Maritime legislation in the 111th U.S. Congress was dominated by two unforeseen events. In the first session, the piratical attacks on the U.S.-flag vessels *M/V Maersk Alabama* and the *M/V Liberty Sun* in April 2009 focused attention on international piracy. In the second session, the *Deepwater Horizon* incident in April 2010 focused Congressional attention on oil pollution liability requirements, general maritime liability laws and a variety of offshore regulatory issues both having to do with offshore energy production and other matters.

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