

The Michigan Report made no recommendation or reference to the nuisance and/or health hazards created by floating wastes, nor was any reference made to trash, garbage, and litter, even though the Report did mention that great interest in these matters was evidenced by the completed questionnaires gathered as part of the Report. Both reports concurred in the fact that the pollution load attributable to houseboats and recreational watercraft was relatively small and in fact, could not even be measured in Michigan. Both also concluded that raw sewage was being deposited in the water from these craft.

An analysis of the questionnaires returned to the Committee established the fact that very few officials believed that pollution attributable to recreational watercraft was much of a problem. The results of the questionnaires are summarized in Appendix B but it should be noted that an average of all answers indicated that trash disposal from recreational watercraft was the greatest problem, followed by sewage, garbage and waste, in that order.

The Committee also reviewed such information as was available to determine the number of recreational watercraft within their various registered fleet that actually possessed marine toilets. Inasmuch as no statistical data was available on this subject, it was necessary to resort to estimates. It was concluded, after careful analysis, that a maximum of 10% of the recreational watercraft of any one state contained marine toilets and that the national average would probably be less than 5%. Necessarily, the craft with marine toilet were the larger craft which are generally located on coastal and Great Lake waters rather than on small land-locked lakes.

The general use patterns followed by owners of recreational watercraft were also noted. It was found that only a very few watercraft were used for an extensive period of time as dwellings but that, rather, most use was concentrated on weekends, holidays, and during summer vacations. Further, the boating season of most states was found to be rather limited with the exception of the southern, southwestern, and western states. As an example, it was noted that in Michigan the boating season is regarded as extending from May 1 to November 1 a period of six months, but that virtually all boating use was confined to the months of June through early October. Even if it was assumed that 10% of all recreational watercraft in Michigan contained marine toilets, that six persons were regularly utilizing the watercraft, and that the average boat was in use in one form or another for 60 days per year, the extent of pollution attributable to these craft would certainly have to be classified as negligible.

COMMITTEE FINDINGS

From the two health reports on this subject that were turned up by its research, from the results of its questionnaire survey, and from the results of its own independent analysis, the only conclusion that can be reasonably established and logically defended by this Committee is that pollution from recreational watercraft is, at most, negligible. This pollution is so slight on the total scale of pollutant sources that it is, at this time, unworthy of the considerable attention it has been given.

To support the finding of this Committee as to the relative insignificance of pollution from recreational watercraft, the Committee draws the reader's attention to a report on pollution of the Detroit River and Lake Erie, released by the U.S. Public Health Service on May 8, 1965. The report resulted from a two and one-half year study by the Public Health Service of these waters and found that pollution had reached a stage hazardous to human health, fish, wildlife and recreation. The report further claimed that 1.6 million gallons of waste flow into the Detroit River annually, "one-third from municipalities and two-thirds from industries." The report charged that the Scott Paper Company alone discharged wastes "equivalent in oxygen-consuming capacity to the untreated sewage from a population of over 800,000 persons."

The report recommended "correcting the pollution from six municipalities, 4 industrial establishments, and three Federal installations" and estimated the cost of remedial measures at \$200 million. The subject is still under debate in Michigan and promises to be actively discussed for many years before the situation outlined in the report is corrected, if ever.

Based on the assessment by the Committee of the total boating population in this country with marine toilets, the patterns of use of such craft, and the total days per year they are in operation, it is the opinion of this Committee that the