

"It gets in your blood, I think—a feeling for the sea. You abide by its laws, it's good to you.

"I've been a ship's pilot for over 6 years now. And I know the ports of Southwestern Alaska like I know the back of my hand. You've got to remember, though, that the days of clipper ships and riverboats are long gone. Today we have the most sophisticated electronics technology assisting us to safely navigate the ships through the narrows and get us home.

"A lot's been happening in and around Valdez. But it's still one of my favorite ports—probably one of the most beautiful in the world, next to my home in Homer."