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A record carp haul on Spring Lake

Commercial fishermen cut a large hole in the ice on Spring Lake and pulled in an astounding 34,000 pounds (17 tons) of carp with their nets on Jan. 30.

While native fish were released again into the lake, the carp were taken out and prepped for market, some purchased by sellers as far away as North Carolina. Volunteers helped to sort the native fish from the carp, and some returned a couple of days later to count, weigh and haul out the carp on a large semi-truck.

This big carp haul was coordinated by the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District as part of its comprehensive plan to help reduce the carp population in Spring and Prior lakes. Carp stir up the bottom of the lakes and destroy native vegetation essential to native fish. Removing the carp is one of many tools the watershed district is using to improve the water quality of Spring Lake.

Last week's seine on Spring Lake is the largest haul of carp the watershed district has on record, netting 2,575 carp. Rough estimates by WSB, the district's contractor for the project, calculate that this could be as much as half of the carp population in the lake.

It's a big win for Spring Lake, but there's more work to do. The watershed



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Commercial fishermen catch carp through a hole in the ice on Spring Lake.

district will have another seine event later this year and plans to install carp barriers at connecting stream locations to block them from their spawning

grounds. The seine event was part of a comprehensive carp management program partially funded by a Clean Water Partnership grant.