

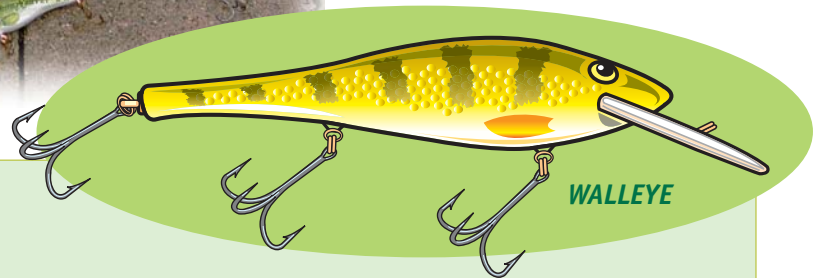
# Match the Fingerlings!

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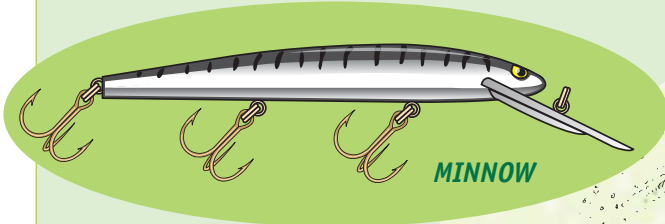


photo-Denny Tubbs



You may have heard a fly fisherman use the phrase “matching the hatch,” but have you ever thought about “matching the fingerlings?” Each season, our waterways produce unique groups of fingerlings. These groups are sometimes referred to as “young-of-the-year” fish. For instance, with the arrival of spring, baby bass, gizzard shad and panfish begin to hatch near the shore of many lakes. Fish in these lakes look for these new hatchlings, which are the mainstay of their spring-time diet. By using artificial crankbaits that look like the fingerlings that have recently hatched near the water’s edge, an angler duplicates the tasty

of the fingerlings, go through your bait box and find crankbaits with some of the same features. Matching what fish like to eat boosts your chances of catching the big ones! ☐



meal fish in that lake have come to expect.

Take a few minutes to study the water’s edge or ask a waterways conservation officer about the kind of fingerlings that have just hatched in the lake. After learning the approximate size, length, shape and color

