Comment on nhess-2022-23
Anonymous Referee #1

Referee comment on "Uncovering the veil of night light changes in times of catastrophe"
by Vincent G. Schippers and Wouter J. W. Botzen, Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss.,
https://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-2022-23-RC1, 2022

The submitted manuscript, by using nighttime lights, analyses the socio-economic
consequences of hurricane Katrina. A correlation analysis between nightlights and relevant
socio-economic variables (population, income, employment and GDP) at the county level
is tested, which seems to suggest a sort of agreement (particularly for population data).

Despite the interesting research goal and topic, I have the feeling that a major flaw
characterizes the correlation analysis. A detailed explanation is provided in the attached
pdf, which also includes several additional issues. Therefore, comments related to the
correlation analysis need to be checked in the revised version of this manuscript, to verify
that their validity does not change.

Finally, the paper is very long and, somewhere, written in a convoluted way with several
repetitions (especially in the introduction). I would encourage the authors to focus on key
and relevant sentences and synthesize the whole manuscript in a more condensed version
(e.g. Discussion & Conclusion could be merged). Also, some Figures are not necessary and
footnotes should be avoided (move the text to the main paper body).

Please also note the supplement to this comment: