



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure

**HB1150: Coal Tar
Sealants & PAHs**

Please Support HB1150 which would prohibit the use of toxic coal tar sealants in Virginia.

- Coal Tar Sealants can contain high levels (up to 50% by weight) of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) which are harmful to humans and wildlife under certain conditions
- Coal Tar Sealants contain over 1,000 times more PAHs than similar asphalt based products
- The Chesapeake Bay Program has prioritized PAHs
- as the second most important toxic contaminant PAHs are more likely to be present in stormwater flowing from parking lots where coal-tar sealcoats were used
- Studies have shown that residences adjacent to parking lots with coal-tar-based sealcoat have PAH concentrations in house dust that are 25 times higher than that of residences not adjacent to coal-tar-based parking lots.
- PAHs are known to cause cancer, birth defects, and mutations to aquatic life
- Several PAHs are considered to be cancer-causing in humans (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Most highway departments and road agencies have not used coal tar products on asphalt pavement for many years, and many experts say they reduce asphalt life in the long run.



Tumors in brown bullhead catfish from the Anacostia River, Washington, D.C., are believed to be related to elevated PAH concentrations (Pinkney and others, 2009). Photograph by A.E. Pinkney.