



Changes in climate potential of tourism in Croatia since 1961

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Weather and climate, together with geographical location, topography, landscape, flora and fauna, constitute the natural resource basis of every recreation and tourist resort. Climate is often one of the most important features attracting tourists, and has also a very important role in determining the suitability of a region for tourism or outdoor recreation. In the paper the changes in meteorological parameters important for tourism in the period 1961-2010 are analyzed comparing the conditions in three climate periods (1961-1990, 1971-2000 and 1981-2010) and in five successive 10-year periods from 1961-1970 to 2001-2010. Thermal conditions are analyzed using physiologically equivalent temperature (PET) based on thermal equilibrium between human body and the environment. The comprehensive suitability of climate for tourism is analyzed by means of the tourism climate index, which includes several physical, physiological and aesthetic components of climate. In spite the highest temperatures occur in last decade, thermal conditions based on biometeorological index indicate the first decade as the most inconvenient due to influence of other meteorological parameters important for thermal sensation. On the other hand the results indicate the extension of the summer tourist season at the end of the analyzed period due to changed distribution of thermal sensation.