TYPES OF VESSELS HARBOR PILOTS HANDLE: A PORT-BY-PORT GUIDE

Last year, more than 27,000 ship movements were handled by Florida’s harbor pilots. While Florida is home to the world’s top three cruise ports, the vast majority of those ship movements are cargo ships, oil tankers, chemical tankers, container ships, general cargo ships carrying specialized equipment, such as massive wind turbine blades or railroads locomotives, and dry bulk ships carrying limestone, phosphate, rock, sugar and cement. This month, we highlight a sample of the many ship types Florida’s harbor pilots navigate safely in and out of our seaports.
The U.S. Navy called upon the Biscayne Bay Pilots Association (BBPA) to navigate the hospital ship *USNS Comfort* into PortMiami on Saturday, April 4, 2015.

This steam-powered Navy ship is a converted oil tanker, now serving as a floating hospital, carrying more than 800 uniformed military officers and 60 civilian mariners. In addition to navigating the ship in and out of the port, the Biscayne Bay Pilots, in advance of the arrival, were responsible for arranging the ship’s safe passage in between several massive cruise liners and post-panama container ships on a busy weekend.