

NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD
Form 6-K
August 03, 2005

FORM 6-K

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20549

Report of Foreign Private Issuer
Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of August 2005

NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LIMITED
(Translation of registrant's name into English)

Canon's Court
22 Victoria Street
Hamilton HM 12
Bermuda
(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes No

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FORM 6-K REPORT

Attached hereto as Exhibit 1 is a copy of a press release announcing the second quarter results of Nordic American Tanker Shipping Limited (the "Company") dated August 2, 2005.

[company logo]

Nordic American Tanker Shipping Ltd. (NAT) - (NYSE: NAT) Announces 2nd quarter 2005 Results

Hamilton, Bermuda, August 2nd 2005

Nordic American Tanker Shipping Ltd. (the "Company") today announced its result

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for the second quarter of 2005.

The Board has declared a third quarter 2005 dividend of USD 0.84 per share. In the preceding quarter the dividend was USD 1.15. The dividend will be paid on or about August 26th 2005 to shareholders of record August 10th 2005. As per June 30, 2005 there are 16,644,496 shares in issue. For further financial information please see page three of this message.

The spot market rates for suezmax tankers in the second quarter of 2005 were lower than the rates in the first quarter of 2005. According to the spot assessment of the Imarex Tanker Index, suezmax spot rates were on average USD 32,654 per day during the second quarter of 2005, as against USD 46,947 per day during the first quarter of 2005. No vessel operational down time was incurred during the second quarter of 2005.

The operating cash flow(*) was USD 14.1 million in the second quarter of 2005, compared to USD 13.9 million in the first quarter of 2005. During the second quarter of 2005, we had one vessel operating on fixed rate long-term employment and five vessels in the spot market or on spot market related terms.

In June 2005 the Company announced that it had agreed to acquire a 1998 built double hull suezmax tanker. The vessel, to be renamed Nordic Discovery, is expected to be employed in the spot market after delivery to us in mid-August 2005. Nordic Discovery is the sister vessel of the Nordic Fighter.

For the foreseeable future, the Company's Board intends to continue its policy of maintaining a low debt to equity ratio and of pursuing a full dividend payout policy as in the past.

Another essential part of our strategic platform is expansion of the fleet of high quality double hulled vessels. An objective is that all vessel acquisitions and other projects that we may implement in the future are designed to be accretive to earnings and dividends per share.

It is hard to predict the short term spot tanker rates which may rise from the present level, may remain at the same level or may drop. Whilst we are always faced with uncertainties, the Board holds the view that the general tanker market dynamics are favourable.

Industry analysts indicate that global oil demand may be expected to increase up to 4 million barrels per day from the second quarter 2005 to the fourth quarter 2005 - a development which is expected to impact tanker demand positively during the coming autumn and winter. The seasonal pattern is often that rates may be weaker during late spring and summer than during the autumn and the winter season. Above all, the longer term prospects depend on developments at the macro economic level. The US and the Far East, in particular China, are key players in this regard.

The Company completed the transformation from a financial lease company into an operating company in October 2004. Since then, the fleet of the company has increased from three to seven ships (including the vessel to be delivered in mid-August 2005) all of which are modern double-hulled suezmax crude oil tankers. As of mid-August, we expect to have one vessel operating on fixed rate long-term employment and six vessels in the spot market or on spot market related terms.

The fleet is now:

Name	Built	Size (DWT)	Employment
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Gulf Scandic	1997	151,458	long term contract
Nordic Hunter	1997	151,458	spot employment
Nordic Hawk	1997	151,458	spot employment
Nordic Voyager	1997	149,591	spot employment
Nordic Fighter	1998	153,181	spot employment
New acquisition (**)	1998	153,181	to be employed in the spot market
Nordic Freedom	2005	159,500	spot employment

(**) to be delivered and renamed Nordic Discovery in mid-August 2005

During the third quarter of 2005 the Nordic Hawk will be drydocked according to plan which is expected to cause a loss of income that otherwise would have been earned during approximately 20 days. Typically, a vessel is in drydock every 36 to 60 months for classification and general maintenance purposes.

To enhance our financial flexibility we have a revolving credit facility of USD 300 million which is currently unutilized. This credit facility will be replaced by a five year non-retiring fully revolving facility during August 2005. During the term of the facility we can draw down amounts in connection with vessel acquisitions or for general corporate purposes, and shall pay interests only on any drawn amount.

The Company is in a good position to provide for continued accretive growth based upon its unique operating model.

(*) Operating cash flow is a non-GAAP financial term often used by investors to measure financial performance of shipping companies. Operating cash flow represents income before depreciation, amortization expense and certain non-cash administrative charges. Please see the Company's Web-site at www.nat.bm for a reconciliation of this non-GAAP measure as used in this release to the most directly comparable GAAP financial measure.

CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF OPERATION Amounts In USD '000

	Three Months Ended		
	June 30, 2005 (unaudited)	June 30, 2004	March 31, 2005
NET VOYAGE REVENGE	18,003	9,442	16,150
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Vessel operating expenses	(2,986)	0	(1,512)
Depreciation	(4,188)	(1,708)	(2,702)
General and administrative costs	(1,297)	(441)	(4,477)
	(8,471)	(2,149)	(8,691)
Income from vessel operation	9,532	7,293	7,459

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OTHER ITEMS

Interest income	233	15	328
Interest expense	(325)	(438)	(331)
	(92)	(423)	(3)

NET INCOME	9,440	6,870	7,456
Earnings per average number of shares	0.57	0.71	0.53
Weighted average number of shares	16,644,496	9,706,606	14,020,761
Common shares outstanding	16,644,496	9,706,606	16,644,496

CONDENSED BALANCE SHEETS

	June 30, 2005 (unaudited)	June 30, 2004	December 31, 2004
Cash deposits	18,310	681	30,732
Other assets	9,975	5,848	6,170
Vessels	337,401	124,666	187,301
Total Assets	365,686	131,195	224,203
Accounts payables and accrued liabilities	1,087	177	2,335
Long-term debt	0	30,000	0
Shareholders' equity	364,599	101,018	221,868
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	365,686	131,195	224,203

CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOW

	Six months ended	
	June 30, 2005 (unaudited)	June 30, 2004
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net cash from Operating Activities	22,911	27,779
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Net proceeds from sale of Common Stock	161,967	0
Repayment of debt	0	0
Loan facility costs	0	0
Dividends paid	(40,311)	(27,664)
Net Cash provided by (used for) Financing Activities	121,656	(27,664)

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INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(156,989)	0
Investment in Vessels		
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Net cash used by Investing activities	(156,989)	0
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(12,422)	115
Beginning Cash and Cash Equivalents	30,732	566
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Ending Cash and Cash Equivalents	18,310	681
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CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Matters discussed in this press release may constitute forward-looking statements. The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 provides safe harbor protections for forward-looking statements in order to encourage companies to provide prospective information about their business. Forward-looking statements include statements concerning plans, objectives, goals, strategies, future events or performance, and underlying assumptions and other statements, which are other than statements of historical facts.

The Company desires to take advantage of the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and is including this cautionary statement in connection with this safe harbor legislation. The words "believe," "anticipate," "intend," "estimate," "forecast," "project," "plan," "potential," "will," "may," "should," "expect," "pending" and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements.

The forward-looking statements in this press release are based upon various assumptions, many of which are based, in turn, upon further assumptions, including without limitation, our management's examination of historical operating trends, data contained in our records and other data available from third parties. Although we believe that these assumptions were reasonable when made, because these assumptions are inherently subject to significant uncertainties and contingencies which are difficult or impossible to predict and are beyond our control, we cannot assure you that we will achieve or accomplish these expectations, beliefs or projections. We undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Important factors that, in our view, could cause actual results to differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements include the strength of world economies and currencies, general market conditions, including fluctuations in charter rates and vessel values, changes in demand in the tanker market, as a result of changes in OPEC's petroleum production levels and world wide oil consumption and storage, changes in our operating expenses, including bunker prices, drydocking and insurance costs, the market for our vessels, availability of financing and refinancing, changes in governmental rules and regulations or actions taken by regulatory authorities, potential liability from pending or future litigation, general domestic and international political conditions, potential disruption of shipping routes due to accidents or political events, vessels breakdowns and instances of off-hires and other important factors described from time to time in the reports filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the prospectus and related prospectus supplement and our Annual Report on Form 20-F.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LIMITED
(registrant)

Dated: August 3, 2005

By: /s/ Herbjorn Hansson

Herbjorn Hansson
Chairman, Chief Executive Officer
and President

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