

## Headlines:

USCG – consolidated cruise ship security regulations;  
DOJ – drilling company to plead guilty;  
DOS – China’s claims in South China Sea;  
CMTS – Maritime Energy Task Team; and  
UK – Ebola guidance.

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# Bryant’s Maritime News

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## **USCG – consolidated cruise ship security regulations**



The US Coast Guard proposes to amend its regulations on cruise ship terminal security by standardizing security requirements for cruise ship terminals and eliminating redundancies in the current regulations. Comments on the proposal should be submitted by 10 March 2015. [79 Fed. Reg. 73255](https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2014-28845) [located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-10/pdf/2014-28845.pdf>] (12/10/14).

## **DOJ – drilling company to plead guilty**



The Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a [news release](http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/drilling-company-charged-environmental-and-maritime-crimes-alaska) [located at <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/drilling-company-charged-environmental-and-maritime-crimes-alaska>] stating that Noble Drilling (US) LLC has agreed to plead guilty to eight felony offenses, pay \$12.2 million in fines and community service payments, implement a comprehensive environmental compliance plan, and serve four years’ probation. The defendant was charged with knowing failure to maintain an accurate oil record book (ORB) and an accurate International Oil

Pollution Prevention Certificate; knowing failure to maintain a ballast water record book; and knowingly and willfully failing to notify the US Coast Guard of hazardous conditions aboard the drill ship Noble Discoverer. At the time, the ship was conducting drilling operations on the US outer continental shelf off the Arctic coast of Alaska.

## DOS – China’s claims in South China Sea



The Department of State (DOS) posted another of its occasional series on Limits in the Seas, this one titled: **China: Maritime Claims in the South China Sea** [located at <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/234936.pdf> ]. This study analyzes the maritime claims of the People’s Republic of China in the South China Sea, specifically its “dashed-line” claim encircling islands and waters of the South China Sea, also referred to as the “Nine-Dash Line”. China having not, to date, clarified the specifics of what it is claiming (identified islands and associated waters within the lines; national boundary lines; or historic maritime claims) and not having provided a detailed factual and historical basis on which to ground the claims, DOS concludes that China’s “dashed-line” claim does not accord with the international law of the sea. (12/5/14).

## CMTS – Maritime Energy Task Team



The Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) posted a **bulletin** [located at <http://www.cmts.gov/Bulletin.aspx?id=85> ] regarding the Maritime Energy Task Team (METT). The METT is comprised of stakeholders from a number of government agencies and supports federal efforts to address alternative ship fuels (including LNG), reduce greenhouse gas emissions from ships, and anticipate future air emission issues relative to the maritime community. (12/5/14).

## UK – Ebola guidance



The UK Department for Transport (DfT) and Public Health England jointly issued **West Africa Ebola Outbreak Guidance** [located at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/381777/West\\_Africa\\_Ebola\\_Outbreak\\_-\\_Ports\\_Shipping\\_guide.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/381777/West_Africa_Ebola_Outbreak_-_Ports_Shipping_guide.pdf) ] for UK ports and shipping operators for the purpose of minimizing the risk to seafarers, port workers, passengers, and others in the maritime environment from the current outbreak of Ebola in West Africa. (12/9/14).

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