Report of the Evaluation Team on the Effects of Hydrocarbons on Fishery Resources

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The evaluation committee met with speakers and interested attendees and respectfully submit this report. The outstanding level of contributions of the speakers is acknowledged. This year's session formed an excellent foundation and starting point presenting results from both laboratory and field studies.

The papers presented pointed out the dearth of knowledge of the direct in-situ effect of hydrocarbon impacts on tropical marine fishery resources and the difficulty in establishing a cause and effect relationship. As a consequence of these problems we recommend the following:

1) That the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Board of Directors strongly consider the importance of planning a full day session dealing with the environmental impact on marine fishery resources of the following: (a) hydrocarbons, (b) heavy metals, (c) energy extraction, (d) synthetic organic pollutants, and (e) organic pollutants.

The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute should implement this session by presenting overview papers on the above topics. Shorter contributions dealing with in-depth evaluation on environmental impacts on specific fisheries (i.e. shrimp, reef-fish, other fin fish and mollusks) should be a part of the session.

2) That the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute recognize the need and strongly urge that research projects be undertaken to further investigate the impact of hydrocarbons on our marine fishery resources and determine the relationship between habitat and fishery productivity. Encouragement should be given other international and Caribbean organizations to recognize and support cooperative, environmental fisheries and related research activities.