

Report of the Evaluation Team on Developing Marine Recreational Fisheries (MRF)

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The Evaluation Team on MRF development is pleased to submit to GCFI and its Executive Committee the following recommendations:

- (1) Because of the biological, social and economic importance of recreational fisheries to the Gulf and Caribbean area, MRF should be a part of the program of all future GCFI annual meetings.
- (2) By 1985, another major session on MRF development—emphasizing changes and progress—should be included as part of GCFI annual meeting.
- (3) The GCFI should recommend that fisheries departments in the various countries represented in the GCFI assess the quality and potential of recreational fishing by consulting with masterfishermen, communities, recreational fishermen, and others to determine if there is a worthwhile potential for the development of MRF. Countries that believe such a potential exists should start working on a “master plan.” The Evaluation Team feels that a master plan should include the following: (a) Consideration of the four major dimensions of MRF: the resource base, users, support industries, and public and private organizations affecting the first three demonstrations; (b) Coordination and multi-government participation of MRF activities with an identifiable entity, such as the GCFI, acting in a catalytic role to start the process and keep it moving; (c) Acquisition and maintenance of an adequate data base on catch, effort and participation as well as relevant social and economic information; (d) Preparation of project documents outlining advisable government policies or options, such as tax incentives, long-term leases, etc. and giving cost estimates for development.
- (4) GCFI should establish a standing committee composed of fisheries officers from countries geographically located throughout the Gulf and Caribbean area. The purpose of this committee will be to coordinate all activities related to the development of MRF as well as management of the living marine resources of the Gulf and Caribbean area. The committee should meet at least once annually.
- (5) Identification by GCFI of sources of information and assistance that would be of value to the standing MRF committee in the preparation of comprehensive guidelines/options for developing MRF in Lesser Antilles States.