

## **Nordic partners with SOCC on 5 year plan for arctic char**

The Save Our Char Committee (SOCC) have recently announced the introduction of their new 5 Year Strategic Recovery Plan for Arctic Char at a public meeting held in St. Anthony on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009. This plan focuses on Arctic Char at Western Brook (also known as Parker River) and the Pistolet Bay region.

Nordic, along with many other partners, has been working with the SOCC in getting their 5 year plan in place and to get information out to the public. Nordic has also agreed to add an SOCC section to its website in the near future where the public can get background and updates on the work being completed by the SOCC.

“The committee has been working diligently with a number of groups over the past two years to chart a path forward to try and save these very rare fish,” added Terry Simms, chairperson, Save Our Char Committee. “We are very fortunate to have such great partners, such as Nordic, on side to help us push this initiative forward.”

The plan was developed in consultation with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Nordic Economic Development Corporation, St. Anthony Basin Resources Inc, the Town of St. Anthony, the Wildlife Division of the Department of Environment and Conservation, Community University Research Recovery Alliance and Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Some of the work completed by the committee over the past two years included such initiatives as collecting Arctic Char heads in the summer of 2008. Twenty heads were collected and are being analyzed with some results possibly being available by the scheduled meeting date.

In addition, this past February initial steps were taken to move the 5 year plan forward with much needed research. Some members of the group joined with DFO Science, Conservation & Protection and Provincial wildlife researchers to survey Stock Pond. The group spent three days mapping the water depths and attempting to catch some Char.

Some highlights of the 5 year plan include a voluntary hook and release program that also includes reporting all catches to DFO, a counting fence at the river, a stream survey and restocking the system with arctic char.