



TURNING THE TIDE: ADVANCING SCIENCE, SOLUTIONS, AND COOPERATION ON THE TROPICAL ATLANTIC SARGASSUM SITUATION

Tuesday 10 June 2025
15.00 – 18.30 and cocktail
Mama Shelter Hotel, Nice, France

Short Description

In the backdrop of the UN Ocean Conference 2025 in Nice, a coalition of stakeholders will host a side event addressing the *Sargassum* situation in the Tropical Atlantic. 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. The event calls for enhanced collaboration and innovation to preserve marine biodiversity and support sustainable ocean-based economies.

Concept Note

As part of a broader three-part initiative during the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice, June 2025, this event will explore the technical aspects of the ongoing *Sargassum* crisis affecting the Caribbean and Atlantic coastal regions.

Held off-site at the Nice Mama Shelter hotel, this event is uniquely designed for both a technical and non-technical audience, including policymakers, civil society actors, private sector stakeholders, and media. It will translate complex scientific and technical knowledge into accessible insights, emphasizing actionable strategies. Key themes will include biodiversity conservation in the face of massive *Sargassum* influxes, technological advancements in monitoring and forecasting *Sargassum* blooms, and the development of sustainable value chains that transform *Sargassum* from a hazard into a resource.

The final session will foster the understanding of the technical challenges and opportunities associated with *Sargassum*, to encourage cross-sector collaboration, and build momentum for knowledge-based decisions and solutions. By bridging the gap between science and policy, this event will contribute to the larger UNOC3 dialogue on ocean resilience and sustainable blue economies.

This event is strategically positioned between a ministerial-level event focused on political coordination and a public engagement session in the Green Zone's "France 3 Oceans Pavilion" (the Whale).

10 June	12.15-13.30	Blue Zone	<i>Sargassum</i> Crisis: Regional Cooperation and Response Towards New Opportunities
10 June	15.00-18.30 w/ dinner	off-site / Mama Shelter Hotel	Turning the tide: advancing science, solutions and cooperation on the tropical Atlantic <i>Sargassum</i> situation
12 June	17.15 - 18.00	Green Zone / The Whale	The <i>Sargassum</i> Crisis in the Caribbean: Understanding coastal impact and strengthening cooperation through local responses

Complementing the high-level political dialogue led by the Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe Region, the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), and the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) this event will provide a platform for presenting innovative, science-based information that supports decision making to address the environmental, economic, and social impacts of *Sargassum* proliferation.

This Green Zone event will then highlight the commitments of the overseas territories and provide a general public restitution of the two previous events.

Together, these three events form a comprehensive response to the *Sargassum* challenge, promoting regional cooperation, scientific innovation, and inclusive engagement to turn a growing environmental crisis into a catalyst for sustainable development and resilience across the region.

Organising Committee

In alphabetical order

Association of Caribbean States (ACS)
Agence de la transition écologique (ADEME)
Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)
Expertise France
GEO Blue Planet
Institute of Maritime Affairs (IMA)
Instituto de Investigaciones Oceanológicas (IIO-UABC)
Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON)
Mercator Ocean International
Seafields Solutions Limited
Sargassum podcast
Region Guadeloupe
UNEP Cartagena Convention's Biodiversity Protocol (SPAW RAC)



Agenda

Tuesday, 10 June 2025

14.30-15.00	Welcome coffee	
15.00-16.00	High-level Session Political Momentum and Regional Leadership <i>Session chair: Lydia Barfleur (Region Guadeloupe)</i>	
	Welcome notes from organisers	GEO Blue Planet
	Blue Zone event restitution	Dominican Republic and Region Guadeloupe
	Short addresses - tbc	France Mexico Association of Caribbean States (ACS) Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) UNEP-CEP - Cartagena Convention Secretariat and Caribbean Environment Programme
16.00-16.20	Living with <i>Sargassum</i> Direct accounts from the field <i>Session chair: tbc</i>	
	Testimony from Grenada	
	Testimony from Martinique	
16.20-17.20	<i>Sargassum</i> from sea to shore Advancing Science for Solutions <i>Session chair: Audrey Hasson (GEO Blue Planet)</i>	
	State of the Art Monitoring and Forecasting	

	Supporting biodiversity and ecosystem services
	Unlocking its value in the Blue Economy
	Impacting coastal zones
	Panel Discussion

17.20-18.20	The synergies of cooperation for <i>Sargassum</i> Building Bridges Through Science and Policy <i>Session chair: Charlotte Gully (Ademe)</i>	
	Panellists Introductions and Discussion (tbc)	GEO Blue Planet SPAW-RAC ACS OECS Scientific Expertise coalition (IRD) France

18.15-18.30	Wrap-up	
	Final Notes	GEO Blue Planet

18.30- onwards	Cocktail Dinner
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