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Analysis of the Concentration of Emissions from the Spanish Fleet of Tugboats

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Abstract: At present, the sensitivity of society towards emissions in commercial maritime ports is increasing, which is reflected in the large number of studies on the control of emissions in them, perhaps because the most important commercial ports are located in cities with high population density. The objective of this work was to determine the greenhouse gas emissions caused by the activity of the Spanish tugboat fleet, studying the tugboat fleet of the eleven autonomous coastal Spanish communities from 2004 to 2017 and their impact on the carbon footprint of the country's shipping sector. To do this, the methodology used by the International Maritime Organization for merchant ships to estimate the emissions of a tugboat fleet is formalized, and Gini concentration index methodology was applied to the concentration of emissions from this fleet. This has made it possible to obtain results on the distribution of the concentration of emissions from Spanish ports by region, age, and size, as well as to establish the profile of the tugboat port that pollutes the most and its carbon footprint. One of the results is that in the period analyzed, the concentration of emissions from the Spanish tugboat fleet increased if we looked at its distribution by region, and decreased if we look at its distribution by age and size. This is because tugboat activity was very different by region; however, their characteristics related to age and size evolved in a more homogeneous way.

Keywords: greenhouse gases; emissions of fleet; concentration of CO₂ emissions



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1. Introduction

At present, the fight against climate change is one of the main challenges facing humanity. It is a generally accepted fact that human activity is the main cause of climate change. Since the industrial revolution, the concentration of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere has been increasing continuously, with adverse consequences for the planet.

In 1979, the First World Conference on Climate was held in Geneva, discussing global warming and its effects on human activity. The conference issued a statement urging the governments of the world to control and foresee potential changes in the climate caused by human beings that may be adverse for the well-being of humanity [1].

On 9 May 1992, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [2] was approved in New York. The objective of the convention was the stabilization of concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. This level should be reached in sufficient time for ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened by it, and to allow economic development to continue in a sustainable manner. The convention would soon become the key central instrument of global efforts to combat global warming.

The first international recognition of the problem of climate change and the need to act was made in June 1992, within the framework of the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro. Subsequently, the Kyoto Protocol of 1998 admitted that “The global atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide have increased significantly since 1750 as a result of human activities, and now far exceed the pre-industrial values determined from ice samples that span back many thousands of years.” [3].

Finally, the so-called Paris agreement of 2015 concluded with the adoption of a historic agreement to combat climate change and promote measures and investments for a future that is low in carbon emissions, resilient, and sustainable. Its goal is to keep the temperature rise of this century below 2 °C.

Undoubtedly, global warming is a general problem and not only an environmental one, since it also affects the economy, trade, and security. In this sense, it demands a global response that integrates the different sectoral interests and the needs of all countries.

In this context, the global maritime transport sector has responded with sensitivity to the phenomenon of pollution, both that which may be caused by an accident and that which occurs during the daily operations of ships. In this regard, as a result of various events in the 1960s and 1970s, the maritime industry focused its efforts on the development of a regulatory framework that would limit pollution insofar as was possible. As a result of this work, the International Conference on Marine Pollution, convened by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and held from 8 October to 2 November 1973, approved an international agreement to prevent pollution by ships, known as marine pollution (MARPOL). This new instrument came into force on 2 October 1983.

The convention contains rules aimed at preventing and minimizing the pollution caused by ships, both accidental and from normal operations, and currently includes six technical annexes. Annex VI, which entered into force on 19 May 2005, deals with the prevention of atmospheric pollution caused by vessels. Emission limits are established for vessels built from 2005 onwards. In addition to these defined limits, the MARPOL agreement defines several areas around the world where the limits for atmospheric emissions from ships are even stricter; these areas are known as emission control areas (ECAs). In 2011, mandatory technical and operational energy efficiency measures were established to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vessels.

Studies on the emissions of merchant vessels are numerous and draw the attention of researchers in marine pollution, accounting for over 37% of the scientific work published on all of the annexes of the convention. The main object of analysis of the research developed is the prevention and control of the emissions, addressing in their work legal, technological, socioeconomic and practical aspects.

- (a) Research on legal aspects. Among the works on the legal aspects of prevention, some of the most important are those of Kraska (2009), Pak (2009), Nicholson (2011), Wan Dahalan (2012), Hermida-Castro (2014), Cogliolo (2015) and Tanaka (2016) [4–10]. Among the studies that address legal questions on control are those by Hong (2014), Kanifolskyi (2014), Zhu (2015) and George (2017) [11–14].
- (b) Research on technological aspects. Regarding the technological aspects of prevention, some of the most relevant works are those of Hwan (2009), Yang (2013), Díaz-De-Baldasano (2014), Ehara; (2014), Wang (2014), Zhou (2014), Ekanem (2015), Kim (2016) and Fernandez (2017) [15–23]. The most important studies addressing the technological aspects of the control of emissions are those by Ling-Chin (2016), Geng (2017) and Yoon (2017) [24–26].
- (c) Research on socioeconomic aspects. The main works on prevention dealing with socioeconomic aspects are those of Fet (2010), Runko Luttenberger (2013), Schinas (2014), Panasiuk (2015), Makkonen (2016) and Rutkowski (2016) [27–32]. The socioeconomic effects of control are analyzed by Doudnikoff (2014), Holmgren (2014), Sys (2014), Vleugel (2014), Adamkiewicz (2015), Lindstad (2016), Peksen (2016), Schinas (2016), Shi (2016) and Nikopoulou (2017) [33–42].

- (d) Research on practical aspects. Prevention analyzed from a practical perspective is addressed by Teo (2012), Yang (2012), Calleya (2015), Sherbaz (2015), Fu (2016), Jankowski (2016), Dalaklis (2017), (Bencs et al., 2017) and Olcer (2017) [43–51]. The practical side of the control of vessel emissions is analyzed by Cappa (2014), Davies (2014), Kattner (2015), Buccolieri (2016), Dogrul (2016), Kiliç (2016), Xing (2016), Jalkanen (2016) and Cheng (2017) [52–60].

Specific works on tugboat emissions, on which our analysis focuses, analyze the control of emissions from a socioeconomic perspective, due to the social sensitivity towards the socioeconomic effects of this sector and the consequent need to control these emissions. Among the most important research in this area are the works of Demarco (2009), Papsen et al. (2010), Ayre et al. (2011), Murphy et al. (2012), Van Den Hanenberg (2012), Niemi (2013), Sciberras et al. (2015), Trodden et al. (2015), Faturachman et al. (2016), Gysel et al. (2016) and Lim et al. (2017) [61–71].

The analysis of the incidence of tugboat activity on a country's GHG emissions is very important, because tugboat activity, like any other activity in the transport sector, contributes to shaping the country's carbon footprint. It also has important regional effects, since tugboat activity takes place in the commercial seaports that play key roles in regional development. However, paradoxically, this activity is sometimes questioned by the social environment in which it takes place, due to certain undesirable effects that it produces.

Currently, the sensitivity towards port emissions is growing, perhaps because the most important commercial ports are located in cities with a high density of population, which makes it important to know what impact port activities have on the health of citizens, as well as its effect on a global level, this being at the same time one of the problems that most concern citizens.

The contribution of tugboats refers to a specific context that is the port environment, where port cities are more sensitive to emissions. In this context: (a) merchant ships are moored and barely emit; (b) tugboats carry out their activity and their emissions in port; (c) the tug vessels make up a stable fleet, the technical characteristics of which are known, so any policy that is established regarding GHG emissions can be thoroughly analyzed; and (d) the tug vessels operate under a concession regime, therefore that the port authorities can regulate this right, incorporating restrictions on emissions, forcing tugboat companies to install new nonpolluting engines (electric, etc.).

The work presented here takes place in this context, since we intend to analyze the effect produced by the activity of the tugboat fleet operating in Spanish ports on the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the country.

The aim of this work is to determine the concentration of the GHG emissions of the tugboat fleet of Spanish ports in the period 2004–2017 by region, age, size, and power, and its contribution to the country's carbon footprint.

To this end, the structure of the fleet is formulated and the concentration of CO₂ produced by this fleet and its distribution between regions of autonomous communities is estimated and analyzed, in agreement with the methodology used by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for merchant ships and by means of the GINI index. Finally, the profile of the Spanish tugboat that pollutes the most is formalized as a function of its location, age, size (GT), and power (kW).

The following sections present the methodology used to reach the proposed objectives, the data used, the results obtained, and the general conclusions drawn from the study.

2. Materials and Methods

This section presents the methodology used both for estimating the greenhouse gas emissions of the Spanish tugboat fleet and for determining the degree of concentration of these emissions (region, age, size, and power). It also describes the process followed to gather the data on the fleet analyzed in the period 2004–2017.

For the estimation of the greenhouse gases, the carbon footprint and the analysis of the concentration of CO₂ emissions, the two methodologies outlined below will be used.

2.1. Methodology for the Estimation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions of the Tugboat Fleet

The greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of the Spanish tugboat fleet are estimated based on fuel consumption for each tugboat individually through the bottom-up methodology [72,73].

In the bottom-up methodology, also known as the activity-based method [74], pollutant emissions are estimated directly within a spatial context and the inventories of the emissions are drawn up for the activities of ships in specific locations [75]. The specific emissions are calculated according to the characteristics of the vessel for a specific place and activity.

The technical data on the main and auxiliary engines installed on board the tugboats have been obtained from the annual reports of the ports of the state public entities and from the companies that assemble them.

The marine engines used in the tugboats operating in Spanish ports are medium-speed diesel engines. In Spanish ports, there are environmental restrictions regarding the quality of fuel used in port areas by merchant ships and tugboats. The boats that operate in Spanish ports must use fuels with a low sulfur content. Therefore, the fuel used is distilled fuel (DO), with a sulfur content of 0.1%.

For the purposes of our work, we have considered a load regime of the main and auxiliary engines that is defined in the final report of Chevron Richmond Long Wharf Shipping Emissions Model [76], considering that the main engines operate at 31% of the load regime and the auxiliary engines at 43% of the load regime.

To determine the number of hours that the tugs have operated in each port, in the years analyzed, the maritime traffic of those ports has been taken into account. It has been estimated that each vessel that operates in the Spanish ports—which by obligation require a tugboat—will need tug assistance for one hour (30 min for each entry and exit maneuver, respectively). The maritime traffic in Spanish ports has been extracted from the yearbooks published by the different port authorities of the 9 autonomous communities and the two autonomous cities of the Spanish state for the period analyzed.

Tugboat activity generates emissions into the air in the ports caused by the tugboat engine exhaust gases. These atmospheric emissions are made up of a series of gases that are the cause of the greenhouse effect. The greenhouse gases analyzed here are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O). The emissions have been estimated by applying Equation (1):

$$E_F^t = CT_F^t \times FE_{CO_2} + CT_F^t \times FE_{CH_4} + CT_F^t \times FE_{N_2O} \quad (1)$$

where:

E_F^t = emissions of the fleet F in the period t, measured in Tm of each pollutant i (i = CO₂, CH₄, N₂O),

CT_F^t = total consumption of fuel of the fleet F in the period t, measured in Tm, and

FE_i = factor of emission of the pollutant i in Tm (where i = CO₂, CH₄ y N₂O).

Simplifying, we get the general Equation (2):

$$E_F^t = CT_F^t \sum_i FE_i \quad (2)$$

The carbon footprint is considered to be the total quantity of greenhouse gases emitted directly or indirectly by an individual, organization, event or product.

The carbon footprint is measured in Tm of CO₂ equivalent. Thus, to estimate the carbon footprint of the fleet analyzed, the emissions of CO₂, N₂O and CH₄ have to be transformed into Tm of units of CO₂ equivalent. To do this, starting from Equation (1) we get Equation (3), which measures the carbon footprint of the Spanish tugboat fleet:

$$F_F^t = CT_F^t \times FE_{CO_2} + CT_F^t \times FE_{CH_4} \times FC_{CH_4} + CT_F^t \times FE_{N_2O} \times FC_{N_2O} \quad (3)$$

Simplifying, we get the general Equation (4):

$$F_F^t = \sum (FE_i \times FC_i) \quad (4)$$

where:

F_F^t = carbon footprint of the fleet F in the period t or total sum of GHG expressed in tons of CO₂ equivalent and

FC_i = conversion Factor i (where the equivalences of i are CO₂ = 1, conversion factor of CH₄ = FC_{CH_4} , and conversion factor of N₂O = FC_{N_2O}).

2.2. Methodology for the Calculation of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Concentration Indices of the Spanish Fleet

Concentration measures are designed to highlight the greater or lesser degree of proximity in the total distribution of the values of a variable in a population. Therefore, they are indicators of the degree of distribution/concentration of the variable.

There are numerous studies on the methodological aspects of the measurement of concentration in the socioeconomic and health fields. Among all the measures of concentration used in health, in the present work we focus on the well-known Gini coefficient.

This constitutes the first application of this tool to the analysis of the greenhouse gas emissions of a tugboat fleet.

In this regard, it is intended to formalize a series of concentration indices for certain variables of the Spanish ports' tugboat sector. The objective is to determine, for a given period, the degree of concentration of greenhouse gas emissions caused by the activity of the fleet in relation to the regions where it operates and the age and the size of the tugboats measured in GT as a proxy variable.

These indices, which synthesize in one figure the global concentration existing in a population, provide extremely useful information by quantifying the level of concentration of the variable examined in each case. The Gini coefficient is based on the Lorenz curve, which is a cumulative frequency function that compares the empirical distribution of a variable with the uniform distribution (of equality). This uniform distribution is represented by the diagonal $y = x$ or the equidistribution line (see Figure 1). The greater the distance, or more specifically the area between the Lorenz curve and this diagonal, the greater the inequality.

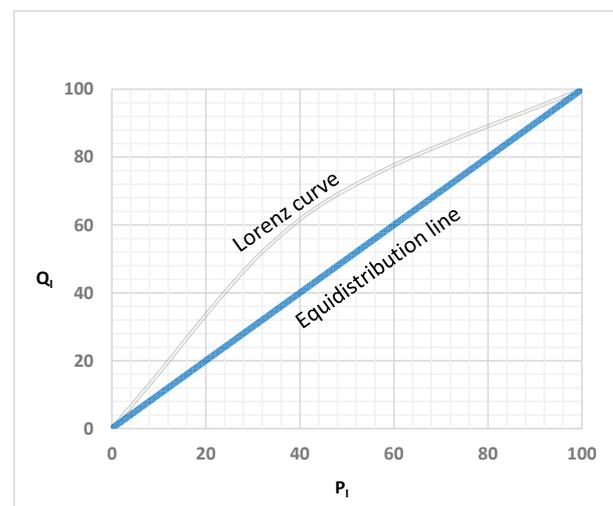


Figure 1. Lorenz curve. Source: authors. P_i = accumulated percentage (%) of the value of the population variable analyzed (X) and Q_i = accumulated percentage (%) of the variable of the emission of CO₂ equivalent (FX) of the population analyzed (X).

In its application to the analysis of the greenhouse gas emissions of the Spanish tugboat fleet, the “X” axis represents the accumulated value of the population variable under analysis (number of tugboats, size in GT, and installed power in kW) and the “Y” axis, the accumulated value of the fleet greenhouse gas emission variable (in tons of CO₂ equivalent).

To apply the Gini coefficient to the present analysis, we start with Equation (5):

$$FGI = \left(\sum_{i=1}^{k-1} (p_i - q_i) \right) / \left(\sum_{i=1}^{k-1} p_i \right) \tag{5}$$

where:

FGI = Gini coefficient of the concentration of emissions in Tm of CO₂ equivalent as the percentage (%) of the accumulated value of the population variable analyzed (X), which has k individuals, determined by means of Equation (6):

$$p_i = \sum_{i=1}^i \left(X_i / \sum_{i=1}^k X_i \right) = \sum_{i=1}^i X_i / \sum_{i=1}^k X_i \tag{6}$$

where q_i is the accumulated percentage (%) of the variable of the emission of CO₂ equivalent (FX) of the population analyzed (X) which has k individuals, which is determined by means of Equation (7).

$$q_i = \sum_{i=1}^i \left(FX_i / \sum_{i=1}^k FX_i \right) = \sum_{i=1}^i FX_i / \sum_{i=1}^k FX_i \tag{7}$$

Substituting in (3), we get the general Equation (8) by means of which the inequalities in the concentration of the emissions of CO₂ equivalent of the Spanish tugboat fleet can be determined:

$$FGi/X(t) = \left(\sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^i X_i / \sum_{i=1}^k X_i \right) - \left(\sum_{i=1}^i FX_i / \sum_{i=1}^k FX_i \right) \right] \right) / \left(\sum_{i=1}^{k-1} \left(\sum_{i=1}^i X_i / \sum_{i=1}^k X_i \right) \right) \tag{8}$$

The variables used in the construction of the concentration indices are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Variables used in the construction of the concentration indices.

G ^a	X(t) ^b			FX(t) ^c
	NV(t)	GT(t)	KW(t)	CO ₂ E(t)
1	NV ₁ (t)	GT ₁ (t)	KW ₁ (t)	CO ₂ E ₁ (t)
i	NV _i (t)	GT _i (t)	KW _i (t)	CO ₂ E _i (t)
k	NV _k (t)	GT _k (t)	KW _k (t)	CO ₂ E _k (t)
Total	$\sum_{i=1}^k NV_i(t)$	$\sum_{i=1}^k GT_i(t)$	$\sum_{i=1}^k KW_i(t)$	$\sum_{i=1}^k CO_2E_i(t)$

Source: Authors. ^a = groups of variables. In the present work, this grouping is made according to regions, age, size (GT) and power (KW). ^b = population variable analyzed of the fleet i in the period t (NV = number of tugboats; GT = size in gross tons; kW = installed power in kW). ^c = Variable of gas emissions (CO₂E = greenhouse gases).

2.3. Data

In Spain, the tugboat fleet is distributed over base ports throughout the 9 coastal autonomous communities (Basque Country, Cantabria, Asturias, Galicia, Andalusia, Community of Murcia, Community of Valencia, Catalonia, Balearic Islands, Canary Islands) and two autonomous cities (Ceuta and Melilla), as shown in Figure 2.

The annual censuses have been drawn up for the period 2004–2017 with information on each tugboat taken from the annual records of the state ports (Spanish Ministry of Public Works) and from the tugboat companies (see Table 2). With these censuses, a database of tugboats has been created in ACCES incorporating all of the information obtained. This has allowed the aggregate values to be generated and grouped together in different ways: by installed power (main and auxiliary engines), by consumption (in agreement with the operability established in Section 2.1), and by other structural data (length, age, deadweight, power, and gross tonnage). Finally, the data have been formalized

by autonomous community (region), age, and size (GT), in order to be able to estimate the concentration indices.

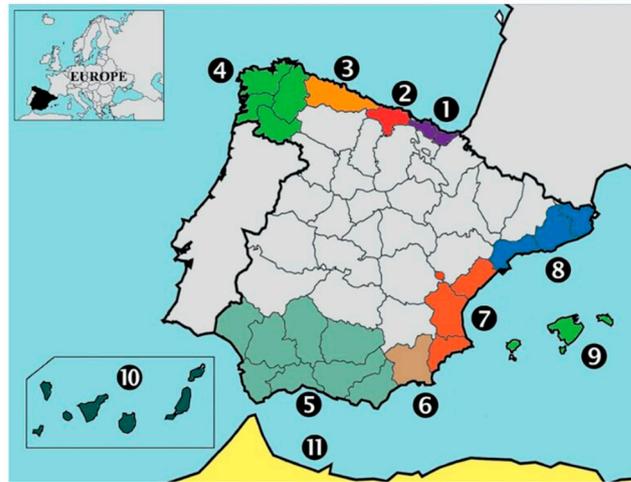


Figure 2. Distribution of coastal regions of Spain. Basque Country (1), Cantabria (2), Asturias (3), Galicia (4), Andalusia (5), Com. Murcia (6), Com. Valencia (7), Catalonia (8), Balearic Islands (9), Canary Islands (10) and Ceuta and Melilla (11). Source: Authors.

Table 2. Average data of the 14 years analyzed (2004–2017).

	Coastal Autonomous Communities	Vessels	GT	KW
1	BASQUE COUNTRY	15	4849	37,457
2	CANTABRIA	4	1592	17,338
3	ASTURIAS	13	4600	32,366
4	GALICIA	28	11,453	78,745
5	ANDALUSIA	46	12,470	101,342
6	COM MURCIA	7	4596	30,514
7	COM VALENCIANA	29	8227	75,943
8	CATALONIA	14	4577	45,710
9	BALEARIC ISLANDS	5	1571	10,640
10	CANARY ISLAND	24	6611	58,703
11	CEUTA AND MELILLA	5	1065	7673

Source: Authors.

3. Results

The application of the tools formalized in the methodology [76] described in Section 2 to the Spanish ports tugboat fleet will allow us to obtain all of the aggregate results of the greenhouse gas emissions, such as the carbon footprint and the concentration indices.

3.1. Emissions of the Spanish Tugboat Fleet

In the period analyzed (2004–2017), the Spanish tugboat fleet increased by 29.01% in number, while the emissions increased by 42.54% in Tm of CO₂ equivalent. The average rate of the emissions measured ranged from 143 to 168 Tm of CO₂ equivalent (see Figure 3). The *x*-axis shows the CO₂ emissions and the *y*-axis shows the years in which the emissions occur.

Figure 4 shows the distribution of the emissions of greenhouse gases of the Spanish tugboat fleet among the ports of the different regions for the period analyzed (*x*-axis). The fleets of the regions of Galicia, Canary Islands, Community of Valencia and Andalusia (*y*-axis) have the highest values, with average values of over 3000 Tm of CO₂ equivalent.

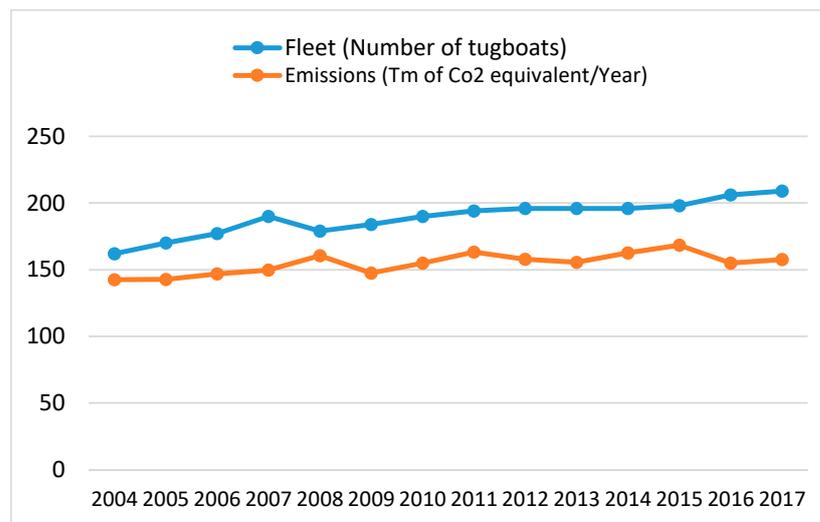


Figure 3. Evolution of the Spanish ports tugboat fleet and emissions measured. Source: Authors.

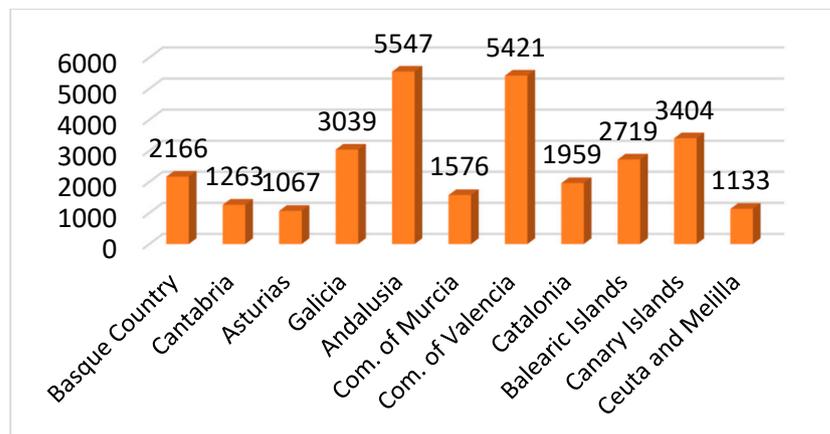


Figure 4. Distribution of fleet emissions by coastal regions in Spain. Source: Authors.

By groups of age (A), until the year 2015, the fleet of ships under 10 years old was the one that emitted the highest quantity of Tm of CO₂ equivalent. After 2015, however, it is the fleet of tugboats of over 15 years of age that produces the highest quantity of greenhouse gas emissions in the Spanish ports. In Figure 5, the x-axis shows the emissions of tons of CO₂ and the y-axis shows the years.

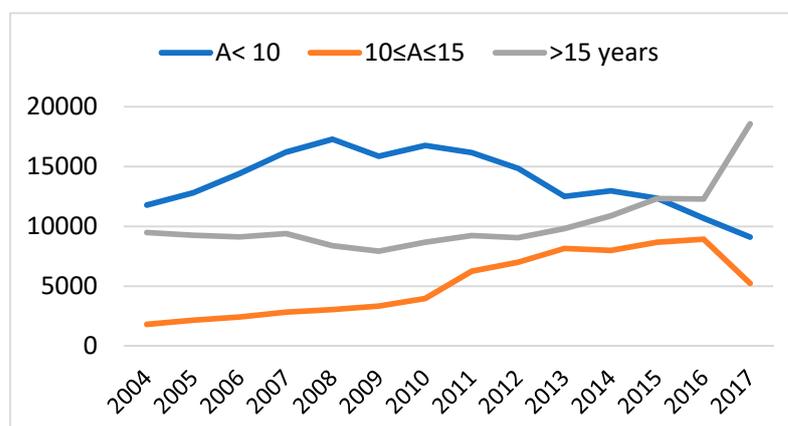


Figure 5. Evolution of emissions of Spanish tugboat fleet, by groups of age. Source: Authors.

By groups of size (measured in GT), the fleet of tugboats of between 300 and 400 GT was the one that produced the most emissions for the period analyzed, except for the year 2017, when the tugboats of over 400 GT were the ones that polluted the most (see Figure 6) the *x*-axis shows the emissions of tons of CO₂ and the *y*-axis show the years.

Regarding the power groups (measured in kW), the tugboats with power of between 2000 and 4000 kW were the ones that produced the largest emissions of greenhouse gases in the period analyzed. In Figure 7, the *x*-axis shows the emissions of tons of CO₂ and the *y*-axis shows the years.

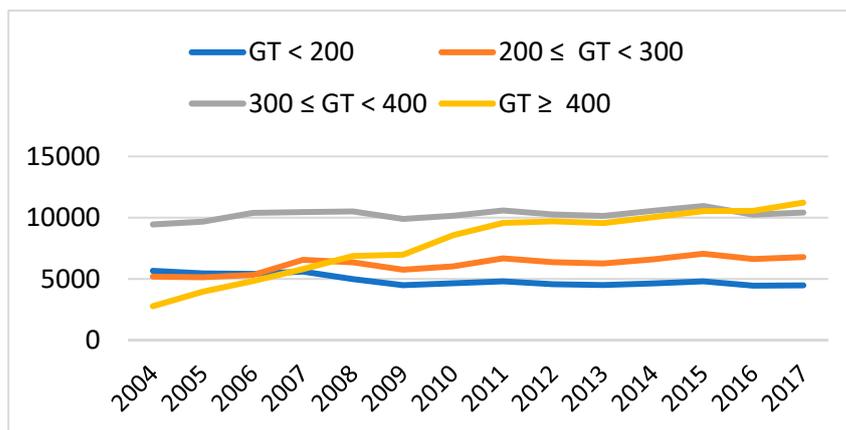


Figure 6. Evolution of emissions of the Spanish tugboat fleet, by groups of size, measured in GT. Source: authors.

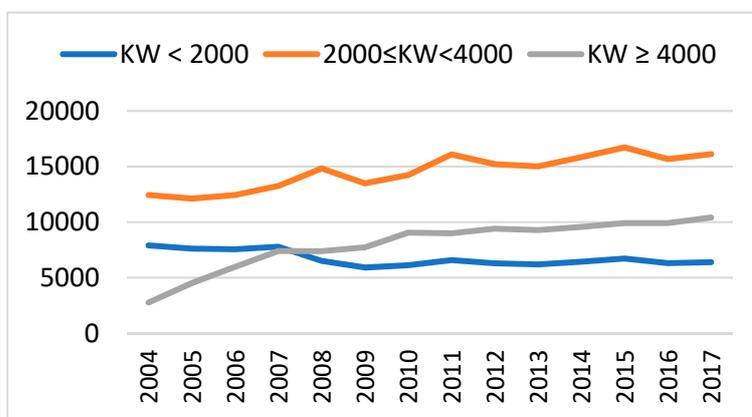


Figure 7. Evolution of emissions of Spanish tugboat fleet, by groups of power, measured in kW. Source: Authors.

3.2. Participation in the Carbon Footprint

Since 2008, the National Institute of Statistics of Spain (INE) has published the Records of Emissions into the Atmosphere by Activity Branches (CNAE 2009). At present, the series covers up to the year 2015. Branch 50 presents the emissions generated by marine transport and transport in inner navigable waters. The quantities are expressed in thousands of Tm of CO₂ Eq. We have available then the carbon footprint of the whole Spanish marine transport sector, so that by comparing these emissions with those produced by the tugboat sector, we can establish the contribution of this sector to the carbon footprint of the country’s marine transport sector (Table 3).

Table 3. Carbon footprint of the Spanish ports tugboat fleet and its contribution to the carbon footprint of the Spanish marine transport sector (2008–2015).

Year	FPMT ^a	FPT ^b	(%)FPMT ^c
2008	4343.90	28.72	0.66%
2009	3636.60	27.13	0.75%
2010	3465.30	29.42	0.85%
2011	2739.40	31.66	1.16%
2012	2833.20	30.91	1.09%
2013	1716.60	30.49	1.78%
2014	1141.60	31.85	2.79%
2015	1487.70	33.36	2.24%

Source: authors. ^a carbon footprint of the Spanish marine transport sector measured in thousands of Tm of CO₂ Eq; ^b carbon footprint of the Spanish tugboat fleet measured in thousands of Tm of CO₂ Eq; ^c contribution of emissions of the Spanish tugboat fleet to the carbon footprint of the Spanish marine transport sector.

In the period analyzed (2008–2015), there was an increase in both the emissions of greenhouse gases of the Spanish tugboat fleet and in its contribution to the carbon footprint of the Spanish marine transport sector, even though the total emissions of the sector fell.

3.3. Concentration Indices of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Lorenz Curves of the Spanish Tugboat Fleet

The concentration indices of the greenhouse gas emissions of the tugboat fleet operating in Spanish ports in the period 2004–2017 is shown in Table 4. The indices have been classified by regions (autonomous communities), by age, and by size, measured in GT.

Table 4. Concentration indices of the greenhouse gas emissions of the Spanish tugboat fleet.

PERIOD	Year	FGI _{REGION} ^a	FGI _{AYE} ^b	FGI _{GT} ^c
BEFORE ECONOMIC RECESSION Original ANTES DE LA RECESIÓN ECONÓMICA	2004	−0.324	−0.535	−0.449
	2005	−0.295	−0.534	−0.458
	2006	−0.279	−0.533	−0.465
	2007	−0.263	−0.444	−0.429
ECONOMIC RECESSION	2008	−0.213	−0.355	−0.359
	2009	−0.203	−0.359	−0.359
	2010	−0.186	−0.345	−0.345
	2011	−0.299	−0.367	−0.329
	2012	−0.327	−0.377	−0.330
	2013	−0.342	−0.367	−0.330
AFTER ECONOMIC RECESSION	2014	−0.383	−0.392	−0.334
	2015	−0.398	−0.395	−0.327
	2016	−0.351	−0.331	−0.297
	2017	−0.370	−0.307	−0.293

Source: authors. ^a GINI FGlr concentration indices of greenhouse gas emissions of Spanish tugboat fleet by region; ^b GINI FGly concentration indices of greenhouse gas emissions of Spanish tugboat fleet by age; ^c GINI FGlt concentration indices of greenhouse gas emissions of Spanish tugboat fleet by size (GT).

By region (autonomous community), the concentration of the emissions of greenhouse gases caused by the activity of the Spanish tugboat fleet, measured in Tm of CO₂ equivalent in the period analyzed (2004–2017), increased by 14.26%, as shown in Table 3. In the period before the economic recession (2004–2007), the concentration decreased by 18.7%. During the recession (2008–2013), the concentration of gases increased by 61.15%. After the economic recession (2014–2017), the concentration of gases decreased again by 3.29%.

Figure 8 shows the Lorenz curves for the years 2004, 2010 and 2017, where it can be seen that in the last year, the curve distances itself from the diagonal, showing the increase in the concentration indicated in the period.

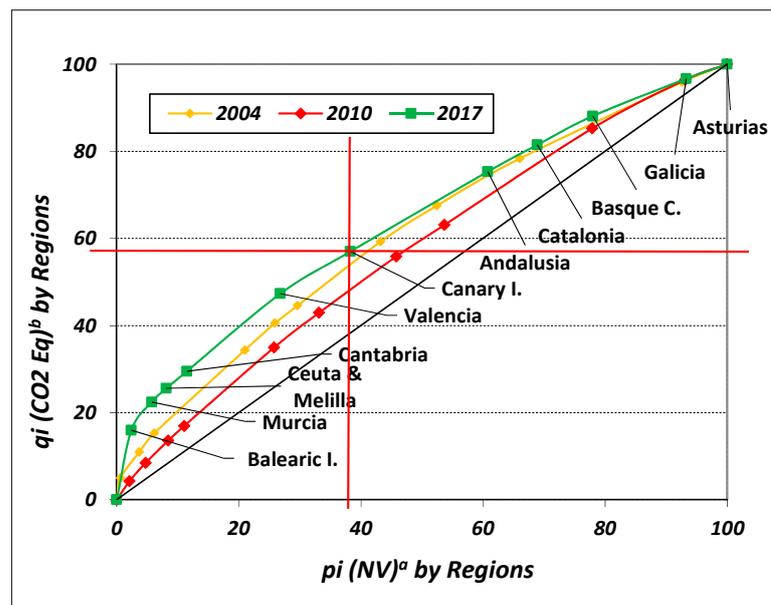


Figure 8. Lorenz curves of emissions of CO₂ equivalent of the tugboats in Spanish ports by region. Source: authors. ^a = % accumulated number of tugboats by regions; ^b = % accumulated emissions of CO₂ equivalent by region.

In 2017, 38.28% of the tugboat fleet emitted 57.02% of the CO₂ equivalent. These were the tugboats that operate in the ports of the Balearic Islands, Murcia, Ceuta and Melilla, Cantabria, Valencia, and the Canary Islands (see Figure 2). On the other hand, 61.72% of the remaining fleet operating in the regions of Andalusia, Catalonia, the Basque Country, Galicia and Asturias emitted 42.98% of the greenhouse gases.

By age in the period analyzed (2004–2017), the concentration of greenhouse gas emissions fell. In the year 2017, the tugboat fleet of over 15 years of age that made up 66.51% of the total of the fleet emitted 56.39% of the total of the greenhouse gas emissions of the fleet (see Figure 9).

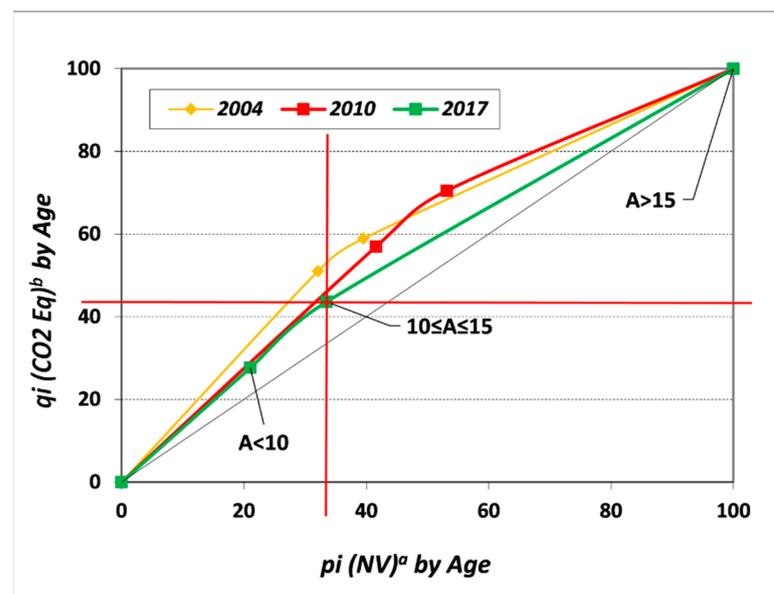


Figure 9. Lorenz curves of the greenhouse gas emissions of the Spanish tugboat fleet by age. Source: Authors. ^a = accumulated percentage of tugboats by age; ^b = accumulated percentage of emissions of CO₂ equivalent by age.

By size, measured in GT, in the period analyzed (2004–2017), the concentration of greenhouse gas emissions fell. In the year 2017, the part of the fleet made up of tugboats of less than 400 GT, which makes up 49.76% of the fleet, emitted 65.78% of the total (see Figure 10).

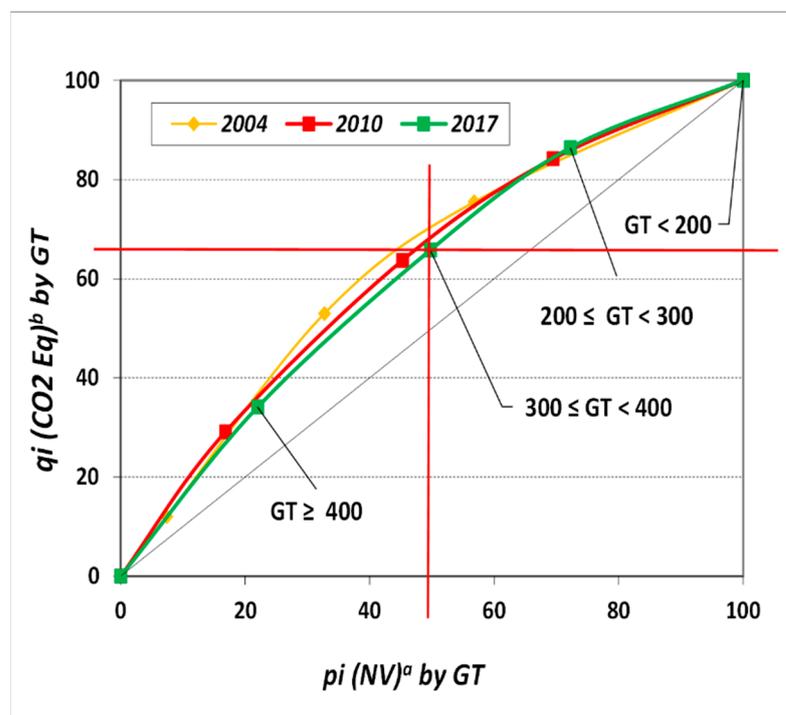


Figure 10. Lorenz curves of greenhouse gas emissions of the Spanish tugboat fleet by size (GT). Source: Authors. ^a = accumulated percentage of tugboats by GT; ^b = accumulated percentage of emissions of CO₂ equivalent by GT.

4. Discussion

In the present work, two different types of methodology have been used in a complementary manner: one to estimate emissions and the other to determine their degree of concentration. In the case of the bottom-up methodology for estimating emissions, the procedure most widely used in the maritime sector has been chosen. In the case of the concentration analysis, the Gini indices have been chosen, as these are widely used in work on health indicators.

This is the methodology used by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Controversy surrounding this methodology occurred during 2009 and 2017 [72–75] of the period analyzed in technological, legal and socioeconomic contexts. These references have been fully formalized in Section 2.1 of the introduction.

Although both methodologies have been shown to be effective for the purposes of this work, this does not imply that other methodologies may not be used either to estimate emissions or to determine their concentration (for example, the Theil indices).

Although reference is made to the Spanish maritime port sector (all commercial maritime ports), it has been decided to undertake a regional analysis, in order to present a more global view of the sector. This means that all of the maritime-commercial ports of each region are grouped together, even though their size and level of activity may be different.

The concentration indices have been estimated for the entire period analyzed (2004–2017). However, the Lorenz curves have only been formalized for 3 years. The aim is to show more clearly the evolution of the concentration in the three bounded periods, since each year is identified with a period.

The carbon footprint of the Spanish tugboat fleet has been obtained for the period 2008–2015, since these are the only years for which there are published data on emissions from the total Spanish fleet of merchant ships.

5. Conclusions

- a. The methodologies used in a complementary way for the estimation of greenhouse gas emissions (bottom-up) and the analysis of their concentration for different groups of variables have proven to be efficient in the present analysis and could be applied in other works on other sectors of the fleet and different spatial areas.
- b. In the period analyzed (2007–2017), the emissions produced by the activity of the Spanish ports tugboat fleet increased by 15.53% more than the fleet as a whole did.
- c. The profile of the port tugboat of the Spanish fleet that pollutes the most greenhouse gases in the period analyzed would be a tugboat under 15 years old, weight between 300 and 400 GT, engine power between 2000 and 4000 kW, and one that operates in the ports of the autonomous community (region) of Andalusia.
- d. In the period 2008–2015, the carbon footprint of the Spanish fleet of port tugboats increased, while that of the total sector of Spanish maritime transport decreased. This means that in this period, the participation of the Spanish sector of port tugboats in the total maritime transport increased, going from 0.66% in 2008 to 2.24% in 2015.
- e. In the period analyzed (2004–2017), the results obtained from the estimation of the Gini indices allow a relationship to be established for Spain between its level of economic activity and the degree of concentration of emissions from its fleet of port tugboats. In periods of crisis (economic recession), port activity is reduced and tends to concentrate more in the most efficient ports; therefore, the emissions of the tugs that operate in those ports also tend to concentrate more. In periods of growth (economic expansion), port activity increases and a greater number of ports are used to avoid congestion, meaning that the fleets operating in those ports are more spread out and the emissions produced by their activity are also more widely distributed.
- f. In the period analyzed (2004–2017), the concentration of emissions of the Spanish tugboat fleet increased if we look at its distribution by region and decreased if we look at its distribution by age and size. This is due to the fact that tugboat activity was very different by region; however, its characteristics relative to age and size evolved more homogeneously.

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