~~**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**~~

CLAIMS

1. A metal trap comprising pre-formed microspheres impregnated with a solution comprising an organic acid salt of a rare earth element and a salt of calcium and/or magnesium, wherein the pre-formed microspheres consist of calcined hydrous kaolin and the pre-formed microspheres have a pore volume of at least about 0.10 cm^3/gram, wherein the pre-formed microspheres have a particle size of from about 40-150 microns.

~~2. The metal trap of Claim 1, wherein the pre-formed microspheres comprise kaolinite, montmorillonite, bentonite, attapulgite, kaolin, amorphous kaolin, metakaolin, mullite, spinel, hydrous kaolin, calcined hydrous kaolin, clay, or a mixture of any two or more thereof.~~

~~3. The metal trap of Claim 2, wherein the pre-formed microspheres comprise calcined hydrous kaolin.~~

~~4. The metal trap of any one of Claims 1-3~~2. The metal trap of Claim 1 comprising at least 0.1 wt. % of the rare earth element on an oxide basis, and at least 0.1 wt. % of the calcium and/or magnesium on an oxide basis.

~~5~~3. The metal trap of ~~any one of~~ Claim 1~~-4~~ comprising from about 1 wt% to about 20 wt% of the rare earth element on an oxide basis, and from about 1 wt% to about 6 wt% of the calcium and/or magnesium on an oxide basis.

~~6~~4. The metal trap of ~~any one of Claims~~Claim 1~~-5~~, wherein the rare earth element is lanthanum, cerium, ytterbium, gadolinium, yttrium, neodymium, or a mixture of any two or more thereof.

~~7~~5. The metal trap of ~~any one of Claims~~Claim 1~~-6, wherein the rare earth element is lanthanum, cerium, or a mixture thereof.~~

~~8. The metal trap of any one of Claims 1-7~~, wherein the salt of calcium and/or magnesium is a salt of calcium.

~~9~~6. The metal trap of ~~any one of Claims~~Claim 1~~-8~~, wherein the organic acid salt is a formate, acetate, a propionate salt, or a mixture thereof.

~~10~~7. The metal trap of Claim ~~9, wherein the organic acid salt is a formate salt.~~

~~11. The metal trap of Claim 9~~6, wherein the organic acid salt of the rare earth element is lanthanum formate, lanthanum acetate, cerium formate, cerium acetate, or a mixture of any two or more thereof.

~~12. The metal trap of any one of Claims 1-11, wherein the pre-formed microspheres have a particle size of from about 40-150 microns.~~

~~13. The metal trap of any one of Claims 1-11, wherein the pre-formed microspheres have a pore volume of at least about 0.10 cm^3/gram.~~

~~14. A fluid catalytic cracking (FCC) catalyst composition comprising:~~
~~a zeolite component comprising a first microsphere; and~~
~~a non-zeolitic component comprising pre-formed second microspheres, separate from the first microsphere, and impregnated with an organic acid salt of a rare earth element and a salt of calcium and/or magnesium.~~

~~15. The FCC catalyst composition of Claim 14, wherein the pre-formed second microspheres comprise kaolinite, montmorillonite, bentonite, attapulgite, kaolin, amorphous kaolin, metakaolin, mullite, spinel, hydrous kaolin, calcined hydrous kaolin, clay, or a mixture of any two or more thereof.~~

~~16. The FCC catalyst composition of any one of Claims 14-15, wherein the rare earth element is lanthanum, cerium, or a mixture thereof.~~

~~17. The FCC catalyst composition of any one of Claims 14-16, wherein the organic acid salt is a formate, an acetate, or a propionate salt, or a mixture of any two or more thereof.~~

~~18. The FCC catalyst composition of Claim 17, wherein the organic acid salt is a formate salt.~~

~~19 The FCC catalyst composition of Claim 17, wherein the organic acid salt is an acetate salt.~~

~~20. A method of preparing the FCC catalyst composition of Claim 14, the method comprising blending the zeolite component and the non-zeolitic component.~~

~~21. The method of Claim 20, wherein the zeolite component is prepared by a method comprising:~~
~~pre-forming a precursor first microsphere comprising a non-zeolitic material and alumina; and~~
~~*in situ* crystallizing a zeolite on the pre-formed first microsphere to provide the zeolite component.~~

~~22. A method of cracking a hydrocarbon feed under fluid catalytic cracking conditions, the method comprising contacting the hydrocarbon feed with the FCC catalyst composition of Claim 14.~~

~~23. A method of passivating and/or trapping at least one metal contaminant from a hydrocarbon oil feed in an FCC unit bed, the method comprising contacting the hydrocarbon oil feed with the FCC catalyst composition of Claim 14.~~

~~24. The method of Claim 23, wherein the at least one metal contaminant is vanadium.~~

~~25. A fluid catalytic cracking (FCC) catalyst composition comprising:~~

~~a non-cracking component comprising a first microsphere; and~~

~~a non-zeolitic component comprising pre-formed second microspheres, separate from the first microsphere, and impregnated with an organic acid salt of a rare earth element and a salt of calcium and/or magnesium.~~

~~26. The FCC catalyst composition of Claim 25, wherein the pre-formed second microspheres comprise kaolinite, montmorillonite, bentonite, attapulgite, kaolin, amorphous kaolin, metakaolin, mullite, spinel, hydrous kaolin, calcined hydrous kaolin, clay, or a mixture of any two or more thereof.~~

~~27. The FCC catalyst composition of Claim 25 or 26 wherein the rare earth element is lanthanum, cerium, ytterbium, gadolinium, yttrium, neodymium, or a mixture of any two or more thereof.~~

~~28. The FCC catalyst composition of Claim 25, 26, or 27, wherein the salt of calcium and/or magnesium is a carbonate salt.~~

~~29. The FCC catalyst composition of any one of claims 25-28, wherein the organic acid salt is a formate, an acetate, or a propionate salt, or a mixture of any two or more thereof.~~

~~30. The FCC catalyst composition of claim 29, wherein the organic acid salt is a formate salt.~~