When the 733-foot, 47,262-ton Grand Celebration cruise ship sails into the Port of Palm Beach there's usually a man hanging over the side. He's supposed to be there.

Capt. Reid Hansen, 44, who has been at the port for more than a decade, is one of the harbor boat pilots who helps large ships sail into and out of the port. Sailing these behemoths in these narrow ports is a feat that harbor captains spend a lifetime mastering.

It's the harbor pilot's job to make sure the Celebration and other ships from barges loaded with 14,000 tons of sugar to Bahamas-bound container ships laden with food and goods have a safe passage through the port's channel.

"Harbor pilots around the world are experts in their particular port. My work at this port will be my whole career," Hansen said.