

# Mercury

Work Group Co-Chairs:

Alexis Cain, U.S. EPA

Robert Krauel, Environment Canada

# Canada's Mercury Reduction Challenge and Progress

## Canadian Challenge:

- *“Achieve by 2000, a 90% reduction in the release of mercury, or where warranted the use of mercury, in the Great Lakes Basin”*
- **Baseline: 1988**

## Progress:

- **Approximately 85% reduction of mercury releases in Ontario**

# U.S. Mercury Reduction Challenge and Progress

## U.S. Challenge:

- *“Achieve by 2006 a 50% reduction in use and air emissions of mercury nationwide”*
- **Baselines:**
  - ◆ Emissions: 1990
  - ◆ Use: 1995

## Progress (best guess):

- Emissions: > 45% reduction
- Use: > 50% reduction

# **Management Assessment Update**

## **■ Environmental Analysis**

- ◆ Generally sufficient data on the environmental presence of mercury in various media**
- ◆ Long-term decline in some media**
- ◆ Current trends in some environmental media are less clear**
- ◆ Mercury is a major cause of Great Lakes fish advisories**

# **Management Assessment Update**

- **Opportunity Assessment**
  - ◆ **A number of opportunities exist for further GLBTS action**
- **Management Outcomes**
  - ◆ **Continue active Level 1 status**
  - ◆ **Continue workgroup efforts**
  - ◆ **Share information about mercury to influence national/international actions**
  - ◆ **Can new challenge goals be established? TBD**