

Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., referee comment RC1
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Comment on nhess-2021-318

Anonymous Referee #1

Referee comment on "Characteristics and beach safety knowledge of beachgoers on unpatrolled surf beaches in Australia" by Lea Uebelhoer et al., Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-2021-318-RC1>, 2021

This study provides an important evaluation of beach safety issues at unpatrolled beaches, which are commonly overlooked in Australia and other locations around the world. Because beach safety and the presence of lifeguards is not an important determinant on what beaches people visit, there is a need to develop beach safety knowledge and strategies at these sites. The paper is well-written and I only have a small number of suggested edits:

* It would be interesting to do a more thorough comparison of beach user responses from unpatrolled beaches (this study) to the responses from studies on patrolled beaches. Is there greater or lesser knowledge? The other studies are cited, but it would be interesting to compare the populations.

*How do the photographs used in Figure 5 compare to the beaches in which the study was completed, and how did the conditions in the photographs compare to the conditions on the days in which the surveys were conducted? Again how does this compare to previous studies of ability to spot rip currents?

* A copy of the survey instrument is needed as an appendix or supplementary section.

