17 tons of carp removed from Uppe
Prior Lake in 'record-setting' event

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About 17 tons of carp were removed from Upper Prior Lake earlier this month. The fish will be taken to a market in New York or to game lakes in southern...

Nearly 17 tons of carp were removed from Upper Prior Lake earlier this month.

The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District's consultants, WSB & Associates, coordinated the efforts by Geyer Commercial Fishing LLC to capture 35,000 pounds of carp with their nets Jan. 18. Environmental scientists initially estimated 50,000 pounds of carp were removed that day.

A large hole was cut in the ice and carp were pulled out of the lake over three days. The carp were loaded onto two semi trucks outfitted with water tanks to keep the fish alive on their way to a fish market in New York and game lakes in the southern states where carp are prized.

Upper Prior Lake poses many challenges to commercial fisherman, according to a news release from the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District. Among the challenges are natural rocks and uncharted debris at the lake bottom, steep drop-offs and varying bathymetry, curly-leaf pond weed mats and an infestation of zebra mussels. Due to the obstacles, the carp removal was the first commercially viable netting of carp ever conducted on Upper Prior Lake.

The Watershed has a plan in plac prove the water qu Upper Prior Lake an ing carp is the first

Future carp netti ations will now be i more optimism, gi success of the latest setting harvest, ac to the release.

January's carp l resents only a po the total carp po in Upper Prior Lak approximately 3,0 were removed, an ed 17,000 carp — be swimming in t The largest fish c during the netting w feet long and wei pounds. Scientists the fish could be years old.

Radio tags wer ously implanted int and released back lake. The tagged ca as spies for the W District, sending ou that located their po the lake. If the car together again la winter or spring, th shed District will another seine in th the population will manageable level.