CLAIMS

1. A method of pretreating a hydrocarbon steam cracker feed, comprising contacting the feed with a solvent to produce a pretreated feed having a reduced content of fouling components that cause fouling in the preheat, convection and radiant sections of the steam cracker and a rich solvent having an increased content of fouling components,

further comprising removing the fouling components from the rich solvent and using those components in another part of the steam cracker system as a quench oil stream or to reduce the viscosity of a heavy pitch and/or cracked gasoil stream,

wherein the cracking conditions comprise a temperature in the range of from 700 to 900 °C.