



Figure 4. Proposed ‘traffic-light’ rating for different areas in the South Island of New Zealand.

51. Given that there is only limited quantitative information on total recreational catch and bag frequencies (the amount of fish taken per fisher per day), a range of bag limit options is proposed for each ‘traffic light’ area. Better information on recreational catch is a focus of the new research strategy, which is being developed as an outcome of the Strategy.

Analysis of Options

Option One – Retain the Status Quo

52. Fisheries New Zealand considers that the status quo provides for greater utilisation of the fishery, at least in the short term, but does not ensure localised sustainability nor address the concerns of localised overfishing, particularly in areas that are experiencing high recreational fishing pressure. The exception is in areas such as Challenger East and parts of Fiordland where measures have already been put in place to address this.
53. We note that the large differences in daily bag limits between areas in the South Island make it more difficult for recreational fishers to comply with the rules. Assigning bag