

April 1, 2011

Hello everyone:

One of our success stories at NOAA has been our ability to work closely with our partners — whether they're from academia, NGOs, the business community or the general public. Over the years we have come to rely on our partners as much as they rely on us. To further these relationships, I'm pleased to announce a new development here at headquarters that will enhance our ability to work closely and strategically with our partners.

Andy Winer, NOAA's director of external affairs, will now also serve as our **new director of strategic initiatives and partnerships**.

In his new role, Andy will be NOAA's point person to coordinate the broad array of our engagement activities designed to present NOAA as the dynamic science agency we are, with expertise to grow the economy, to act as stewards for the environment, and to protect lives and livelihoods. To accomplish this task, he will be working with offices across our agency — from headquarters to Silver Spring to the regions — and reaching out to partners and constituents in an effort to collaboratively advance NOAA's goals.

Andy will continue on as the acting director of external affairs. His outstanding work with NGOs, our labor unions and with industry partners has helped advance NOAA's mission. I applaud Andy's accomplishments and have every confidence in him as he embraces his new, broader portfolio of activities. Please join me in welcoming Andy in his new capacity!

Sincerely,



Monica Medina
Principal Deputy Under Secretary