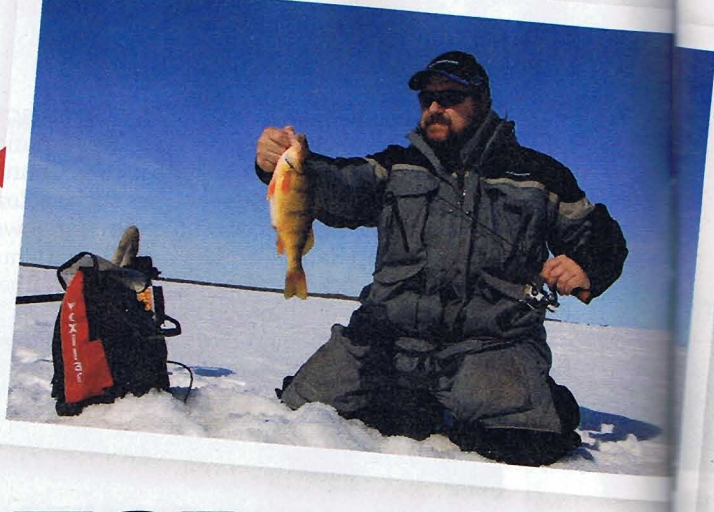


BY STEVE QUINN

1 SHOAL LAKE › Manitoba

This untapped gem lies about 40 miles northwest of Winnipeg in the Interlake Region. Shoal Lake has formed as rising water has joined East, West, and North Shoal lakes, similar to the Devils Lake situation. It's created a "new-lake" effect that's spurred production of shrimp and other invertebrates that boost perch growth. **CONTACT:** Guide Dan Kiazyk, 866/228-3933, cateyeoutfitter.com.



10 TOP Perch PICKS



2 DEVILS LAKE › North Dakota

As this vast lake in east-central North Dakota continues to expand, so does its perch population. Guide Jason Mitchell reports the highest numbers he's seen in 20 years along with jumbos from the 2006 and 2007 year-classes. While ice fishing is most popular, it's a fine spring and summer option, too. **CONTACT:** Guide Jason Mitchell, 701/662-6560, fishdevilslake.net; Perch Patrol, 701/351-3474, perchpatrol.com.

3 MILLE LACS › Minnesota

Big perch spread across this 112,000-acre lake that's endowed with fish-holding habitat from one end to the other. Late winter is prime time as perch fatten up by feeding on soft-bottom flats loaded with larval insects in 20 to 30 feet of water. Swiss-cheese these areas to find concentrations of big fish. You can do well with little company during the open-water season, too. After they spawn, fish shift from the edges of vegetation to basin flats. **CONTACT:** Guide Tony Roach, 763/226-6656, roachguideservice.com.



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