

24 - 26 | November 2021 | Madrid
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EXTENDED ABSTRACT

Title: Seawater deterioration and the tourist's beta convergence process: A geospatial big data analysis of the Spanish Mediterranean coast

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Abstract

This paper examines the role of seawater deterioration in the beta convergence process of the tourism demand. With this purpose, we propose an empirical application with observations of tourist arrivals from 2013 to 2019 for 101 municipalities in the Spanish Mediterranean coast. We evaluate seawater deterioration with a specific indicator of the ecological status of the sea, chlorophyll, derived from images provided by the European Spatial Agency Sentinel-3 satellite. Based on this information, we estimate the beta-convergence specification of tourist arrivals by using a spatial Seemingly Unrelated Regression (SUR). Our results confirm the existence of an accelerating nonlinear effect of seawater pollution on the beta convergence process of tourism demand. Tourists who had previously visited popular destinations changed to less well-known and less polluted locations along the coast. In addition, we find significant spatial spillover effects among municipalities in this process.

Keywords: *seawater pollution, tourism demand, beta-convergence, spillover effects*

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