

Interactive comment on “Integrating network topology metrics into studies of catchment-level effects on habitat diversity” by Eleanore L. Heasley et al.

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Thank you very much for taking the time to read our manuscript and for your constructive comments.

You have highlighted some key limitations which had not been properly addressed in the original manuscript (i.e. issues surrounding the River Habitat Survey data, the Habitat Quality Score and the mutual exclusivity of the metrics) and identify areas where analysis may be improved upon (i.e. your suggestion to include Habitat Modification Score and a multi-variate regression analysis) in addition to other comments.

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Based on your comments, we have revised the manuscript (see Supplement) and provide a table (see Supplement) detailing our specific response to each of your concerns, along with the concerns of our 2nd referee. On occasion where we dispute part of your comment so that it is not fully rectified in the revised manuscript, it is indicated in the table with the phrase “Part-addressed”. We have added new variables from the River Habitat Survey to our analysis and so the figures, results and discussion have been updated accordingly.

We believe the revised manuscript now adds more to the discussion surrounding the impacts of network topology on river reach characteristics and is of improved scientific rigor. We hope you share our view and that the changes we have made satisfy your concerns with the original manuscript.

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://www.hydrol-earth-syst-sci-discuss.net/hess-2018-89/hess-2018-89-AC1-supplement.zip>

Interactive comment on Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-2018-89>, 2018.

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