



Agenda Item: Sargassum Forecast (Dr. Hal Needham, 20 Minutes)

Background:

Every year, the Texas coastline and the Gulf of Mexico are affected by sargassum landings. Sargassum is a type of brown seaweed that originates in the Sargasso Sea, a region of the North Atlantic Ocean, and travels the Atlantic by currents. The Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea often see the results of sargassum blooms when the seaweed makes landing on the beaches in these areas. Warm water and extra nutrients cause larger blooms of sargassum, creating large free-floating mats.

Dr. Hal Needham, Climate and Natural Hazards Scientist, will inform the committee on the trend of the overall amount of sargassum in the Atlantic Basin doubling from December to January, setting a monthly January record. Dr. Needham will provide insight into how likely this will impact Galveston as we move into our warmer seasons and sargassum season.

Staff Recommendation:

There are no recommendations associated with this agenda item.

Funding Source (if applicable): n/a