

Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., referee comment RC1
<https://doi.org/10.5194/nhess-2022-23-RC1>, 2022
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Comment on nhess-2022-23

Anonymous Referee #1

Referee comment on "Uncovering the veil of night light changes in times of catastrophe"
by Vincent Schippers and Wouter 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:

<https://nhess.copernicus.org/preprints/nhess-2022-23/nhess-2022-23-RC1-supplement.pdf>