



North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation

Sound Management of Chemicals

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Sound Management Of Chemicals

- Aligning North American priorities for chemicals management
- Implementing North American Regional Action Plans (NARAPs) as top priorities:
 - chlordane, DDT, PCBs, mercury, lindane, dioxins/furans,
 - environmental monitoring and assessment
- Helping the three countries to advance international objectives
 - (SAICM, WSSD 2020 Goals)
 - Stockholm POP's
 - OECD



CEC's Sound Management of Chemicals Program

New Direction

- **Considerations for Strategies for Catalyzing Cooperation**
- Involve all stakeholders on a more active level
- Linking international forums such as SAICM, UNEP, GLBTS, OECD, etc.
- Strengthen tri-lateral partnership
- Develop strategies to secure outside partnerships and funding



Four primary concepts

- Reduce the Risk from Chemicals of Concern to North America
- Promotion of a Sustainable Regional Approach to Monitoring and Assessment of Toxic Chemicals
- Improve Environmental Performance of Sectors for Sound Management of Chemicals
- Establish a Foundation for Chemicals Management Across North America



Concept 1 Description

1. Reduce/eliminate risk of exposure to chemicals of concern to the population and environment of North America,

Mechanisms being considered

- Implement trilateral actions to reduce the risk of exposure to chemicals of concern such as transboundary and bioaccumulative chemicals
- Develop a North American program to prioritize and assess chemicals, groups of chemicals or sectors of mutual concern
- Continue with the work that has been established through the NARAPs
- Emerging chemicals' issues
 - Brominated Flame Retardants
 - Nanotechnology
 - Polyfluorinated alkyl compounds



Concept 2 Description

2. Develop/implement sustainable regional approach to environmental and eco-health monitoring
 - Mechanisms being considered
 - Promote long-term sustainability
 - Encourage communication, collaboration
 - integrate industry, academic monitoring networks into a regional effort.
 - Ensure information is useful and relevant to decision makers
 - regional, continental, global scale.
 - Examples of potential projects
 - PRONAME
 - “Information Road Map”
 - High Production Volume Chemicals



Concept 3 Description

3. Improve Environmental Performance of Sectors for Sound Management of Chemicals

– Mechanisms being considered

- Working with key sectors to improve environmental performance
- Facilitate transportation of chemicals across borders while ensuring the health and safety of humans and the environment
- Encourage industry to meet global environmental standards and promote: Efficient production processes, Preventative strategies and Cleaner production technologies

• Examples

- greening the design of electronics
- greening the automotive sector
- green cleaning products
- reducing Mercury exposure in hospital sector



Concept 4 Description

4. Establish a Foundation for Chemicals Management Across North America

in order to reduce of risk of human and environmental exposure to toxic chemicals

through:

- sharing information on chemical management policies, institutions and processes that can be adopted trilaterally
- making the chemicals management tools compatible between the three parties
- helping Mexico build their national capacity on the sound management of chemicals

– **Cont'd**



Concept 4 Description

4. Establish Foundation for Chemicals Management Across North America (cont'd)

– Mechanisms being considered

- Provide a foundation for a NA approach to the safe manufacture, transport, use and disposal of chemicals
- Identify chemical management approaches that are of interest to all three Parties
- Build stronger partnerships between the three Parties to share information, knowledge and experience

– Examples

- Inventory of Chemicals in Commerce in Mexico
- Updating Mexico's mercury emissions inventory
- Workshop to share information on chemical inventory development



Environmental Monitoring & Assessment Initiative (EM&A)

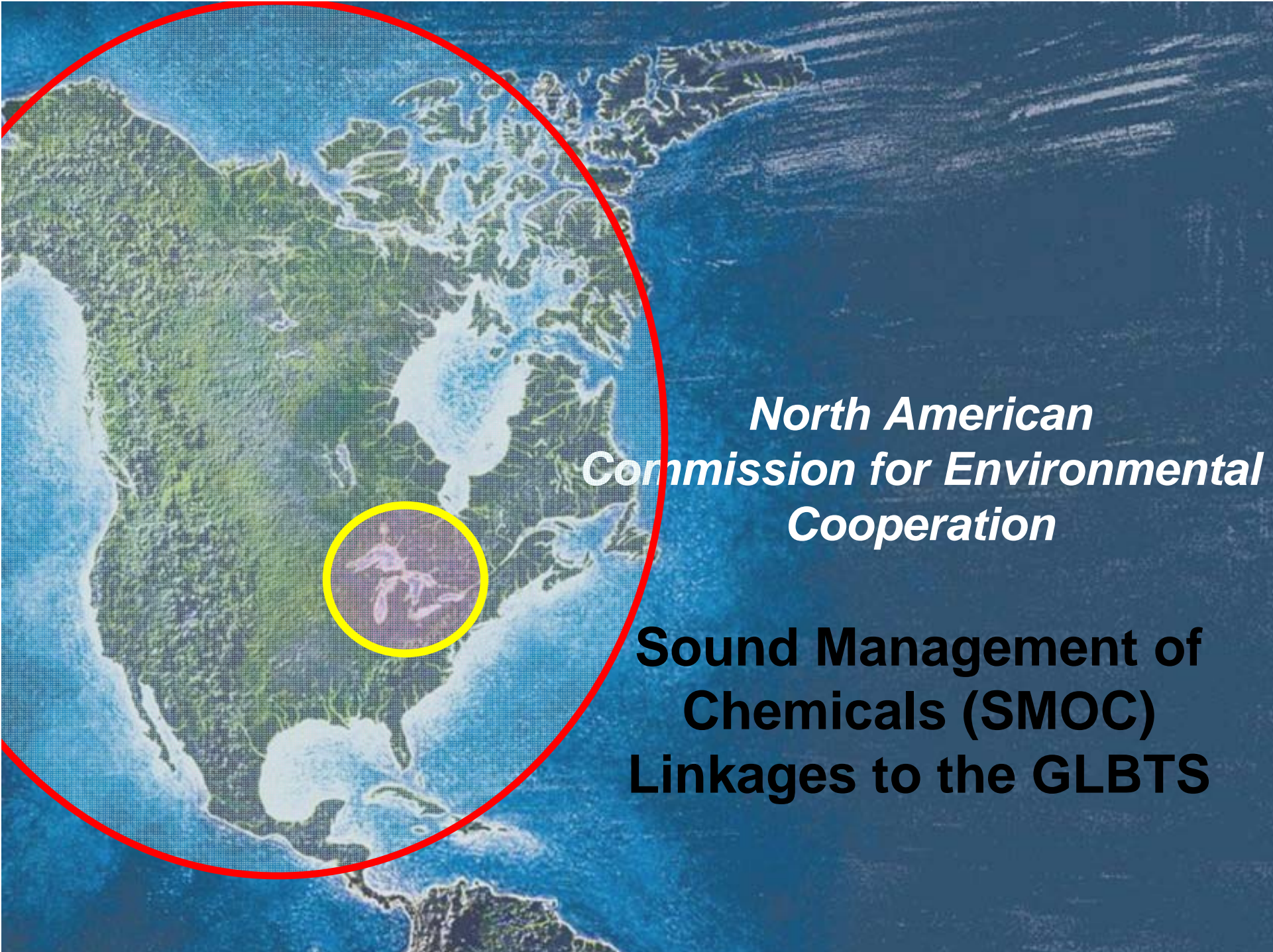
- Provide scientific advice for sound environmental decision-making from a NA perspective by:
 - increasing comparability, reliability, relevance, availability of data and information on persistent toxic substances in NA environment
 - establishing baselines, trends, effects related to proposed control actions
- Within the frameworks of capacity building and international cooperation
- Accomplished through ongoing commitment of experts and resources from the Parties and seed funding from the CEC



Recent EM&A Actions

- Conduct analytical chemistry QA/QC trials
- Support mercury wet deposition pilot project
- Mercury ambient air monitoring
- Air monitoring for DDT and other selected POPs in Southern Mexico, ¿Impacts on Great Lakes?
- Assessment of trilateral monitoring for NARAP chemicals
- Maternal blood sampling for POPs and heavy metals in Canada USA and Mexico





*North American
Commission for Environmental
Cooperation*

**Sound Management of
Chemicals (SMOC)
Linkages to the GLBTS**

Mandate for Linkages

From the CEC's Resolution 95-05

- FURTHER RECOGNIZING that this resolution should build upon existing bilateral and multilateral commitments related to the sound management of chemicals, to which at least two of the *North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC)* countries are Party, including, for example, the commitments made in Article II (a) of the *Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1978 (Canada-United States of America)*
- (Council) DIRECTS the (SMOC) working group, in addressing the above-mentioned decisions and commitments, to:
 - g) build upon existing bilateral and multilateral commitments related to the sound management of chemicals;



Working with Partners

- SAICM
- UNEP
 - Stockholm POP's
 - Global Mercury
- EU Chemicals
 - REACH, (ROHS & WEEE)
- OECD
- and, of course, GLBTS

