

were also included in on-site costs. In addition, any cost directly attributable to participation in the recreation experience was considered an on-site cost. This includes, but is not limited to: launching fees for boats, rental of boat slips or dockage, rental of such items as skis, cushions, motors, boats, and other articles. Also included in on-site costs was the cost of operating a boat. This was determined by asking the recreation group how many outboard motors they had and how many gallons of gas would be used per day. Multiplying the number of gallons of gas by \$.42 yields the cost per day of operating the boat.<sup>12</sup> All of these costs were added and where applicable divided by the number of days at the site to give C, the on-site cost per day per group.

### **Income (m)**

The recreationist's income was estimated by determining an income category that most closely corresponds to the family income of the respondent. This includes all working members of the family. It was believed that the total income of the recreationist's family would be a more important factor in recreation decisions than the income of the primary wage earner alone. The income ranges listed are before tax incomes. No attempt was made to allow for income taxes since there could be a great divergence depending on exemptions and deductions. Obtaining the required information on these items would be extremely difficult considering the reluctance shown by some people in listing a simple income range.

The actual income used in the analysis was the midpoint of the income range. As an example, \$9,500 was used as the income for the \$9,000-\$9,900 range. The incomes given by the respondents were used in determining the cost of food consumed at home since USDA estimates of the cost of food per day is based on the income of the consumer.

### **Size of Recreation Group (n)**

The determination of the number of people in the group was by direct question. In most cases the recreation group was a family consisting of a father, mother, and one or more children. In other cases the group consisted of scouts, and similar groups. No distinction was made as to the composition of the group, however.

<sup>12</sup>The average price of a gallon of gas plus the required oil for mixing outboard fuel amounted to 42 cents per gallon. This estimate was obtained from a range of costs given by marina operators and boat owners.