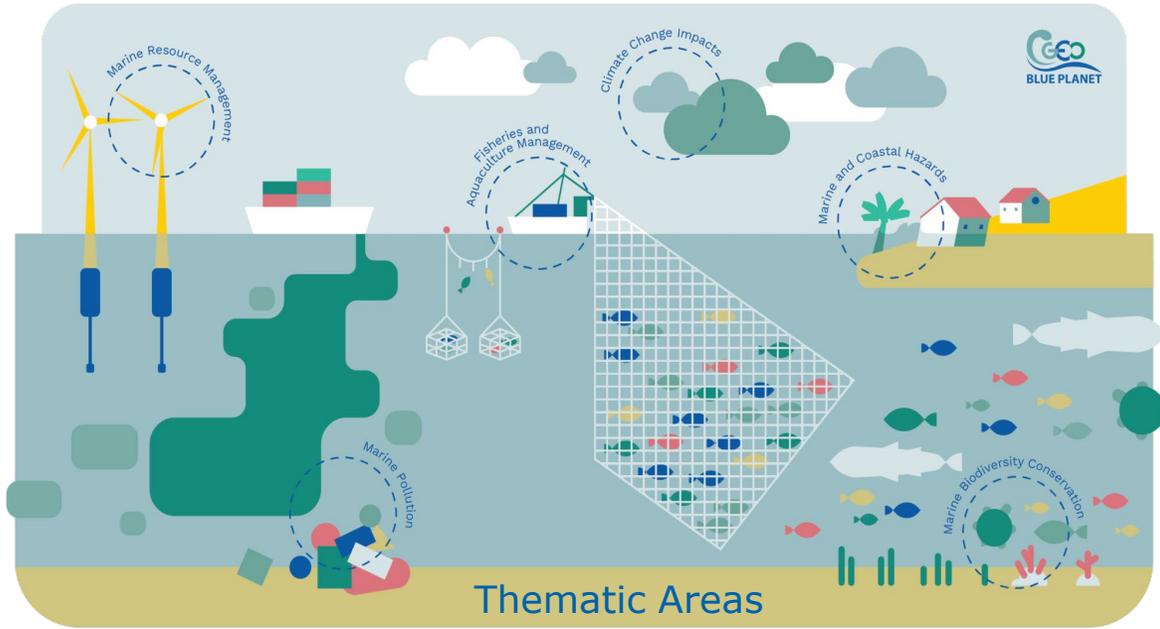
2025



**Bridging the gap  
between data and  
societal needs  
to deliver actionable  
information**



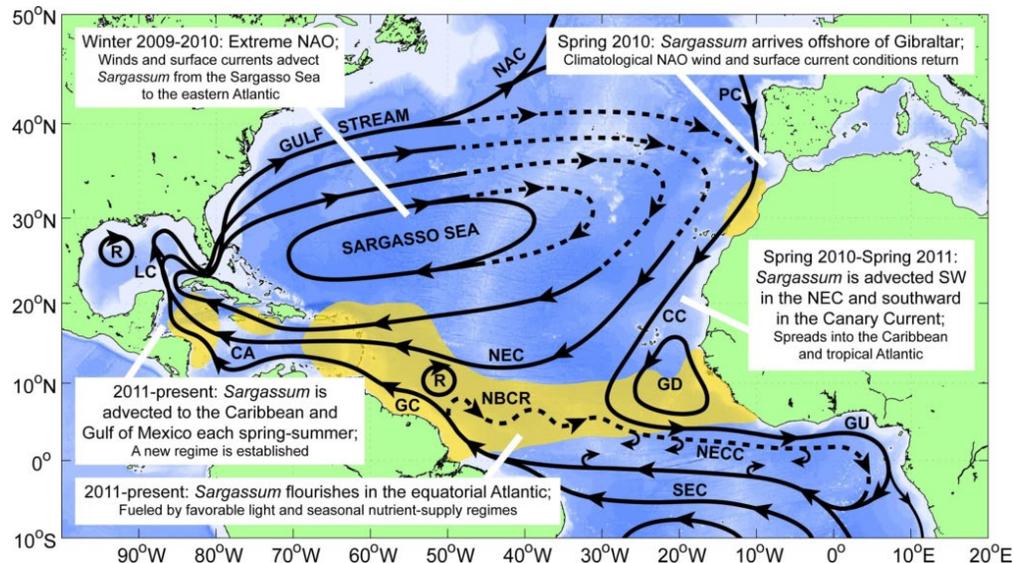
# GEO Blue Planet Scope of Action



# Sargassum : Turning the Challenge into Opportunities

Sargassum is a genus of macroalgae providing **essential habitats**, serving as food, shelter, and breeding grounds for a wide range of marine biodiversity.

However, since 2011, massive seaweed blooms drift across the Tropical Atlantic to Caribbean and West African coasts. These inundations **harm coastal marine ecosystems**, block sunlight, and deplete oxygen. Onshore, they disrupt **tourism, fishing, and coastal livelihoods**, producing foul odours and requiring costly cleanup.



(Johns et al. 2020)



Effective mitigation requires a multi-pronged approach: detection through satellite monitoring and in situ observations, forecasting using ocean models, and response strategies such as **sustainable harvesting and valorization** into useful products like fertilizers, biofuels, and bioplastics.



## Enhancing monitoring and prediction of Sargassum, to support informed actions that address challenges and opportunities

The working group is composed of about **44 experts** from **technical, cooperation and policy backgrounds** and from **17 different countries** representing **35+ entities** with **20%** early career.

Co-chairs for 2025 remain Dr. Joaquin Trinanes (NOAA, USA) and Dr. Marc Lucas (CLS, France)

Activities organized around **4 Task Teams:**

**Sargassum Information Hub** : one stop shop website for all Sargassum surveillance information, research updates and national pages.

**Community lead decision support tool** : define, co-design and implement communities needs

**A Sargassum Integrated Observing System** for a coordinated and sustained observing system of Sargassum to fill knowledge gaps and address diverse stakeholder needs

**Sargassum Forum** for the organisation of a dedicated forum that will cluster a wide range of workshops both technical and non-technical under the same roof.



# Sargassum Working Group



## Sargassum Information HUB (<https://sargassumhub.org/>)

The **Sargassum Information HUB**, single point of information, data and tools on available data, services and tools for monitoring, forecasting and managing Sargassum

- The hub is in the process of being updated, with a **widened scope to include the value chain of Sargassum**. The hub will include direct embedded near real time observations, a complete directory of actors, and news on events, funding opportunities and dedicated pages for countries and projects.
- In the framework of the SARGCOOP'II, the hub will feature in 2026 a **decision-support tool** based on the Digital Twin of the Ocean Technology (prototype launched at UNOC3)

*Cited by CNN  
100k + views*



HUB Partners



# Sargassum Working Group





## Actions at the UN Ocean Conference in Nice (UNOC3, June 2025)

- At the **One Ocean Science Congress**, preceding UNOC3 : Poster presentation
- WG Actions will be presented at a side-event at **UNOC (Blue Zone)** – confirmation pending
- WG Actions will also be presented at the **Digital Ocean Pavilion** (Green Zone) + decision support tool launch
- The WG will host a **side-event in the UNOC3 Green Zone on June 10<sup>th</sup>** with partners including the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), UNEP Cartagena Convention's Biodiversity Protocol (SPAW RAC), Trinidad and Tobago's Institute of Maritime Affairs, Expertise France, ADEME, Mercator Ocean International, the University of South Florida.

The event will highlight scientific advances, explore Sargassum's ecological, economic, and harmful dimensions, and promote coordinated international responses. Sessions will cover cutting-edge monitoring and predictive tools, Sargassum's dual role as habitat and resource, and the impacts of inundations on ecosystems, public health, and coastal economies.

**You are all welcome to join! Let me know**

**Sargassum Working Group**





# Thank you !

<https://sargassumhub.org/>

<https://geoblueplanet.org/sargassum/>

[info@sargassumhub.org](mailto:info@sargassumhub.org)

