

Interactive comment on “Review and syntheses: Turbidity flows – evidence for effects on deep-sea benthic community productivity is ambiguous but the influence on diversity is clearer” by Katharine T. Bigham et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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What a great paper, and a review that is probably long overdue. It is extremely well written and nicely illustrated. In fact it is so well written I have no real detailed comments to make.

I think title feels a bit like a holding statement until a proper title is decided upon. For example “evidence for effects on deep sea benthic community productivity is ambiguous” what does that mean? This is more ambiguous. Surely the collapse of the seafloor has to be a negative effect to those on said seafloor and those that the seafloor is about to pile down on? Then, again ambiguously “the influence on diversity is clearer”- is that

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a positive influence or a negative one? It reads like ‘Turbidity flows probably don’t do much for productivity but might do something to diversity.’ I think a more succinct title will do the paper greater justice.

It might also be worth mentioning the significance of post-turbidity flow surveys to other contemporary research. I am thinking deep sea mining. There has been a lot of talk recently about burial and smothering in the wake of polymetallic nodule field disturbance, and what that secondary disturbance might do to the benthic fauna. This could be incorporated into the discussion to give a more applied value to this review.

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