

NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD  
Form 20-F  
June 29, 2007

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE  
COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
FORM 20-F

(Mark One)

REGISTRATION STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR (g)  
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

OR

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)  
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)  
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
For the transition period from \_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_

OR

SHELL COMPANY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF  
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of event requiring this shell company report: N/A

Commission file number 00113944

NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LIMITED

-----  
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

BERMUDA

-----  
(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

LOM Building, 27 Reid Street, Hamilton HM 11, Bermuda

-----  
(Address of principal executive offices)

Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to section 12(b) of the Act.

Common Stock par value \$0.01 per share

-----  
Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to section 12(g) of the Act.

NONE

-----  
Securities for which there is a reporting obligation pursuant to Section 15(d)  
of the Act.

NONE

Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

Indicate the number of outstanding shares of each of the issuer's classes of capital or common stock as of the close of the period covered by the Annual Report.

26,914,088 shares of Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share.

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act

Yes [X] No [ ]

If this report is an annual or transition report, indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes [ ] No [X]

Note- Checking the box above will not relieve any registrant required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for their obligations under those Sections.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes [X] No [ ]

Indicate by check mark whether registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of accelerated filer and large accelerated filer in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer [X] Accelerated filer [ ] Non-accelerated filer [ ]

Indicate by check mark which financial statement item the registrant has elected to follow.

Item 17 [ ] Item 18 [X]

If this is an Annual Report, indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes [ ] No [X]

Item 1. Identity of Directors, Senior Management and Advisers.....5
Item 2. Offer Statistics And Expected Timetable.....5
Item 3. Key Information.....5
A. Selected Financial Data.....5
B. Capitalization And Indebtedness.....8
C. Reasons For The Offer And Use Of Proceeds.....8
D. Risk Factors.....8
Item 4. Information On The Company.....16
A. History And Development Of The Company.....16
B. Business Overview.....16
C. Organizational Structure.....31

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

D.	Property, Plant And Equipment.....	31
Item 5.	Operating And Financial Review And Prospects.....	31
B.	Liquidity and Capital Resources.....	34
C.	Research and Development, Patents and Licenses, Etc.....	35
D.	Trend Information.....	35
E.	Off Balance Sheet Arrangements.....	35
F.	Disclosure Of Contractual Obligations.....	35
Item 6.	Directors, Senior Management And Employees.....	38
A.	Directors And Senior Management.....	38
B.	Compensation.....	40
C.	Board Practices.....	41
D.	Employees.....	41
E.	Share Ownership.....	41
Item 7.	Major Shareholders And Related Party Transactions.....	42
A.	Major Shareholders.....	42
B.	Related Party Transactions.....	42
C.	Interests Of Experts And Counsel.....	42
Item 8.	Financial Information.....	42
A.	Consolidated Statements And Other Financial Information.....	42
B.	Significant Changes.....	43
Item 9.	The Offer And Listing.....	43
Item 10.	Additional Information.....	44
A.	Share Capital.....	44
B.	Memorandum And Articles Of Association.....	44
C.	Material Contracts.....	46
D.	Taxation.....	47
E.	Dividends And Paying Agents.....	47
F.	Statement By Experts.....	47
G.	Documents On Display.....	47
H.	Subsidiary Information.....	48
Item 11.	Quantitative And Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.....	48
Item 12.	Description Of Securities Other Than Equity Securities.....	48
Item 13.	Defaults, Dividend Arrearages And Delinquencies.....	48
Item 14.	Material Modifications To The Rights Of Security Holders And Use Of Proceeds.....	48
Item 15.	Controls And Procedures.....	49
Item 16.	Reserved.....	50
Item 16A.	Audit Committee Financial Expert.....	50
Item 16B.	Code Of Ethics.....	50
Item 16C.	Principal Accountant Fees And Services.....	50
Item 16D.	Exemptions From The Listing Standards For Audit Committees.....	51
Item 16E.	Purchases Of Equity Securities By The Issuer And Affiliated Persons.....	51
Item 17.	Financial Statements.....	51
Item 18.	Financial Statements.....	51

### CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain matters discussed herein 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,"

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

"potential," "may," "should," "expect," "pending" and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements.

The forward-looking statements 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.

Please note in this annual report, "we", "us", "our", and "The Company", all refer to Nordic American Tanker Shipping Limited. ITEM 1.

### ITEM 1. IDENTITY OF DIRECTORS, SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND ADVISERS

Not Applicable

### ITEM 2. OFFER STATISTICS AND EXPECTED TIMETABLE

Not Applicable

### ITEM 3. KEY INFORMATION

#### A. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The following historical financial information should be read in conjunction with our audited financial statements and related notes all of which are included elsewhere in this document and "Operating and Financial Review and Prospects." The statement of operations data for each of the three years ended December 31, 2006, 2005, and 2004 and selected balance sheet data as of December 31, 2006 and 2005 are derived from our audited financial statements included elsewhere in this document. The statements of operations data for the year ended December 31, 2003 and selected balance sheet data for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003 are derived from our audited financial statements not included in this document.

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

### SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

All figures in '000 USD except share data	2006	2005	2004
Voyage revenue	175,520	117,110	67,400
Voyage expenses	(40,172)	(30,981)	(4,920)
Vessel operating expense - excl. depreciation expense presented below	(21,102)	(11,221)	(1,970)
General & administrative expenses	(12,750)	(8,492)	(10,850)
Depreciation	(29,254)	(17,529)	(6,910)
<b>Net operating income</b>	<b>72,242</b>	<b>48,887</b>	<b>42,750</b>
Interest income	1,602	850	1,000
Interest expense	(6,339)	(3,454)	(1,970)
Other financial (expense) income	(112)	34	(130)
<b>Total other expenses</b>	<b>(4,849)</b>	<b>(2,570)</b>	<b>(1,960)</b>
<b>Net income for the year</b>	<b>67,393</b>	<b>46,317</b>	<b>40,810</b>
Basic and diluted earnings per share	3.14	3.03	4.00
Cash dividends declared per share	5.85	4.21	4.00
Weighted average shares outstanding basic and diluted	21,476,196	15,263,622	10,078,300
Other financial data:			
Net cash from operating activities	106,613	51,056	62,800
Dividend paid	122,590	64,279	47,100
Selected Balance Sheet Data (at period end):			
Cash and cash equivalents	11,729	14,240	30,700
Total assets	800,180	505,844	224,200
Total debt	173,500	130,000	100,000
Capital stock	269	166	1,000
Shareholders' equity	611,946	370,872	221,800

#### B. CAPITALIZATION AND INDEBTEDNESS

Not Applicable

#### C. REASONS FOR THE OFFER AND USE OF PROCEEDS

Not Applicable

#### D. RISK FACTORS

Some of the following risks relate principally to the industry in which we operate and our business in general. Other risks relate principally to the securities market and ownership of our common stock. The occurrence of any of the events described in this section could significantly and negatively affect our business, financial condition, operating results or cash available for

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

dividends or the trading price of our common stock.

### Industry Specific Risk Factors

The cyclical nature of the tanker industry may lead to volatile changes in charter rates and vessel values which may adversely affect our earnings.

If the tanker market, which has been cyclical, is depressed in the future, our earnings and available cash flow may decrease. Our ability to recharter our vessels or to sell them on the expiration or termination of their charters and the charter rates payable under our two spot market related time charters, our spot charters, or any renewal or replacement charters, will depend upon, among other things, economic conditions in the tanker market. Fluctuations in charter rates and tanker values result from changes in the supply and demand for tanker capacity and changes in the supply and demand for oil and oil products.

The factors affecting the supply and demand for tankers are outside of our control, and the nature, timing and degree of changes in industry conditions are unpredictable.

The factors that influence demand for tanker capacity include:

- o demand for oil and oil products,
- o supply of oil and oil products,
- o regional availability of refining capacity,
- o global and regional economic conditions,
- o the distance oil and oil products are to be moved by sea, and
- o changes in seaborne and other transportation patterns.

The factors that influence the supply of tanker capacity include:

- o the number of newbuilding deliveries,
- o the scrapping rate of older vessels,
- o conversion of tankers to other uses,
- o the number of vessels that are out of service, and
- o environmental concerns and regulations.

Historically, the tanker markets have been volatile as a result of the many conditions and factors that can affect the price, supply and demand for tanker capacity. Changes in demand for transportation of oil over longer distances and supply of tankers to carry that oil may materially affect our revenues, profitability and cash flows. Eleven of our twelve vessels are currently operated in the spot market or on spot market related time charters. If spot charter rates decline, we may be unable to achieve a level of charterhire sufficient for us to operate our vessels profitably.

We will be dependent on spot charters and any decrease in spot charter rates in the future may adversely affect our earnings and our ability to pay dividends.

We currently operate a fleet of twelve vessels. Of those twelve vessels, one is on a long term fixed-rate charter, while the other eleven are employed in the spot market or on time charters with spot market related rates. Therefore we are highly dependent on spot market charter rates.

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

We may enter into spot charters for any additional vessels that we may acquire in the future. Although spot chartering is common in the tanker industry, the spot charter market may fluctuate significantly based upon tanker and oil supply and demand. The successful operation of our vessels in the spot charter market depends upon, among other things, obtaining profitable spot charters and minimizing, to the extent possible, time spent waiting for charters and time spent traveling unladen to pick up cargo. The spot market is very volatile, and, in the past, there have been periods when spot rates have declined below the operating cost of vessels. If future spot charter rates decline, then we may be unable to operate our vessels trading in the spot market profitably and to pay dividends.

Normally, tanker markets are stronger in the fall and winter months (the fourth and first quarters of the calendar year) in anticipation of increased oil consumption in the northern hemisphere during the winter months. Unpredictable weather patterns and variations in oil reserves disrupt tanker scheduling. Seasonal variations in tanker demand and, as a result, in charter rates will affect any spot market related rates that we may receive.

Compliance with safety, environmental and other governmental and other requirements may increase our operating costs or require significant capital expenditures and therefore adversely affect our business.

The shipping industry is affected by numerous regulations in the form of international conventions, national, state and local laws and national and international regulations in force in the jurisdictions in which such tankers operate, as well as in the country or countries in which such tankers are registered. These regulations include the U.S. Oil Pollution Act of 1990, or OPA, the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage of 1969, the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, the IMO International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea of 1974, or SOLAS, the International Convention on Load Lines of 1966 and the U.S. Marine Transportation Security Act of 2002, each of which imposes environmental, technical, safety, operational or financial requirements on us. In addition, vessel classification societies also impose significant safety and other requirements on our vessels. Regulation of vessels, particularly in the areas of safety and environmental impact may change in the future and may limit our ability to operate our business or require significant capital expenditures be incurred on our vessels to keep them in compliance.

The value of our vessels may fluctuate and any decrease in the value of our vessels could result in a lower price of our common shares.

Tanker values have generally experienced high volatility. You should expect the market value of our oil tankers to fluctuate, depending on general economic and market conditions affecting the tanker industry and competition from other shipping companies, types and sizes of vessels, and other modes of transportation. In addition, as vessels grow older, they generally decline in value. These factors will affect the value of our vessels. Declining tanker values could affect our ability to raise cash by limiting our ability to refinance our vessels, thereby adversely impacting our liquidity, or result in a breach of our loan covenants, which could result in defaults under our \$500 million revolving credit facility, or the 2005 Credit facility. Under the 2005 Credit Facility, we are required to maintain equity, defined as total assets less total debt, of at least \$150.0 million. If we determine at any time that a vessel's future limited useful life and earnings require us to impair its value on our financial statements, that could result in a charge against our earnings and the reduction of our shareholders' equity. Due to the cyclical nature of the tanker market, if for any reason we sell vessels at a time when tanker prices have fallen, the sale may be at less than the vessel's carrying amount on our financial statements, with the result that we would also incur a loss and a

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

reduction in earnings. Any such reduction could result in a lower share price.

We operate our vessels worldwide and as a result, our vessels are exposed to international risks which could reduce revenue or increase expenses.

The international shipping industry is an inherently risky business involving global operations. Our vessels are at risk of damage or loss because of events such as mechanical failure, collision, human error, war, terrorism, piracy, cargo loss and bad weather. In addition, changing economic, regulatory and political conditions in some countries, including political and military conflicts, have from time to time resulted in attacks on vessels, mining of waterways, piracy, terrorism, labor strikes and boycotts. These sorts of events could interfere with shipping routes and result in market disruptions which may reduce our revenue or increase our expenses.

Terrorist attacks, such as the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, and other acts of violence or war may affect the financial markets and our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Terrorist attacks such as the attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001 and the United States' continuing response to these attacks, the attacks in London on July 7, 2005, as well as the threat of future terrorist attacks, continue to cause uncertainty in the world financial markets, including the energy markets. The continuing conflict in Iraq may lead to additional acts of terrorism, armed conflict and civil disturbance around the world, which may contribute to further instability including in the oil markets. Terrorist attacks, such as the attack on the M.T. Limburg in Yemen in October 2002, may also negatively affect our trade patterns or other operations and directly impact our vessels or our customers. Future terrorist attacks could result in increased volatility of the financial markets in the United States and globally and could result in an economic recession in the United States or the world. Any of these occurrences could have a material adverse impact on our operating results, revenue and costs.

Arrests of our vessels by maritime claimants could cause a significant loss of earnings for the related off-hire period.

Crew members, suppliers of goods and services to a vessel, shippers of cargo and other parties may be entitled to a maritime lien against a vessel for unsatisfied debts, claims or damages. In many jurisdictions, a maritime lienholder may enforce its lien by "arresting" or "attaching" a vessel through foreclosure proceedings. The arrest or attachment of one or more of our vessels could result in a significant loss of earnings for the related off-hire period. In addition, in jurisdictions where the "sister ship" theory of liability applies, a claimant may arrest the vessel which is subject to the claimant's maritime lien and any "associated" vessel, which is any vessel owned or controlled by the same owner. In countries with "sister ship" liability laws, claims might be asserted against us or any of our vessels for liabilities of other vessels that we own.

Governments could requisition our vessels during a period of war or emergency, resulting in a loss of earnings.

A government could requisition for title or seize our vessels. Requisition for title occurs when a government takes control of a vessel and becomes its owner. Also, a government could requisition our vessels for hire. Requisition for hire occurs when a government takes control of a vessel and effectively becomes its charterer at dictated charter rates. Although we, as owner, would be entitled to compensation in the event of a requisition, the amount and timing of payment would be uncertain.



## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

We operate in a cyclical and volatile industry and cannot guarantee that we will continue to make cash distributions.

We have made cash distributions quarterly since October 1997. It is possible that our revenues could be reduced as a result of decreases in charter rates or that we could incur other expenses or contingent liabilities that would reduce or eliminate the cash available for distribution as dividends. The 2005 Credit Facility prohibits the declaration and payment of dividends if we are in default under it. We refer you to Item 4--Information on the Company--Business Overview--Our Credit Facility for more details. In addition, the declaration and payment of dividends is subject at all times to the discretion of our Board of Directors and compliance with Bermuda law, and may be dependent upon the adoption at the annual meeting of shareholders of a resolution effectuating a reduction in our share premium in an amount equal to the estimated amount of dividends to be paid in the next succeeding year. We refer you to Item 8--Financial Information--Dividend Policy for more details. We cannot assure you that we will pay dividends at rates previously paid or at all.

If we do not identify suitable tankers for acquisition or successfully integrate any acquired tankers, we may not be able to grow or to effectively manage our growth.

One of our principal strategies is to continue to grow by expanding our operations and adding to our fleet. Our future growth will depend upon a number of factors, some of which may not be within our control. These factors include our ability to:

- o identify suitable tankers and/or shipping companies for acquisitions,
- o identify businesses engaged in managing, operating or owning tankers for acquisitions or joint ventures,
- o integrate any acquired tankers or businesses successfully with our existing operations,
- o hire, train and retain qualified personnel and crew to manage and operate our growing business and fleet,
- o identify additional new markets,
- o improve our operating, financial and accounting systems and controls, and
- o obtain required financing for our existing and new operations.

Our failure to effectively identify, purchase, develop and integrate any tankers or businesses could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, in November 2004, we transitioned from a bareboat charter company to an operating company. We may incur unanticipated expenses as an operating company. The number of employees of Scandic American Shipping Ltd., or the Manager, that perform services for us and our current operating and financial systems may not be adequate as we implement our plan to expand the size of our fleet, and we may not be able to require the Manager to hire more employees or adequately improve those systems.

Investor confidence and the market price of our common stock may be adversely impacted if we are unable to comply with Section 404 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002.

We have incurred and will continue to incur expenses associated with compliance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. Section 404 of that Act requires

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

public companies include in annual reports a report containing management's assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting and a related attestation of the Company's independent auditors. This requirement applies to us with respect to the fiscal year ending December 31, 2006. We have implemented comprehensive compliance procedures in order to meet the requirements of Section 404, including the documentation, testing and review of our internal controls under the direction of our management. We cannot be certain at this time that all our controls will continue to be considered effective. Therefore, we can give no assurances that our internal control over financial reporting will continue to satisfy the new regulatory requirements. If our independent auditor is unable to provide us with an unqualified attestation report on a timely basis as required by Section 404, investors could lose confidence in the reliability of our financial statements, which could result in a decrease in the value of our common stock. Finally, acquisitions may require additional equity issuances or debt issuances (with amortization payments), both of which could lower dividends per share. If we are unable to execute the points noted above, our financial condition and dividend rates may be adversely affected.

We are dependent on the Manager and there may be conflicts of interest arising from the relationship between our Chairman and the Manager.

Our success depends to a significant extent upon the abilities and efforts of the Manager and our management team. Our success will depend upon our and the Manager's ability to hire and retain key members of our management team. The loss of any of these individuals could adversely affect our business prospects and financial condition. Difficulty in hiring and retaining personnel could adversely affect our results of operations. We do not maintain "key man" life insurance on any of our officers.

A company owned 100% by Herbjorn Hansson, our Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, is the owner of the Manager. Up until June 2007, one of our directors was also an owner of the Manager. The Manager may engage in business activities other than with respect to the Company. The fiduciary duty of a director may compete with or be different from the interests of the Manager and may create conflicts of interest in relation to that director's duties to the Company. Under Bermuda law, non-Bermudians (other than spouses of Bermudians) may not engage in any gainful occupation in Bermuda without an appropriate governmental work permit. Work permits may be granted or extended by the Bermuda government upon showing that, after proper public advertisement in most cases, no Bermudian (or spouse of a Bermudian) is available who meets the minimum standard requirements for the advertised position. In 2001, the Bermuda government announced a new policy limiting the duration of work permits to six years, with certain exemptions for key employees. We may not be able to use the services of one or more of our key employees in Bermuda if we are not able to obtain work permits for them, which could have a material adverse effect on our business.

An increase in operating costs could adversely affect our cash flow and financial condition.

Under the original bareboat charters to BP Shipping, BP Shipping was responsible for our vessels' operating and voyage costs. Under the time and spot charters of eleven of our twelve vessels, we are responsible for many of such costs. Our vessel operating expenses include the costs of crew, fuel (for spot chartered vessels), provisions, deck and engine stores, insurance and maintenance and repairs, which fuels depend on a variety of factors, many of which are beyond our control. Some of these costs, primarily relating to insurance and enhanced security measures implemented after September 11, 2001, have been increasing. The price of fuel is near historical high levels and may increase in the future. If our vessels suffer damage, they may need to be repaired at a drydocking facility. The costs of drydock repairs are

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

unpredictable and can be substantial. Increases in any of these costs would decrease earnings and dividends per share.

If we are unable to operate our vessels profitably, we may be unsuccessful in competing in the highly competitive international tanker market.

The operation of tanker vessels and transportation of crude and petroleum products is extremely competitive. Competition arises primarily from other tanker owners, including major oil companies as well as independent tanker companies, some of whom have substantially greater resources. Competition for the transportation of oil and oil products can be intense and depends on price, location, size, age, condition and the acceptability of the tanker and its operators to the charterers. We will have to compete with other tanker owners, including major oil companies as well as independent tanker companies.

Our market share may decrease in the future. We may not be able to compete profitably as we expand our business into new geographic regions or provide new services. New markets may require different skills, knowledge or strategies than we use in our current markets, and the competitors in those new markets may have greater financial strength and capital resources than we do.

Purchasing and operating secondhand vessels may result in increased operating costs which could adversely affect our earnings and as our fleet ages, the risks associated with older vessels could adversely affect our operations.

Our current business strategy includes additional growth through the acquisition of new and secondhand vessels. The twelfth vessel that we took delivery of in early December 2006 is secondhand. While we typically inspect secondhand vessels prior to purchase, this does not provide us with the same knowledge about their condition that we would have had if these vessels had been built for and operated exclusively by us. Generally, we do not receive the benefit of warranties from the builders for the secondhand vessels that we acquire.

In general, the costs to maintain a vessel in good operating condition increase with the age of the vessel. Older vessels are typically less fuel-efficient than more recently constructed vessels due to improvements in engine technology. Cargo insurance rates increase with the age of a vessel, making older vessels less desirable to charterers.

Governmental regulations, safety or other equipment standards related to the age of vessels may require expenditures for alterations, or the addition of new equipment, to our vessels and may restrict the type of activities in which the vessels may engage. We cannot assure you that as our vessels age market conditions will justify those expenditures or enable us to operate our vessels profitably during the remainder of their useful lives.

Servicing debt which we may incur in the future would limit funds available for other purposes and if we cannot service our debt, we may lose our vessels.

Borrowing under the 2005 Credit Facility requires us to dedicate a part of our cash flow from operations to paying interest on our indebtedness. These payments limit funds available for working capital, capital expenditures and other purposes, including making distributions to shareholders and further equity or debt financing in the future. Amounts borrowed under the 2005 Credit Facility bear interest at variable rates. Increases in prevailing rates could increase the amounts that we would have to pay to our lenders, even though the outstanding principal amount remains the same, and our net income and cash flows would decrease. We expect our earnings and cash flow to vary from year to year due to the cyclical nature of the tanker industry. In addition, our current policy is not to accumulate cash, but rather to distribute our available cash to shareholders. If we do not generate or reserve enough cash flow from operations

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

to satisfy our debt obligations, we may have to undertake alternative financing plans, such as:

- o seeking to raise additional capital,
- o refinancing or restructuring our debt,
- o selling tankers or other assets, or
- o reducing or delaying capital investments.

However, these alternative financing plans, if necessary, may not be sufficient to allow us to meet our debt obligations. If we are unable to meet our debt obligations or if some other default occurs under the Credit Facility, the lenders could elect to declare that debt, together with accrued interest and fees, to be immediately due and payable and proceed against the collateral securing that debt, which constitutes our entire fleet and substantially all of our assets.

Our 2005 Credit Facility contains restrictive covenants which may limit our liquidity and corporate activities.

The 2005 Credit Facility imposes operating and financial restrictions on us. These restrictions may limit our ability to:

- o pay dividends and make capital expenditures if we do not repay amounts drawn under the 2005 Credit Facility or if there is another default under the 2005 Credit Facility,
- o incur additional indebtedness, including the issuance of guarantees,
- o create liens on our assets,
- o change the flag, class or management of our vessels or terminate or materially amend the management agreement relating to each vessel,
- o sell our vessels,
- o merge or consolidate with, or transfer all or substantially all our assets to, another person, or
- o enter into a new line of business.

Therefore, we may need to seek permission from our lenders in order to engage in some corporate actions. Our lenders' interests may be different from ours and we cannot guarantee that we will be able to obtain our lenders' permission when needed. This may limit our ability to pay dividends to you, finance our future operations or capital requirements, make acquisitions or pursue business opportunities.

Shipping is an inherently risky business and our insurance may not be adequate to cover all our losses.

There are a number of risks associated with the operation of ocean-going vessels, including mechanical failure, collision, human error, war, terrorism, property loss, cargo loss or damage and business interruption due to political circumstances in foreign countries, hostilities and labor strikes. Any of these events may result in loss of revenues, increased costs and decreased cash flows. In addition, the operation of any vessel is subject to the inherent possibility of marine disaster, including oil spills and other environmental mishaps, and the liabilities arising from owning and operating vessels in international trade. We cannot assure investors that our insurance will protect us against all

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

risks. We may not be able to maintain adequate insurance coverage at reasonable rates for our fleet in the future and the insurers may not pay particular claims. For example, a catastrophic spill could exceed our insurance coverage and have a material adverse effect on our financial condition. In the past, new and stricter environmental regulations have led to higher costs for insurance covering environmental damage or pollution, and new regulations could lead to similar increases or even make this type of insurance unavailable. Furthermore, even if insurance coverage is adequate to cover our losses, we may not be able to timely obtain a replacement ship in the event of a loss. We may also be subject to calls, or premiums, in amounts based not only on our own claim records but also the claim records of all other members of the protection and indemnity associations through which we receive indemnity insurance coverage for tort liability. Our payment of these calls could result in significant expenses to us which could reduce our cash flows and place strains on our liquidity and capital resources.

Because some of our expenses are incurred in foreign currencies, we are exposed to exchange rate risks.

The charterers of our vessels pay us in U.S. dollars. While we incur most of our expenses in U.S. dollars, we have in the past incurred expenses in other currencies, most notably the Norwegian Kroner. Declines in the value of the U.S. dollar relative to the Norwegian Kroner, or the other currencies in which we incur expenses, would increase the U.S. dollar cost of paying these expenses and thus would adversely affect our results of operations.

We may have to pay tax on United States source income, which would reduce our earnings.

Under the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the Code, 50% of the gross shipping income of a vessel owning or chartering corporation, such as ourselves, attributable to transportation that begins or ends, but that does not both begin and end, in the U.S. will be characterized as U.S. source shipping income and such income will be subject to a 4% United States federal income tax unless that corporation is entitled to a special tax exemption under the Code which applies to the international shipping income derived by certain non-United States corporations. We believe that we currently qualify for this statutory tax exemption and we will take this position for U.S. tax return reporting purposes. However, there are several risks that could cause us to become taxed on our U.S. source shipping income. Due to the factual nature of the issues involved, we can give no assurances on our tax-exempt status.

If we are not entitled to this statutory tax exemption for any taxable year, we would be subject for any such year to a 4% United States federal income tax on our U.S. source shipping income. The imposition of this tax could have a negative effect on our business and would result in decreased earnings available for distribution to our shareholders.

We may become subject to taxes in Bermuda after 2016.

We have received a standard assurance from the Bermuda Minister of Finance, under Bermuda's Exempted Undertakings Tax Protection Act 1966, that if any legislation is enacted in Bermuda that would impose tax computed on profits or income, or computed on any capital asset, gain or appreciation, or any tax in the nature of estate duty or inheritance tax, then the imposition of any such tax will not be applicable to us or to any of our operations or our shares, debentures or other obligations until March 28, 2016. Consequently, if our Bermuda tax exemption is not extended past March 28, 2016, we may be subject to any Bermuda tax after that date.

Given the limited duration of the Minister of Finance's assurance, we cannot be certain that we will not be subject to any Bermuda tax after March 28,

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

2016. In the event that we become subject to any Bermuda tax after such date, it would have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

If U.S. tax authorities were to treat us as a "passive foreign investment company," that could have adverse consequences on U.S. holders.

A foreign corporation will be treated as a "passive foreign investment company" for U.S. Federal income tax purposes if either (1) at least 75% of its gross income for any taxable year consists of certain types of "passive income," or (2) at least 50% of the average value of the corporation's assets produce, or are held for the production of, such types of "passive income". For purposes of these tests, "passive income" includes dividends, interest, and gains from the sale or exchange of investment property and rents and royalties other than rents and royalties which are received from unrelated parties in connection with the active conduct of trade or business. For purposes of these tests, income derived from the performance of services does not constitute "passive income." Those holders of stock in a passive foreign investment company who are citizens or residents of the United States or domestic entities would alternatively be subject to a special adverse U.S. Federal income tax regime with respect to the income derived by the passive foreign investment company, the distributions they receive from the passive foreign investment company and the gain, if any, they derive from the sale or other disposition of their shares in the passive foreign investment company. In particular, dividends paid by us would not be treated as "qualified dividend income" eligible for preferential tax rates in the hands of noncorporate U.S. shareholders.

Based on our current and expected future operations, we believe that we ceased to be a passive foreign investment company beginning with the 2005 taxable year. We do not anticipate that we will be a passive foreign investment company for any taxable year in the future. As a result, noncorporate U.S. shareholders should be eligible to treat dividends paid by us in 2006 and thereafter as "qualified dividend income" which is subject to preferential tax rates (through 2010). Since we expect to derive more than 25% of our income each year from our time chartering and voyage chartering activities, we believe that such income will be treated for relevant U.S. Federal income tax purposes as services income, rather than rental income. Correspondingly, such income should not constitute "passive income," and the assets that we own and operate in connection with the production of that income (which should constitute more than 50% of our assets each year), in particular our vessels, should not constitute passive assets for purposes of determining whether we are a passive foreign investment company in any taxable year. However, no assurance can be given that the Internal Revenue Service will accept this position or that we would not constitute a passive foreign investment company for any future taxable year if there were to be changes in the nature and extent of our operations.

### Risks Relating to Our Common Shares

Our common share price may be highly volatile and future sales of our common shares could cause the market price of our common shares to decline.

The market price of our common shares has historically fluctuated over a wide range and may continue to fluctuate significantly in response to many factors, such as actual or anticipated fluctuations in our operating results, changes in financial estimates by securities analysts, economic and regulatory trends, general market conditions, rumors and other factors, many of which are beyond our control. Investors in our common shares may not be able to resell their shares at or above their purchase price due to those factors, which include the risks and uncertainties set forth in this annual report.

Because we are a foreign corporation, you may not have the same rights that a shareholder in a U.S. corporation may have.

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

We are a Bermuda exempted company. Our memorandum of association and bye-laws and The Companies Act, 1981 of Bermuda, or the Companies Act, govern our affairs. The Companies Act does not as clearly establish your rights and the fiduciary responsibilities of our directors as do statutes and judicial precedent in some U.S. jurisdictions. Therefore, you may have more difficulty in protecting your interests as a shareholder in the face of actions by the management, directors or controlling shareholders than would shareholders of a corporation incorporated in a United States jurisdiction. There is a statutory remedy under Section 111 of the Companies Act which provides that a shareholder may seek redress in the courts as long as such shareholder can establish that our affairs are being conducted, or have been conducted, in a manner oppressive or prejudicial to the interests of some part of the shareholders, including such shareholder. However, the principles governing Section 111 have not been well developed.

It may not be possible for our investors to enforce U.S. judgments against us.

We are incorporated in the Islands of Bermuda. Substantially all of our assets and those of our subsidiaries are located outside the United States. As a result, it may be difficult or impossible for U.S. investors to serve process within the United States upon us or to enforce judgment upon us for civil liabilities in U.S. courts. In addition, you should not assume that courts in the countries in which we are incorporated or where our assets are located (1) would enforce judgments of U.S. courts obtained in actions against based upon the civil liability provisions of applicable U.S. federal and state securities laws or (2) would enforce, in original actions, liabilities against us based upon these laws.

### ITEM 4. INFORMATION ON THE COMPANY

#### A. HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMPANY

Nordic American Tanker Shipping Limited, or the Company, was founded on June 12, 1995 under the laws of the Islands of Bermuda and we maintain our principal offices at LOM Building, 27 Reid Street, Hamilton HM 11, Bermuda. Our telephone number at such address is (441) 292-7202.

The Company was formed for the purpose of acquiring and chartering three Suezmax tankers that were built in 1997. These three vessels were bareboat chartered to BP Shipping Ltd., or BP Shipping, for a period of seven years. BP Shipping redelivered these three vessels to us in September 2004, October 2004 and November 2004, respectively. We have continued contracts with BP Shipping by time chartering to it two of our original vessels at spot market related rates for three-year terms up to the autumn of 2007. We have bareboat chartered the third of our original three vessels to Gulf Navigation Company LLC, or Gulf Navigation, of Dubai, U.A.E. for a term of five years at a fixed rate of charterhire, subject to two one-year extensions at Gulf Navigation's option. Our fourth vessel was delivered to us in November 2004, our fifth and sixth vessels in March 2005, our seventh vessel in August 2005, our eighth vessel in November 2005, our ninth vessel in April 2006, our tenth and eleventh vessel in November 2006 and our twelfth vessel in December 2006.

Tanker markets are typically stronger in the fall and winter months (the fourth and first quarters of the calendar) in anticipation of increased oil consumption in the northern hemisphere during the winter months. Seasonal variations in tanker demand normally result in seasonal fluctuations in spot market charter rates. We currently operate eleven of our twelve vessels in the spot market or on time charters with spot market related rates.

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

### B. BUSINESS OVERVIEW

#### Our Fleet

Our fleet consists of twelve modern double-hull Suezmax tankers. The following chart provides information regarding each vessel, including its employment status.

Vessel	Yard	Year Built	Dwt (1)	Employment Status (Expiration Date)	Flag
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Gulf Scandic	Samsung	1997	151,475	Bareboat (Nov. 2009)	Isle of Man
Nordic Hawk	Samsung	1997	151,475	TC/Spot (2) (Oct. 2007)	Bahamas
Nordic Hunter	Samsung	1997	151,400	TC/Spot (2) (Sep. 2007)	Bahamas
Nordic Voyager	Dalian New	1997	149,591	Spot	Norway
Nordic Freedom	Daewoo	2005	163,455	Spot	Bahamas
Nordic Fighter	Hyundai	1998	153,328	Spot	Norway
Nordic Discovery	Hyundai	1998	153,328	Spot	Norway
Nordic Saturn	Daewoo	1998	157,332	Spot	Marshall Islands
Nordic Jupiter	Daewoo	1998	157,411	Spot	Marshall Islands
Nordic Apollo	Samsung	2003	159,999	Spot	Marshall Islands
Nordic Cosmos	Samsung	2002	159,998	Spot	Marshall Islands
Nordic Moon	Samsung	2003	159,999	Spot	Marshall Islands

(1) Scantling draft is the maximum draft at which a vessel complies with the governing strength requirements of classification societies.

(2) TC/Spot = Time Charter on spot market related terms.

#### OUR CHARTERS

We operate our vessels on bareboat charters, time charters and in the spot market. Our goal is to take advantage of potentially higher market rates with spot market related rates and voyage charters. We currently operate eleven of our twelve vessels in the spot market or on spot market related time charters although we may consider charters at fixed rates depending on market conditions.

#### Bareboat Charters

We have chartered one of our vessels (Gulf Scandic) under a bareboat charter to Gulf Navigation, for a period of five years terminating in the fourth quarter of 2009 subject to two one-year extensions at Gulf Navigation's option. Under the terms of this bareboat charter, Gulf Navigation is obligated to pay a fixed charterhire of \$17,325 per day for the entire charter period. During the charter period, Gulf Navigation is responsible for operating and maintaining the vessel and is responsible for covering all operating costs and expenses with respect to the vessel.

#### Time Charters

We have chartered two of our vessels (Nordic Hawk and Nordic Hunter) under spot market related charters to BP Shipping for a period of three years each, terminating between September 1, 2007 and October 31, 2007. The amount of charterhire payable under these charters to BP Shipping is based on a formula designed to generate earnings to us as if we had operated the vessels in the spot market on two specific routes, less 5%. The charterhire is payable to us monthly. Under these time charters, BP Shipping is responsible for all voyage



## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

related costs while the Company is responsible for providing the crew and paying other operating costs.

### Spot Charters

During the year we have temporarily operated several vessels (Nordic Freedom, Nordic Apollo, Nordic Cosmos and Nordic Moon) in the spot market, other than in pooling arrangements. Tankers operating in the spot market are typically chartered for a single voyage which may last up to several weeks. Tankers operating in the spot market may generate increased profit margins during improvements in tanker rates, while tankers on fixed-rate time charters generally provide more predictable cash flows.

Under a typical voyage charter in the spot market, we will be paid freight on the basis of moving cargo from a loading port to a discharge port. We are responsible for paying both operating costs and voyage costs and the charterer is responsible for any delay at the loading or discharging ports.

### Pooling Arrangements

We currently operate nine of our vessels (Nordic Voyager, Nordic Discovery, Nordic Fighter, Nordic Saturn, Nordic Freedom, Nordic Jupiter, Nordic Apollo, Nordic Cosmos and Nordic Moon) in spot market pools with other vessels that are not owned by us. These pools are managed and operated by third party pool administrators. The pool administrator of each pool has the responsibility for the commercial management of the participating vessels, including marketing, chartering, operating and bunker (fuel oil) purchasing for the vessels. The pool participants remain responsible for all other costs including the financing, insurance, manning and technical management of their vessels. The earnings of all of the vessels are aggregated, or pooled, and divided according to the relative performance capabilities of each vessel and the actual earning days each vessel was available during the period. The pool vessels are operated in the spot market by the pool administrators.

### The Management Agreement

Under the Management Agreement by and between the Company and Scandic American Shipping Ltd., or the Manager, the Manager assumes commercial and operational responsibility of our vessels and is generally required to manage our day-to-day business subject to our objectives and policies as established from time to time by the Board of Directors. All decisions of a material nature concerning our business are reserved to our Board of Directors. The Management Agreement will terminate on June 30, 2019, unless earlier terminated pursuant to its terms, as discussed below, or extended by the parties following mutual agreement.

For its services under the Management Agreement, the Manager is reimbursed for all its costs incurred plus a management fee equal to \$100,000 per annum. The management fee is payable to the Manager quarterly in advance. The management fee has been adjusted to \$225,000 beginning July 1, 2007. The Management Agreement formerly provided that the Manager would receive 1.25% of any gross charterhire paid to us. In order to further align the Manager's interests with those of the Company, in 2004, the Manager agreed with us to amend the Management Agreement to eliminate this payment, and we issued to the Manager restricted common shares equal to 2% of our outstanding common shares. Any time additional common shares are issued, the Manager will receive additional restricted common shares to maintain the number of common shares issued to the Manager at 2% of our total outstanding common shares. These restricted shares are nontransferable for three years from issuance.

Under the Management Agreement, the Manager pays, and receives reimbursement from us, for our administrative expenses including such items as:

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

- o all costs and expenses incurred on our behalf, including operating expenses and other costs for vessels that are chartered out on time charters or traded in the spot market and for monitoring the condition of our vessel that is operating under bareboat charter,
- o executive officer and staff salaries,
- o administrative expenses, including, among others, for third party public relations, insurance, franchise fees and registrars' fees,
- o all premiums for insurance of any nature, including directors' and officers' liability insurance and general liability insurance,
- o brokerage commissions payable by us on the gross charter hire received in connection with the charters,
- o directors' fees and meeting expenses,
- o audit fees,
- o other expenses approved by the Board of the Directors and
- o attorneys' fees and expenses, incurred on our behalf in connection with (A) any litigation commenced by or against us or (B) any claim or investigation by any governmental, regulatory or self-regulatory authority involving us.

We have agreed to defend, indemnify and hold the Manager and its affiliates (other than us and our subsidiaries that we may form in the future), officers, directors, employees and agents harmless from and against any and all loss, claim, damage, liability, cost or expense, including reasonable attorneys' fees, incurred by the Manager or any such affiliates based upon a claim by or liability to a third party arising out of the operation of our business, unless due to the Manager's or such affiliates' negligence or willful misconduct.

We may terminate the Management Agreement in the event that:

- o the Manager commits any material breach or omission of its material obligations or undertakings thereunder that is not remedied within thirty days of our notice to the Manager of such breach or omission,
- o the Manager fails to maintain adequate authorization to perform its duties thereunder that is not remedied within thirty days,
- o certain events of the Manager's bankruptcy occur, or
- o it becomes unlawful for the Manager to perform its duties under the Management Agreement.

### Commercial and Technical Management Agreements

We have entered into a commercial management agreement with Teekay Chartering Limited ("Teekay"), an affiliate of Teekay Shipping Corporation for the Nordic Freedom which is operated in a pool with other Teekay-controlled Suezmax tankers. Under the supervision of the Manager, Teekay's duties include seeking and negotiating charters for this vessel.

We have entered into a commercial management agreement with the Swedish based Stena Bulk AS ("Stena"), for the Nordic Voyager, the Nordic Cosmos and the Nordic Moon, which are operated in a pool with other Stena-controlled Suezmax tankers. Under the supervision of the Manager, Stena's duties in the pool

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

include seeking and negotiating charters for these vessels.

We have entered into a commercial management agreement with Frontline Management ASA ("Frontline") for the Nordic Fighter, the Nordic Discovery and the Nordic Apollo, which are operated in a pool with other Frontline controlled Suezmax tankers. Under the supervision of the Manager, Frontline's duties in the pool include seeking and negotiating charters for these vessels.

We have entered into a commercial management agreement with the U.S. based OMI Corporation ("OMI") for the Nordic Saturn and the Nordic Jupiter, which are operated in a pool with other OMI-controlled Suezmax tankers. Under the supervision of the Manager, OMI's duties in the pool include seeking and negotiating charters for these vessels.

We have entered into a technical management agreement for the Nordic Hawk, the Nordic Hunter, the Nordic Voyager, the Nordic Freedom and the Nordic Saturn with Teekay Marine Services AS under the supervision of the Manager.

We have entered into a technical management agreement for the Nordic Fighter, the Nordic Discovery, the Nordic Apollo, the Nordic Cosmos and the Nordic Moon with V.Ships Norway AS ("V.Ships"). V.Ships is a marine service group that provides ship management and related services to a managed fleet of some 650 vessels worldwide.

We have entered into a technical management agreement for the Nordic Jupiter with OMI Marine Services under the supervision of the Manager.

Compensation under the commercial and technical management agreements is in accordance with industry standards.

The Company has decided to consolidate its technical operating functions. The ship management firm of V.Ships Norway AS ("V.Ships") is expected to manage ten of the Company's vessels beginning in the third quarter of 2007. V.Ships currently is technically managing five of the Company's vessels. We expect that this consolidation will facilitate crew rotation among the vessels which together with economies of scale should result in cost improvements.

### The International Tanker Market

International seaborne oil and petroleum products transportation services are mainly provided by two types of operators: major oil company captive fleets (both private and state-owned) and independent shipowner fleets. Both types of operators transport oil under short-term contracts (including single-voyage "spot charters") and long-term time charters with oil companies, oil traders, large oil consumers, petroleum product producers and government agencies. The oil companies own, or control through long-term time charters, approximately one third of the current world tanker capacity, while independent companies own or control the balance of the fleet. The oil companies use their fleets not only to transport their own oil, but also to transport oil for third-party charterers in direct competition with independent owners and operators in the tanker charter market.

The oil transportation industry has historically been subject to regulation by national authorities and through international conventions. Over recent years, however, an environmental protection regime has evolved which has a significant impact on the operations of participants in the industry in the form of increasingly more stringent inspection requirements, closer monitoring of pollution-related events, and generally higher costs and potential liabilities for the owners and operators of tankers.

In order to benefit from economies of scale, tanker charterers will typically charter the largest possible vessel to transport oil or products,

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

consistent with port and canal dimensional restrictions and optimal cargo lot sizes. A tanker's carrying capacity is measured in deadweight tons, or dwt, which is the amount of crude oil measured in metric tons that the vessel is capable of loading. The oil tanker fleet is generally divided into the following five major types of vessels, based on vessel carrying capacity: (i) Ultra Large Crude Carrier (ULCC) - with a size range of approximately 320,000 to 450,000 dwt; (ii) Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) with a size range of approximately 200,000 to 320,000 dwt; (iii) Suezmax-size range of approximately 120,000 to 200,000 dwt; (iv) Aframax-size range of approximately 80,000 to 120,000 dwt; (v) Panamax-size range of approximately 60,000 to 70,000 dwt; and (v) small tankers of less than approximately 60,000 dwt. ULCCs and VLCCs typically transport crude oil in long-haul trades, such as from the Arabian Gulf to Rotterdam via the Cape of Good Hope. Suezmax tankers also engage in long-haul crude oil trades as well as in medium-haul crude oil trades, such as from West Africa to the East Coast of the United States. Aframax-size vessels generally engage in both medium-and short-haul trades of less than 1,500 miles and carry crude oil or petroleum products. Smaller tankers mostly transport petroleum products in short-haul to medium-haul trades.

### The Tanker Market 2006

Despite the high fleet growth and the bottlenecks within the oil sector, 2006 was the third strongest tanker market since 1973, surpassed only by the two previous years. The peak year was 2004, while 2005 was only marginally stronger than 2006.

The oil tanker fleet is generally divided into five major categories of vessels, based on carrying capacity. A tanker's carrying capacity is measured in dwt, which is the amount of crude oil measured in metric tons that the vessel is capable of loading. In the single voyage market the Very Large Crude Carrier ("VLCC"), whose carrying capacity ranges from 200,000 dwt to 320,000 dwt, reached an average of \$56,000 per day, a marginal increase from \$55,000 per day in 2005. Suezmaxes, whose carrying capacity ranges from 120,000 dwt to 200,000 dwt, achieved \$48,000 per day, unchanged from 2005. Corresponding rates for Aframax, whose carrying capacity ranges from 80,000 dwt to 120,000 dwt, were \$38,000 per day compared with \$40,000 per day in 2005.

On an annual average basis, the tanker fleet increased by 6.5% from 2005 to 2006. Deliveries of new tankers reached 23 million dwt, down from 28 million dwt in 2005. Scrapping amounted to 3.2 million dwt. No VLCCs or Suezmaxes were sold for scrapping; however 13 Aframax and 52 smaller tankers were reported sold for scrapping. The average scrapping age for all tankers was 26.0 years compared with 27.5 years in 2005. It has further been recorded 2.2 million dwt or 14 tankers for conversions, of these 4 VLCCs and 5 Suezmaxes.

Estimates indicate an increase in seaborne oil trade of 2.5% from 2005 to 2006 and a strong increase in the average transport distance, driven by China. The trade growth in ton-mile terms is estimated at approximately 4%. There have also been some additional factors contributing to the tonnage demand growth. Among these factors a reduction in the productivity of single-hull tankers (in 2006 single hull accounted for about 30% of the total fleet) was the most important one. There was also a wide use of tankers for floating storage in the massive oil stockbuilding period in the summer of 2006, which withdrew transport capacity from active trading. Including these additional factors tonnage demand growth increased by approximately 6%, resulting in a drop in capacity utilization from 89.0% in 2005 to 88.5% in 2006.

After the strong 4% growth in oil consumption in 2004, oil production capacity has been basically fully utilized. With a continued high economic growth in 2005 and 2006, capacity constraints have reduced the growth in oil consumption to only 1.5% in 2005 and 1.0% in 2006 and has driven crude oil prices up to \$65 per barrel for Brent dated as an average for 2006, up 20% from

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

the year before. Again non-OPEC producers did not meet expectations and their production increased only marginally. The fear of another active hurricane season in the US Gulf combined with geopolitical uncertainty and increased risk of supply disruptions gave strong incentives to build oil stocks throughout the summer. OPEC contributed significantly to this stockbuilding through higher oil production from the spring to late summer. Most of this rise in output came from the Middle East. Tanker freight rates rose to very high levels in the summer months, which are normally the weakest period of the year.

When the hurricanes did not appear and geopolitical uncertainty softened, oil prices fell from \$76 per barrel in August to \$56 per barrel in October. For OPEC it was of great importance to prevent an uncontrolled price dive and it therefore decided to cut production, in which resulted in lower freight rates.

Sale and purchase activity during 2006 was marginally lower than in 2005 with some 325 reported sales within the segments listed in our monthly report. Values for double hull tankers have on average increased by 4%, whereas single hull tankers have fallen by 14% on average. Greek players have dominated the market, followed by Norwegian and Far East buyers.

According to Oil and Gas Journal, the Middle East had 56.1% of the world's proven oil reserves in January 2007, which will continue to drive long and medium haul seaborne transportation. Middle East supplied approximately 30% of total world oil production. Given the dominance of world oil reserves located in this region, this share is expected to grow in coming years as oil fields in other parts of the world gradually reach maturity and begin a process of natural decline. The length of transportation distances between the Middle East and consuming areas means that such a trend would boost ton-miles (the product of volumes and transport distances) and may be beneficial for tanker demand.

A significant and ongoing shift toward quality in vessels and operations has taken place during the last decade as charterers and regulators increasingly focus on safety and protection of the environment. Since 1990, there has been an increasing emphasis on environmental protection through legislation and regulations such as the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA), International Maritime Organization (IMO), protocols and Classification Society procedures, demanding higher quality tanker construction, maintenance, repair and operations. Operators that have proven an ability to seamlessly integrate these required safety regulations into their operations are being rewarded. For example, the emergence of vessels equipped with double hulls represented a differentiation in vessel quality and enabled such vessels to command improved earnings in the spot charter markets. The effect has been a shift in major charterers' preference towards greater use of double hulls and, therefore, more difficult trading conditions for older single-hull vessels.

### Environmental and Other Regulation

Government regulation significantly affects the ownership and operation of our fleet. We are subject to various international conventions and treaties, laws and regulations in force in the countries in which our vessels may operate or are registered relating to safety and health and environmental protection including the storage, handling, emission, transportation and discharge of hazardous and non-hazardous materials, and the remediation of contamination and liability for damage to natural resources.

A variety of governmental and private entities subject our vessels to both scheduled and unscheduled inspections. These entities include the local port authorities, (applicable national authorities such as the U.S. Coast Guard and harbor masters), classification societies, flag state administration (country of registry) and charterers, particularly terminal operators and oil companies. Some of these entities require us to obtain permits, licenses, certificates and other authorizations for the operation of our fleet. Our failure to maintain

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

necessary permits or approvals could require us to incur substantial costs or temporarily suspend operation of one or more of the vessels in our fleet.

In recent periods, heightened levels of environmental and quality concerns among insurance underwriters, regulators and charterers have led to greater inspection and safety requirements on all ships and may accelerate the scrapping of older vessels throughout the industry. Increasing environmental concerns have created a demand for vessels that conform to the stricter environmental standards. We believe that the operation of our vessels is in substantial compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations and that our vessels have all material permits, licenses, certificates or other authorizations necessary for the conduct of our operations; however, because such laws and regulations are frequently changed and may impose increasingly stricter requirements, we cannot predict the ultimate cost of complying with these requirements, or the impact of these requirements on the resale value or useful lives of our vessels. In addition, a future serious marine incident that results in significant oil pollution or otherwise causes significant adverse environmental impact could result in additional legislation or regulation that could negatively affect our profitability.

### International Maritime Organization

The International Maritime Organization, or IMO (the United Nations agency for maritime safety and the prevention of marine pollution by ships), has adopted the International Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, which has been updated through various amendments (the "MARPOL Convention" ). The MARPOL Convention relates to environmental standards including oil leakage or spilling, garbage management, as well as the handling and disposal of noxious liquids, harmful substances in packaged forms, sewage and air emissions. The IMO adopted regulations that set forth pollution prevention requirements applicable to tankers. These regulations, which have been adopted by over 150 nations, including many of the jurisdictions in which our tankers operate, provide for, among other things, phase-out of single-hulled tankers and more stringent inspection requirements; including, in part, that:

- o tankers between 25 and 30 years old must be of double-hulled construction or of a mid-deck design with double-sided construction, unless: (1) they have wing tanks or double-bottom spaces not used for the carriage of oil, which cover at least 30% of the length of the cargo tank section of the hull or bottom; or (2) they are capable of hydrostatically balanced loading (loading less cargo into a tanker so that in the event of a breach of the hull, water flows into the tanker, displacing oil upwards instead of into the sea);
- o tankers 30 years old or older must be of double-hulled construction or mid-deck design with double sided construction; and
- o all tankers are subject to enhanced inspections.

Also, under IMO regulations, a tanker must be of double-hulled construction or a mid-deck design with double-sided construction or be of another approved design ensuring the same level of protection against oil pollution if the tanker:

- o is the subject of a contract for a major conversion or original construction on or after July 6, 1993;
- o commences a major conversion or has its keel laid on or after January 6, 1994; or
- o completes a major conversion or is a newbuilding delivered on or after

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

July 6, 1996.

Effective September 2002, the IMO accelerated its existing timetable for the phase-out of single hull oil tankers. At that time, these regulations required the phase-out of most single hull oil tankers by 2015 or earlier, depending on the age of the tanker and whether it has segregated ballast tanks. Under the regulations, the flag state administration may allow for some newer single hull ships registered in its country that conform to certain technical specifications to continue operating until the 25th anniversary of their delivery. Any port state, however, may deny entry of those single hull tankers that are allowed to operate until their 25th anniversary to ports or offshore terminals.

However, as a result of the oil spill in November 2002 relating to the loss of the m.t. Prestige, which was owned by a company not affiliated with us, in December 2003, the Marine Environmental Protection Committee of the IMO, or MEPC, adopted an amendment to the MARPOL Convention, which became effective in April 2005. The amendment revised an existing regulation 13G accelerating the phase-out of single hull oil tankers and adopted a new regulation 13H on the prevention of oil pollution from oil tankers when carrying heavy grade oil. Under the revised regulation, single hull oil tankers must be phased out no later than April 5, 2005 or the anniversary of the date of delivery of the ship on the date or in the year specified in the following table:

Category of Oil Tankers -----	Date or Year -----
Category 1 oil tankers of 20,000 dwt and above carrying crude oil, fuel oil, heavy diesel oil or lubricating oil as cargo, and of 30,000 dwt and above carrying other oils, which do not comply with the requirements for protectively located segregated ballast tanks	April 5, 2005 for ships delivered on April 5, 1982 or earlier; or 2005 for ships delivered after April 5, 1982
Category 2 - oil tankers of 20,000 dwt and above carrying crude oil, fuel oil, heavy diesel oil or lubricating oil as cargo, and of 30,000 dwt and above carrying other oils, which do comply with the protectively located segregated ballast tank requirements	April 5, 2005 for ships delivered on April 5, 1977 or earlier 2005 for ships delivered after April 5, 1977 but before January 1, 1978 2006 for ships delivered in 1978 and 1979 2007 for ships delivered in 1980 and 1981 2008 for ships delivered in 1982
and	
Category 3 - oil tankers of 5,000 dwt and above but less than the tonnage specified for Category 1 and 2 tankers.	2009 for ships delivered in 1983 2010 for ships delivered in 1984 or later

Under the revised regulations, the flag state administration may allow for some newer single hull oil tankers registered in its country that conform to certain technical specifications to continue operating until the earlier of the anniversary of the date of delivery of the vessel in 2015 or the 25th anniversary of their delivery. Any port state, however, may deny entry of those single hull oil tankers that are allowed to operate until the earlier of their anniversary date of delivery in 2015 or their 25th anniversary to ports or offshore terminals.

The MEPC, in October 2004, adopted a unified interpretation to regulation 13G that clarified the date of delivery for tankers that have been converted. Under the interpretation, where an oil tanker has undergone a major conversion that has resulted in the replacement of the fore-body, including the entire

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

cargo carrying section, the major conversion completion date of the oil tanker shall be deemed to be the date of delivery of the ship, provided that:

- o the oil tanker conversion was completed before July 6, 1996;
- o the conversion included the replacement of the entire cargo section and fore-body and the tanker complies with all the relevant provisions of MARPOL Convention applicable at the date of completion of the major conversion; and
- o the original delivery date of the oil tanker will apply when considering the 15 years of age threshold relating to the first technical specifications survey to be completed in accordance with MARPOL Convention.

In December 2003, the MEPC adopted a new regulation 13H on the prevention of oil pollution from oil tankers when carrying heavy grade oil, or HGO. The new regulation bans the carriage of HGO in single hull oil tankers of 5,000 dwt and above after April 5, 2005, and in single hull oil tankers of 600 dwt and above but less than 5,000 dwt, no later than the anniversary of their delivery in 2008.

Under regulation 13H, HGO means any of the following:

- o crude oils having a density at 15(0)C higher than 900 kg/m<sup>3</sup>;
- o fuel oils having either a density at 15(0)C higher than 900 kg/ m<sup>3</sup> or a kinematic viscosity at 50(0)C higher than 180 mm<sup>2</sup>/s;
- o bitumen, tar and their emulsions.

Under the regulation 13H, the flag state administration may allow continued operation of oil tankers of 5,000 dwt and above, carrying crude oil with a density at 15(0)C higher than 900 kg/m<sup>3</sup> but lower than 945 kg/m<sup>3</sup>, that conform to certain technical specifications and, in the opinion of the such administration, the ship is fit to continue such operation, having regard to the size, age, operational area and structural conditions of the ship and provided that the continued operation shall not go beyond the date on which the ship reaches 25 years after the date of its delivery. The flag state administration may also allow continued operation of a single hull oil tanker of 600 dwt and above but less than 5,000 dwt, carrying HGO as cargo, if, in the opinion of the such administration, the ship is fit to continue such operation, having regard to the size, age, operational area and structural conditions of the ship, provided that the operation shall not go beyond the date on which the ship reaches 25 years after the date of its delivery.

The flag state administration may also exempt an oil tanker of 600 dwt and above carrying HGO as cargo if the ship is either engaged in voyages exclusively within an area under its jurisdiction, or is engaged in voyages exclusively within an area under the jurisdiction of another party, provided the party within whose jurisdiction the ship will be operating agrees. The same applies to vessels operating as floating storage units of HGO.

Any port state, however, can deny entry of single hull tankers carrying HGO which have been allowed to continue operation under the exemptions mentioned above, into the ports or offshore terminals under its jurisdiction, or deny ship-to-ship transfer of HGO in areas under its jurisdiction except when this is necessary for the purpose of securing the safety of a ship or saving life at sea.

Revised Annex I to the MARPOL Convention entered into force in January 2007. Revised Annex I incorporates various amendments adopted since the MARPOL



## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

Convention entered into force in 1983, including the amendments to Regulation 13G (regulation 20 in the revised Annex) and Regulation 13H (regulation 21 in the revised Annex). Revised Annex I also imposes construction requirements for oil tankers delivered on or after January 1, 2010. A further amendment to revised Annex I includes an amendment to the definition of "heavy grade oil" that will broaden the scope of regulation 21.

The IMO has also negotiated international conventions that impose liability for oil pollution in international waters and a signatory's territorial waters. In September 1997, the IMO adopted Annex VI to the MARPOL Convention to address air pollution from ships. Annex VI was ratified in May 2004, and took effect May 19, 2005. Annex VI sets limits on sulfur oxide and nitrogen oxide emissions from ship exhausts and prohibits deliberate emissions of ozone depleting substances, such as chlorofluorocarbons. Annex VI also includes a global cap on the sulfur content of fuel oil and allows for special areas to be established with more stringent controls on sulfur emissions. Annex VI regulations pertaining to nitrogen oxide emissions apply to diesel engines on vessels built on or after January 1, 2000 or diesel engines undergoing major conversion after such date. We believe that all our vessels comply with Annex VI in all material respects. Additional or new conventions, laws and regulations may be adopted that could adversely affect our business, cash flows, results of operations and financial condition.

The IMO also has adopted the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, or SOLAS Convention, which imposes a variety of standards to regulate design and operational features of ships. SOLAS standards are revised periodically. We believe that all our vessels are in substantial compliance with SOLAS standards.

Under the International Safety Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention, or ISM Code, promulgated by the IMO, the party with operational control of a vessel is required to develop an extensive safety management system that includes, among other things, the adoption of a safety and environmental protection policy setting forth instructions and procedures for operating its vessels safely and describing procedures for responding to emergencies. In 1994, the ISM Code became mandatory with the adoption of Chapter IX of SOLAS. We intend to rely on the safety management systems that our technical managers have developed.

The ISM Code requires that vessel operators obtain a safety management certificate for each vessel they operate. This certificate evidences compliance by a vessel's management with code requirements for a safety management system. No vessel can obtain a certificate unless its operator has been awarded a document of compliance, issued by each flag state, under the ISM Code. We believe that our technical managers have procured all material requisite documents of compliance for their offices and safety management certificates for vessels in our fleet for which the certificates are required by the IMO. Our technical managers will be required to review these documents of compliance and safety management certificates annually.

Noncompliance with the ISM Code and other IMO regulations may subject the shipowner to increased liability, may lead to decreases in available insurance coverage for affected vessels and may result in the denial of access to, or detention in, some ports. For example, the U.S. Coast Guard and European Union authorities have indicated that vessels not in compliance with the ISM Code will be prohibited from trading in U.S. and European Union ports.

Although the United States is not a party to these conventions, many countries have ratified and follow the liability plan adopted by the IMO and set out in the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage of 1969. Under this convention and depending on whether the country in which the damage results is a party to the 1992 Protocol to the International Convention

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, a vessel's registered owner is strictly liable for pollution damage caused in the territorial waters of a contracting state by discharge of persistent oil, subject to certain complete defenses. Under an amendment to the 1992 Protocol that became effective on November 1, 2003, for vessels of 5,000 to 140,000 gross tons (a unit of measurement for the total enclosed spaces within a vessel), liability will be limited to approximately \$6.8 million plus \$955.3 for each additional gross ton over 5,000. For vessels of over 140,000 gross tons, liability will be limited to approximately \$136.0 million. As the convention calculates liability in terms of a basket of currencies, these figures are based on currency exchange rates on June 4, 2007. Under the 1969 Convention, the right to limit liability is forfeited where the spill is caused by the owner's actual fault; under the 1992 Protocol, a shipowner cannot limit liability where the spill is caused by the owner's intentional or reckless conduct. Vessels trading in jurisdictions that are parties to these conventions must provide evidence of insurance covering the liability of the owner. In jurisdictions where the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage has not been adopted, various legislative schemes or common law govern, and liability is imposed either on the basis of fault or in a manner similar to that convention. We believe that our protection and indemnity insurance will cover the liability under the plan adopted by the IMO.

### U.S. Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act

The United States regulates the tanker sector with an extensive regulatory and liability regime for environmental protection and cleanup of oil spills, consisting primarily of OPA and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, or CERCLA. OPA affects all owners and operators whose vessels trade with the United States or its territories or possessions, or whose vessels operate in the waters of the United States, which include the U.S. territorial sea and the 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone around the United States. CERCLA applies to the discharge of hazardous substances other than oil, whether on land or at sea. Both OPA and CERCLA impact our operations.

Under OPA, vessel owners, operators and bareboat charterers are "responsible parties" who are jointly, severally and strictly liable (unless the spill results solely from the act or omission of a third party, an act of God or an act of war and the responsible party reports the incident and reasonably cooperates with the appropriate authorities) for all containment and clean-up costs and other damages arising from oil spills from their vessels. These other damages are defined broadly to include:

- o natural resource damages and related assessment costs;
- o real and personal property damages;
- o net loss of taxes, royalties, rents, profits or earnings capacity;
- o net cost of public services necessitated by a spill response, such as protection from fire, safety or health hazards;
- o loss of profits or impairment of earning capacity due to injury, destruction or loss of real property, personal property and natural resources; and
- o loss of subsistence use of natural resources.

OPA limits the liability of responsible parties to the greater of \$1,200 per gross ton or \$10 million per tanker that is over 3,000 gross tons per discharge (subject to possible adjustment for inflation). Amendments to OPA signed into law in July 2006 increased the OPA liability limits to the greater

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

of \$1,900 per gross ton or \$16.0 million per double-hull tanker that is over 3,000 gross tons per discharge (subject to possible adjustment for inflation). The act specifically permits individual states to impose their own liability regimes with regard to oil pollution incidents occurring within their boundaries, including adjacent waters, and some states have enacted legislation providing for unlimited liability for discharge of pollutants within their waters. In some cases, states that have enacted this type of legislation have not yet issued implementing regulations defining vessel owners' responsibilities under these laws. CERCLA, which applies to owners and operators of vessels, contains a similar liability regime and provides for cleanup, removal and natural resource damages. Liability under CERCLA is limited to the greater of \$300 per gross ton or \$5 million.

These limits of liability do not apply, however, where the incident is caused by violation of applicable U.S. federal safety, construction or operating regulations, or by the gross negligence or wilful misconduct of the responsible party or the responsible party's agent or employee or any person acting in a contractual relationship with the responsible party. In addition, these limits do not apply if the responsible party or the responsible party's agent or employee or any person acting in a contractual relationship with the responsible party fails or refuses to report the incident or to cooperate and assist in connection with the substance removal activities. OPA and CERCLA each preserve the right to recover damages under other laws, including maritime tort law.

OPA also requires owners and operators of vessels to establish and maintain with the U.S. Coast Guard evidence of financial responsibility sufficient to meet the limit of their potential strict liability under the act. The U.S. Coast Guard has adopted regulations requiring evidence of financial responsibility in the amount of \$1,500 per gross ton for tankers, combining the OPA limitation on liability of \$1,200 per gross ton with the CERCLA liability limit of \$300 per gross ton. The U.S. Coast Guard has indicated that it expects to adopt regulations requiring evidence of financial responsibility in the amounts that reflect the higher limits of liability imposed by the July amendments to OPA, as described above. Under the regulations, evidence of financial responsibility may be demonstrated by insurance, surety bond, self-insurance, guaranty or an alternative method subject to approval by the Director of the U.S. Coast Guard National Pollution Funds Center. Under OPA regulations, an owner or operator of more than one vessel is required to demonstrate evidence of financial responsibility for the entire fleet in an amount equal only to the financial responsibility requirement of the vessel having the greatest maximum strict liability under OPA and CERCLA.

Under OPA, oil tankers as to which a contract for construction or major conversion was put in place after June 30, 1990 are required to have double hulls. In addition, oil tankers without double hulls will not be permitted to come to U.S. ports or trade in U.S. waters by 2015. All of the tankers in our fleet have double hulls.

OPA also amended the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to require that owners or operators of tankers operating in the waters of the United States must file vessel response plans with the U.S. Coast Guard, and their tankers are required to operate in compliance with their U.S. Coast Guard approved plans. These response plans must, among other things:

- o address a "worst case" scenario and identify and ensure, through contract or other approved means, the availability of necessary private response resources to respond to a "worst case discharge";
- o describe crew training and drills; and
- o identify a qualified individual with full authority to implement removal actions.

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

Vessel response plans for our tankers operating in the waters of the United States have been approved by the U.S. Coast Guard. In addition, we conduct regular oil spill response drills in accordance with the guidelines set out in OPA. The U.S. Coast Guard has announced it intends to propose similar regulations requiring certain vessels to prepare response plans for the release of hazardous substances.

As discussed above, OPA does not prevent individual states from imposing their own liability regimes with respect to oil pollution incidents occurring within their boundaries, including adjacent coastal waters. In fact, most U.S. states that border a navigable waterway have enacted environmental pollution laws that impose strict liability on a person for removal costs and damages resulting from a discharge of oil or a release of a hazardous substance. These laws may be more stringent than U.S. federal law.

### Additional U.S. Environmental Requirements

The U.S. Clean Air Act of 1970, as amended by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977 and 1990 (the "CAA"), requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, to promulgate standards applicable to emissions of volatile organic compounds and other air contaminants. Our vessels are subject to vapor control and recovery requirements for certain cargoes when loading, unloading, ballasting, cleaning and conducting other operations in regulated port areas. Our vessels that operate in such port areas are equipped with vapor control systems that satisfy these requirements. The CAA also requires states to draft State Implementation Plans, or SIPs, designed to attain national health-based air quality standards in primarily major metropolitan and/or industrial areas. Several SIPs regulate emissions resulting from vessel loading and unloading operations by requiring the installation of vapor control equipment. As indicated above, our vessels operating in covered port areas are already equipped with vapor control systems that satisfy these requirements. Although a risk exists that new regulations could require significant capital expenditures and otherwise increase our costs, we believe, based on the regulations that have been proposed to date, that no material capital expenditures beyond those currently contemplated and no material increase in costs are likely to be required.

The Clean Water Act ("CWA") prohibits the discharge of oil or hazardous substances into navigable waters and imposes strict liability in the form of penalties for any unauthorized discharges. The CWA also imposes substantial liability for the costs of removal, remediation and damages. State laws for the control of water pollution also provide varying civil, criminal and administrative penalties in the case of a discharge of petroleum or hazardous materials into state waters. The CWA complements the remedies available under the more recent OPA and CERCLA, discussed above. Under current regulations of the EPA, vessels are not required to obtain CWA permits for the discharge of ballast water in U.S. ports. However, on March 31, 2005, a U.S. District Court ruled that the EPA exceeded its authority in creating an exemption for ballast water. On September 18, 2006, the court issued an order invalidating the exemption in the EPA's regulations for all discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel as of September 30, 2008, and directing the EPA to develop a system for regulating all discharges from vessels by that date. Although the EPA has indicated that it will appeal this decision, if the exemption is repealed, we may be subject to CWA permit requirements that may include ballast water treatment obligations that could increase the cost of operating in the United States. For example, this could require the installation of equipment on our vessels to treat ballast water before it is discharged or the implementation of other port facility disposal arrangements or procedures which may restrict our vessels from entering U.S. ports. We cannot assure you that any costs associated with compliance with the CWA's permitting requirements will not be material to our results of operations.

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

The National Invasive Species Act ("NISA") was enacted in 1996 in response to growing reports of harmful organisms being released into U.S. ports through ballast water taken on by ships in foreign ports. NISA established a ballast water management program for ships entering U.S. waters. Under NISA, mid-ocean ballast water exchange is voluntary, except for ships heading to the Great Lakes, Hudson Bay, or vessels engaged in the foreign export of Alaskan North Slope crude oil. However, NISA's exporting and record-keeping requirements are mandatory for vessels bound for any port in the United States. Although ballast water exchange is the primary means of compliance with the act's guidelines, compliance can also be achieved through the retention of ballast water onboard the ship, or the use of environmentally sound alternative ballast water management methods approved by the U.S. Coast Guard. If the mid-ocean ballast exchange is made mandatory throughout the United States, or if water treatment requirements or options are instituted, the costs of compliance could increase for ocean carriers.

Our operations occasionally generate and require the transportation, treatment and disposal of both hazardous and non-hazardous wastes that are subject to the requirements of the U.S. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, or RCRA, or comparable state, local or foreign requirements. In addition, from time to time we arrange for the disposal of hazardous waste or hazardous substances at offsite disposal facilities. If such materials are improperly disposed of by third parties, we might still be liable for clean up costs under applicable laws.

### European Union Tanker Restrictions

In July 2003, in response to the m.t. Prestige oil spill in November 2002, the European Union adopted legislation that accelerates the IMO single hull tanker phase-out timetable and, by 2010 will prohibit all single-hulled tankers used for the transport of oil from entering into its ports or offshore terminals. The European Union, following the lead of certain European Union nations such as Italy and Spain, has also banned, as of October 21, 2003, all single-hulled tankers carrying heavy grades of oil, regardless of flag, from entering or leaving its ports or offshore terminals or anchoring in areas under its jurisdiction. Commencing in 2005, certain single-hulled tankers above 15 years of age will also be restricted from entering or leaving European Union ports or offshore terminals and anchoring in areas under European Union jurisdiction. The European Union has also adopted legislation that: (1) bans manifestly sub-standard vessels (defined as those over 15 years old that have been detained by port authorities at least twice in a six-month period) from European waters and creates an obligation of port states to inspect vessels posing a high risk to maritime safety or the marine environment; and (2) provides the European Union with greater authority and control over classification societies, including the ability to seek to suspend or revoke the authority of negligent societies. It is impossible to predict what legislation or additional regulations, if any, may be promulgated by the European Union or any other country or authority.

### Vessel Security Regulations

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, there have been a variety of initiatives intended to enhance vessel security. On November 25, 2002, the U.S. Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002, or MTSA, came into effect. To implement certain portions of the MTSA, in July 2003, the U.S. Coast Guard issued regulations requiring the implementation of certain security requirements aboard vessels operating in waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. Similarly, in December 2002, amendments to SOLAS created a new chapter of the convention dealing specifically with maritime security. The new chapter became effective in July 2004 and imposes various detailed security obligations on vessels and port authorities, most of which are contained in the

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

newly created International Ship and Port Facilities Security Code, or the ISPS Code. The ISPS Code is designed to protect ports and international shipping against terrorism. After July 1, 2004, to trade internationally, a vessel must attain an International Ship Security Certificate from a recognized security organization approved by the vessel's flag state. Among the various requirements are:

- o on-board installation of automatic identification systems to provide a means for the automatic transmission of safety-related information from among similarly equipped ships and shore stations, including information on a ship's identity, position, course, speed and navigational status;
- o on-board installation of ship security alert systems, which do not sound on the vessel but only alerts the authorities on shore;
- o the development of vessel security plans;
- o ship identification number to be permanently marked on a vessel's hull;
- o a continuous synopsis record kept onboard showing a vessel's history including, name of the ship and of the state whose flag the ship is entitled to fly, the date on which the ship was registered with that state, the ship's identification number, the port at which the ship is registered and the name of the registered owner(s) and their registered address; and
- o compliance with flag state security certification requirements.

The U.S. Coast Guard regulations, intended to align with international maritime security standards, exempt from MTSA vessel security measures non-U.S. vessels that have on board, as of July 1, 2004, a valid ISSC attesting to the vessel's compliance with SOLAS security requirements and the ISPS Code. Magnus Carriers has implemented the various security measures addressed by MTSA, SOLAS and the ISPS Code, and our fleet is in compliance with applicable security requirements.

### Inspection by Classification Societies

Every seagoing vessel must be "classed" by a classification society. The classification society certifies that the vessel is "in class," signifying that the vessel has been built and maintained in accordance with the rules of the classification society and complies with applicable rules and regulations of the vessel's country of registry and the international conventions of which that country is a member. In addition, where surveys are required by international conventions and corresponding laws and ordinances of a flag state, the classification society will undertake them on application or by official order, acting on behalf of the authorities concerned.

The classification society also undertakes on request other surveys and checks that are required by regulations and requirements of the flag state. These surveys are subject to agreements made in each individual case and/or to the regulations of the country concerned.

For maintenance of the class, regular and extraordinary surveys of hull, machinery, including the electrical plant, and any special equipment classed are required to be performed as follows:

**Annual Surveys:** For seagoing ships, annual surveys are conducted for the hull and the machinery, including the electrical plant, and where applicable for special equipment classed, at intervals of 12 months from the date of

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

commencement of the class period indicated in the certificate.

**Intermediate Surveys:** Extended annual surveys are referred to as intermediate surveys and typically are conducted two and one-half years after commissioning and each class renewal. Intermediate surveys may be carried out on the occasion of the second or third annual survey.

**Class Renewal Surveys:** Class renewal surveys, also known as special surveys, are carried out for the ship's hull, machinery, including the electrical plant, and for any special equipment classed, at the intervals indicated by the character of classification for the hull. At the special survey, the vessel is thoroughly examined, including audio-gauging to determine the thickness of the steel structures. Should the thickness be found to be less than class requirements, the classification society would prescribe steel renewals. The classification society may grant a one-year grace period for completion of the special survey. Substantial amounts of money may have to be spent for steel renewals to pass a special survey if the vessel experiences excessive wear and tear. In lieu of the special survey every four or five years, depending on whether a grace period was granted, a shipowner has the option of arranging with the classification society for the vessel's hull or machinery to be on a continuous survey cycle, in which every part of the vessel would be surveyed within a five-year cycle.

At an owner's application, the surveys required for class renewal may be split according to an agreed schedule to extend over the entire period of class. This process is referred to as continuous class renewal.

All areas subject to survey as defined by the classification society are required to be surveyed at least once per class period, unless shorter intervals between surveys are prescribed elsewhere. The period between two subsequent surveys of each area must not exceed five years.

Most vessels are also dry-docked every 30 to 36 months for inspection of the underwater parts and for repairs related to inspections. If any defects are found, the classification surveyor will issue a "recommendation" which must be rectified by the ship owner within prescribed time limits.

Most insurance underwriters make it a condition for insurance coverage that a vessel be certified as "in class" by a classification society which is a member of the International Association of Classification Societies. All our vessels are certified as being "in class" by Lloyd's Register of Shipping (one vessel) and Det norske Veritas (eight vessels). All new and secondhand vessels that we purchase must be certified prior to their delivery under our standard contracts.

### Risk of Loss and Liability Insurance

The operation of any cargo vessel includes risks such as mechanical failure, collision, property loss, cargo loss or damage and business interruption due to political circumstances in foreign countries, hostilities and labor strikes. In addition, there is always an inherent possibility of marine disaster, including oil spills and other environmental mishaps, and the liabilities arising from owning and operating vessels in international trade. OPA, which imposes virtually unlimited liability upon owners, operators and demise charterers of any vessel trading in the United States exclusive economic zone for certain oil pollution accidents in the United States, has made liability insurance more expensive for ship owners and operators trading in the United States market. While we carry loss of hire insurance to cover 100% of our fleet, we may not be able to maintain this level of coverage. Furthermore, while we believe that our present insurance coverage is adequate, not all risks can be insured, and there can be no guarantee that any specific claim will be paid, or that we will always be able to obtain adequate insurance coverage at reasonable

rates.

#### Hull and Machinery Insurance

We have obtained marine hull and machinery and war risk insurance, which include the risk of actual or constructive total loss, for all of the vessels in our fleet. The vessels in our fleet are each covered up to at least fair market value, with deductibles of \$350,000 per vessel per incident. We also arranged increased value coverage for each vessel. Under this increased value coverage, in the event of total loss of a vessel, we will be able recover for amounts not recoverable under the hull and machinery policy by reason of any under-insurance.

#### Protection and Indemnity Insurance

Protection and indemnity insurance is provided by mutual protection and indemnity associations, or P&I Associations, which covers our third party liabilities in connection with our shipping activities. This includes third party liability and other related expenses of injury or death of crew, passengers and other third parties, loss or damage to cargo, claims arising from collisions with other vessels, damage to other third party property, pollution arising from oil or other substances, and salvage, towing and other related costs, including wreck removal. Protection and indemnity insurance is a form of mutual indemnity insurance, extended by protection and indemnity mutual associations, or "clubs." Our coverage, except for pollution, is unlimited.

Our current protection and indemnity insurance coverage for pollution is \$1 billion per vessel per incident. The fourteen P&I Associations that comprise the International Group insure approximately 90% of the world's commercial tonnage and have entered into a pooling agreement to reinsure each association's liabilities. Each P&I Association has capped its exposure to this pooling agreement at \$4.25 billion. As a member of a P&I Association, which is a member of the International Group, we are subject to calls payable to the associations based on its claim records as well as the claim records of all other members of the individual associations, and members of the pool of P&I Associations comprising the International Group.

#### Competition

We operate in markets that are highly competitive and based primarily on supply and demand. We compete for charters on the basis of price, vessel location, size, age and condition of the vessel, as well as on our reputation as an operator. We arrange our time charters and voyage charters in the spot market through the use of brokers, who negotiate the terms of the charters based on market conditions. We compete primarily with owners of tankers in the Suezmax and class size. Ownership of tankers is highly fragmented and is divided among major oil companies and independent vessel owners.

#### Permits and Authorizations

We are required by various governmental and quasi-governmental agencies to obtain certain permits, licenses and certificates with respect to our vessels. The kinds of permits, licenses and certificates required depend upon several factors, including the commodity transported, the waters in which the vessel operates, the nationality of the vessel's crew and the age of a vessel. We have been able to obtain all permits, licenses and certificates currently required to permit our vessels to operate. Additional laws and regulations, environmental or otherwise, may be adopted which could limit our ability to do business or increase the cost of us doing business.

#### C. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

Prior to September 30, 1997, the Company was a wholly owned subsidiary of Uglund Nordic Shipping ASA, or UNS, a Norwegian shipping company whose shares were listed on the Oslo Stock Exchange. On September 30, 1997, 11,731,613 warrants for the purchase of the Company's common shares, which had been sold to the public in 1995, were exercised. Until May 30, 2003, UNS acted as the Manager, and provided managerial, administrative and advisory services to the Company pursuant to the Management Agreement. Since May 30, 2003, Scandic American Shipping Ltd. has acted as the Company's Manager, and provides such services pursuant to the Management Agreement. The Management Agreement was amended on October 12, 2004 to further align the Manager's interests with those of the Company as a shareholder of the Company. See Item 4--Information on the Company -- Business Overview --The Management Agreement.

### D. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

See Items 4 - Information on the Company - Business Overview - Our Fleet, for a description of our vessels. The vessels are mortgaged as collateral under the new credit facility.

### ITEM 4A. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

None.

### ITEM 5. OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS

#### A. OPERATING RESULTS

We present our income statement using voyage revenues and voyage expenses. The Company's vessels are operated under bareboat charters, spot related time charters and spot charters. Under a bareboat charter the charterer pays substantially all of the vessel voyage and operating costs. Under a spot related time charter, the charterer pays substantially all of the vessel voyage costs. Under a spot charter, the vessel owner pays all such costs. Vessel voyage costs consist primarily of fuel, port charges and commissions.

Since the amount of voyage expenses that we incur for a charter depends on the type of the charter, we use net voyage revenues to provide comparability among the different types of charters. Management believes that net voyage revenue, a non-GAAP financial measure, provides more meaningful disclosure than voyage revenues, the most directly comparable financial measure under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, or US GAAP because it enables us to compare the profitability of our vessels which are employed under bareboat charters, spot related on time charters and spot charters. Net voyage revenues divided by the number of days on the charter provides the Time Charter Equivalent (TCE) Rate. For bareboat charters operating costs must be added in order to calculate TCE rates. Net voyage revenues and TCE rates are widely used by investors and analysts in the tanker shipping industry for comparing the financial performance of companies and for preparing industry averages. We believe that our method of calculating net voyage revenue is consistent with industry standards. The following table reconciles our net voyage revenues to voyage revenues. In 2004, our calculation methodology for net voyage revenues was adjusted to better reflect the various commission schemes under which we operate.

	Year Ended December	Year Ended December
	31, 2006	31, 2005
All amounts in USD '000		
-----	-----	-----

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

Voyage Revenue	175,520	117,110
Voyage Expenses	(40,172)	(30,981)
Net Voyage Revenue	135,348	86,129

### YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006 COMPARED TO YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

Voyage revenues increased by 49.8% to \$175.5 million in 2006 from \$117.1 million in 2005. Net voyage revenues increased by 57.1% to \$135.3 million in 2006 from \$86.1 million in 2005. Voyage expenses increased by 29.7% to \$40.2 million in 2006 from \$31.0 million in 2005. The increase in net voyage revenues was primarily due to the expansion of the fleet resulting in an increase in the number of revenue days by 48.8% from 2,193 days to 3,264 days. The Company took delivery of one vessel in April 2006, two vessels in November 2006 and one vessel in December 2006.

Vessel operating expenses were \$21.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2006 compared to \$11.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2005. The increase is primarily due to the addition of four vessels as described above. The average operating expenses for the vessels were approximately \$7,200 per day per vessel during fiscal year 2006 compared to \$6,200 per day per vessel for the fiscal year 2005. The increase in daily operating expenses is primarily due to an industry wide price increase on the vessel operating costs, in particular crewing costs, lubricating oil costs and repair and maintenance costs.

General and administrative expenses were \$12.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2006 compared to \$8.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2005. The increase in general and administrative expenses was primarily due to a non-cash charge related to stock-based compensation to, our Manager, Scandic American Shipping Ltd., of \$6.3 million associated with the two follow-on offerings in 2006 compared to \$3.6 million for the one follow-on offering in 2005. See Item 4--Information on the Company -- Business Overview --The Management Agreement and Note 5 to our audited financial statements for further details of the general and administrative expenses.

Depreciation expense was \$29.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2006 compared to \$17.5 million for the year ended December 31, 2005. The increase is primarily due to the addition of four vessels as described above.

Net operating income for the year ended December 31, 2006 increased 47.8% compared to year ended December 31, 2005 from \$48.9 million to \$72.2 million primarily due to increased revenues resulting from an increase in the number of revenue days from 2,193 days to 3,264 days offset by increased vessel operating expenses as described above.

Interest income was \$1.6 million for the year ended December 31, 2006 compared to \$0.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2005. The increase is primarily due to excess cash in interim periods in connection with the two follow-on offerings and the timing of subsequent payments for vessels acquired during 2006.

Interest expense was \$6.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2006 compared to \$3.4 million for the year ended December 31, of 2005. The increase is primarily due to an increase in borrowings under the 2005 credit facility in order to partially finance expansion of the fleet. Our policy is to maintain a debt level of approximately \$15 million per vessel in the current market conditions.

### YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005 COMPARED TO YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

Voyage revenues increased by 73.6% to \$117.1 million in 2005 from \$67.5 million in 2004. Net voyage revenues increased by 37.7% to \$86.1 million in 2005 from \$62.5 million in 2004. Voyage expenses increased by 529% to \$31.0 million in 2005 from \$4.9 million in 2004. The increase in voyage revenues and net voyage revenues is primarily due to the growth of the Company. The Company increased its fleet from 4 vessels as at December 31, 2004 or 1,133 ship days, meaning the number of days the Company's vessels were generating revenue, during 2004 to 8 vessels as at December 31, 2005 or 2,193 ship days during 2005. This represents an increase in cargo capacity of 93.5%.

Vessel operating expenses were \$11.2 million for 2005 compared to \$2.0 million for 2004. The increase is due to the change in the Company's current operating structure as of October 2004 from a passive leasing company into an operating company. Prior to October 2004 the original three vessels were on bareboat charter to BP Shipping. Under bareboat charter agreements all vessel operating expenses are paid by the charterer.

General and administrative expenses were \$8.5 million for 2005 compared to \$10.9 million for 2004. The decrease was due to the non-cash charge of \$9.2 million in 2004 compared to \$3.6 million in 2005 that is linked to a change in the compensation scheme for our Manager. This decrease was off-set by a full year of general and administrative expenses reflecting the new operating structure of the Company as described above. The original incentive plan for the Manager was a revenue based cash commission structure. The Manager agreed to eliminate the commission. The cash commission was replaced by restricted share issuances to the Manager of 2% of the Company's outstanding common shares from time to time in order to align the interests of the Manager and the Company. These restricted shares are non-transferable for three years from issuance. In connection with the transition to an operating company, the Company introduced a stock incentive plan with 400,000 shares reserved for issuance of which 320,000 stock options were granted at December 31, 2005. The initial strike price for options granted in 2005 was equal to \$38.75, which was the offering price per share of our common shares in our follow-on offering in November 2004. The Company has recorded a compensation cost of \$1.4 million associated with the employee stock option awards. For further information, see Item 6 -- Directors, Senior Management and Employees -- 2004 Stock Incentive Plan.

Depreciation expense, which includes depreciation of vessels and amortization of drydockings, increased from \$6.9 million for 2004 to \$17.5 million for 2005. The increase is due to the increase in book value of our fleet as a result of our acquisitions of four vessels during 2005 compared to acquisition of one vessel during 2004.

Net operating income for 2005 increased 14.3% from the comparable period in 2004 from \$42.8 million to \$48.9 million primarily due to increased revenue as a result of an increase in revenue days from 1,133 days to 2,193 days offset partially by increased vessel operating expenses from \$1.9 million to \$11.2 million as described above.

Interest expense increased from \$2.0 million for 2004 to \$3.5 million for 2005. The increase is primarily due to borrowings under our 2005 Credit Facility of \$173.5 million during the year ended December 31, 2006 compared to borrowings under our previous credit facility of \$130.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2005. This increase resulted from the decision of the Board to keep non-retiring debt on the balance sheet in the region of \$15 million per vessel which we believe is an appropriate debt to equity ratio for the Company.

### B. LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Our Credit Facility

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

In September 2005, we entered into a \$300 million revolving credit facility, which we refer to as the 2005 Credit Facility. The 2005 Credit Facility became effective as of October 2005 and replaced our previous credit facility from October 2004, a portion of which was set to mature in October 2005. The 2005 Credit Facility matures in September 2010.

The 2005 Credit Facility provides funding for future vessel acquisitions and general corporate purposes. The 2005 Credit Facility commitment is guaranteed by the lender and the Company has no repayment obligation during the five year term. Amounts borrowed under the 2005 Credit Facility bear interest at an annual rate equal to LIBOR plus a margin between 0.7% and 1.2% (depending on the loan to vessel value ratio). We are obligated to pay a commitment fee of 30% of the applicable margin on any undrawn amounts.

In September 2006, we increased our 2005 Credit Facility to \$500 million; the other material terms of the 2005 Credit Facility were not amended. At December 31, 2006 we have drawn \$173.5 million from this facility.

Borrowings under the 2005 Credit Facility are secured by mortgages over our existing and new vessels and assignments of earnings and insurances, and drawings will be available subject to loan to vessel value ratios. We are subject to mandatory prepayment upon the occurrence of certain events. The terms and conditions of the 2005 Credit Facility require compliance with certain restrictive covenants, which we feel are consistent with loan facilities incurred by other shipping companies. Under the 2005 Credit Facility, we are, among other things, required to:

- o maintain certain loan to vessel value ratios,
- o maintain a book equity of no less than \$150.0 million,
- o remain listed on a recognized stock exchange, and
- o obtain the consent of the lenders prior to creating liens on or disposing of our vessels.

The 2005 Credit Facility provides that we may not pay dividends if following such payment we would not be in compliance with certain financial covenants or there is a default under the 2005 Credit Facility.

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006 COMPARED TO YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

Cash flows provided by operating activities increased by 109.7% in fiscal year 2006 to \$107.1 million from \$51.1 million in fiscal year 2005 primarily due to the addition of four vessels as described above.

Cash flows provided by financing activities decreased 8.1% in fiscal year 2006 to \$208.2 million compared to \$226.6 million in fiscal year 2005. The net decrease was attributable to (i) proceeds from two follow-on offerings of \$288.3 million, (ii) net proceeds from drawdowns under the 2005 Credit Facility of \$43.5 million offset by (iii) dividends paid of \$122.6 million, and (iv) the payment of credit facility costs of \$0.6 million related to the increase in the 2005 Credit Facility from \$300 million to \$500 million.

Cash flows used in investing activities increased by 8.0% in fiscal year 2006 to \$317.8 million compared to \$294.1 million in fiscal year 2005. The increase was primarily due to higher vessel acquisition costs in fiscal year 2006 compared to fiscal year 2005.

In March 2006, the Company sold 4,297,500 shares (including the over-allotment) in a public offering in the U.S. to repay outstanding debt and to finance the acquisition of the ninth vessel that was delivered to us in April

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

2006. The offering was priced at \$28.50 per share, and net proceeds to the Company were \$115.2 million.

In October 2006, the Company sold 5,750,000 shares (including the over-allotment) in a public offering in the U.S. to partly finance the acquisition of the tenth, eleventh and twelfth vessels that were delivered to us in November 2006 and December 2006. The offering was priced at \$32.00 per share, and net proceeds to the Company were \$173.1 million.

The Company believes that its borrowing capacity under the 2005 Credit Facility, together with its working capital, are sufficient to fund its ongoing operations and commitment for capital expenditures.

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005 COMPARED TO YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004

Cash flows provided by operating activities decreased by 18.7% in 2005 to \$51.1 million compared to \$62.8 million in 2004 primarily derived from the growth of the Company as described above.

Cash flow provided from financing activities was \$226.6 million for 2005 compared to \$33.5 million for the same period in 2004. The increase was due to (i) increase in proceeds from 2004 to 2005 of \$49.8 million from a follow-on offering, (ii) increase from 2004 to 2005 in net proceeds from the drawdown of the credit facility of \$160.0 million, offset by (iii) increased dividends paid from 2004 to 2005 of \$17.1 million and (iv) decrease from 2004 to 2005 in payment of loan facility costs of \$0.4 million in respect of our \$300 million Credit Facility.

Cash flow used in investing activities increased by 344.7% in 2005 to \$294.2 million compared to \$66.1 million in 2004. The increase represents the acquisition costs of the four vessels acquired during 2005.

C. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, PATENTS AND LICENSES, ETC.

Not applicable

D. TREND INFORMATION

The oil tanker industry has been highly cyclical, experiencing volatility in charterhire rates and vessel values resulting from changes in the supply of and demand for crude oil and tanker capacity. See Item 4. Information on the Company - Business Overview - The Tanker Market 2006.

E. OFF BALANCE SHEET ARRANGEMENTS

We have not created, and are not party to, any special-purpose or off-balance sheet entities for the purpose of raising capital, incurring debt or operating our business. We do not have any arrangements or relationship with entities that are not consolidated into our financial statements that are reasonably likely to materially affect our liquidity or the availability of capital resources.

F. DISCLOSURE OF CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

As of December 31, 2006 significant contractual obligations consisted of our obligations as borrower under our 2005 Credit Facility and our obligations under the Management Agreement with Scandic American Shipping Ltd.

The following table sets out long-term financial and other commercial obligations outstanding as of December 31, 2006 (all figures in USD '000)

Payment Due by Period:

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

Contractual Obligations	Total	2007	2008 -2010
Credit Facility (1)	173,500	0	173,500
Interest Payments (2)	35,994	9,710	26,284
Commitment Fees (3)	2,577	695	1,882
Management Fees (4)	3,463	163	675
<b>Total</b>	<b>215,534</b>	<b>10,568</b>	<b>202,341</b>

### Notes:

- (1) Refers to our obligation to repay indebtedness outstanding as of December 31, 2006.
- (2) Refers to estimated interest payments over the term of the indebtedness outstanding as of December 31, 2006 assuming a weighted average interest rate of 5.52% per annum.
- (3) Refers to estimated commitment fees over the term of the indebtedness outstanding as of December 31, 2006.
- (4) Refers to the management fees payable to Scandic American Shipping Ltd. under the Management Agreement with the Manager.

### CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES

We prepare our financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (US GAAP). Following is a discussion of the accounting policies that involve a high degree of judgment and the methods of their application. For a further description of our material accounting policies, please read Item 18 - Financial Statements-- Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies.

#### Revenue recognition

We generate a majority of our revenues from vessels operating in pools and from spot charters. Within the shipping industry, the two methods used to account for voyage revenues and expenses are the percentage of completion and the completed voyage methods. Most shipping companies, including our pool managers and spot charter managers are using the percentage of completion method. In applying the percentage of completion method, we believe that in most cases the discharge-to-discharge basis of calculating voyages more accurately reflects voyage results than the load-to-load basis. At the time of cargo discharge, we generally have information about the next load port and expected discharge port, whereas at the time of loading we are normally less certain what the next load port will be.

If actual results are not consistent with our estimates in applying the percentage of completion method, our revenues could be overstated or understated for any given period by the amount of such difference.

#### Long-lived assets and impairment

A significant part of the Company's total assets consists of our vessels. The oil tanker market is highly cyclical and the useful lives of our vessels are principally dependent on the technical condition of our vessels and other

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

factors, such as future market demand for oil and future market supply of tanker capacity.

Our vessels are evaluated for impairment whenever indicators of impairment exist. When an impairment indicator is present, the Company must evaluate whether the carrying amounts of the vessels are recoverable. If an impairment test is warranted, we assess whether the undiscounted cash flows expected to be generated by our long-lived assets exceed their carrying value. If this assessment indicates that the long-lived assets are impaired, the assets are written down to their fair value. These assessments are based on our judgment, which includes the estimate of future cash flows from long-lived assets.

We are not aware of any indicators of impairments nor any regulatory changes or environmental liabilities that we anticipate will have a material impact on our current or future operations.

### Depreciable lives

Management uses considerable judgment when establishing the depreciable lives of our vessels. In order to estimate useful lives of our vessels, Management must make assumptions about future market conditions in the oil tanker market. The Company considers the establishment of depreciable lives to be a critical accounting estimate.

We are not aware of any regulatory changes or environmental liabilities that we anticipate will have a material impact on our current or future operations.

### Drydocking

Generally, we drydock each vessel every two and a half to five years. We capitalize a substantial portion of the costs we incur during drydocking and amortize those costs on a straight-line basis from the completion of a drydocking to the estimated completion of the next drydocking. We expense costs related to routine repairs and maintenance incurred during drydocking that do not improve or extend the useful lives of the assets.

If we change our estimate of the next drydock date we will adjust our annual amortization of drydocking expenditures.

### RECENT ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

In July 2006, the FASB issued FASB Interpretation No. 48 "Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes" ("FIN 48"), which clarifies the criteria that must be met prior to recognition of the financial statement benefit of a position taken in a tax return. FIN 48 provides a benefit recognition model with a two-step approach consisting of a "more-likely-than-not" recognition criteria, and a measurement attribute that measures the position as the largest amount of tax benefit that is greater than 50% likely of being realized upon ultimate settlement. FIN 48 also requires the recognition of liabilities created by differences between tax positions taken in a tax return and amounts recognized in the financial statements. FIN 48 is effective as of the beginning of the first annual period beginning after December 15, 2006. The Company is currently assessing the impact of adopting FIN 48 on the financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows of the Company

In September 2006, the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") issued Staff Accounting Bulletin ("SAB") No. 108, "Considering the Effects of Prior Year Misstatements when Quantifying Misstatements in Current Year Financial Statements" ("SAB 108"), which provides interpretive guidance on the

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

consideration of the effects of prior year misstatements in quantifying current year misstatements for the purpose of a materiality assessment. SAB 108 is effective for the Company as of December 31, 2006. There was no impact as a result of the Company's adoption of SAB 108 on its consolidated financial statements.

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 157, "Fair Value Measurement," ("SFAS 157") which defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and expands disclosures about assets and liabilities measured at fair value. This Statement does not require any new fair value measurements. SFAS 157 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. The Company is currently assessing the impact of SFAS 157, and has not yet determined the impact that its adoption will have on its results of operations and financial position.

In February 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 159, "The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities" ("SFAS 159"). SFAS 159 permits entities to choose to measure many financial instruments and certain other items at fair value that are not currently required to be measured at fair value. SFAS 159 also establishes presentation and disclosure requirements designed to facilitate comparisons between entities that choose different measurement attributes for similar types of assets and liabilities. SFAS 159 is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. The Company is currently assessing the impact of SFAS 157, and has not yet determined the impact that its adoption will have on its results of operations and financial position.

### ITEM 6. DIRECTORS, SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYEES

#### A. DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT

##### Directors and Senior Management of the Company and the Manager

Pursuant to the Management Agreement with Scandic American Shipping Ltd., or the Manager, the Manager provides management, administrative and advisory services to us. The Manager is owned by Herbjorn Hansson, our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, and Andreas Ove Ugland, one of our directors, and may engage in business activities other than with respect to the Company.

Set forth below are the names and positions of the directors of the Company and executive officers of the Company and the Manager. The directors of the Company are elected annually, and each director elected holds office until a successor is elected. Officers of both the Company and the Manager are elected from time to time by vote of the respective board of directors and hold office until a successor is elected.

	The Company	
	-----	
Name	Age	Position
----	---	-----
Herbjorn Hansson	59	Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, President and Director
Turid M. Sorensen	47	Chief Financial Officer
Rolf Amundsen	62	Chief Investor Relations Officer
Hon. Sir David Gibbons	79	Director
Andreas Ove Ugland	52	Director



## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

Torbj0rn Glads0	60	Director
Andrew W. March	51	Director
Paul J. Hopkins	59	Director
George C. Lodge	79	Director

### The Manager

-----

Name ----	Age ---	Position -----
Herbjorn Hansson	59	Director, President and Chief Executive Officer
Turid M. Sorensen	47	Chief Financial Officer
Rolf Amundsen	62	Chief Investor Relations Officer
Frithjof Bettum	45	Vice President Technical Operations & Chartering
Jan Erik Langangen	57	Executive Vice President--Business Development and Legal

Certain biographical information with respect to each director and executive officer of the Company and the Manager listed above is set forth below.

Herbjorn Hansson earned his M.B.A. at the Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration and Harvard Business School. In 1974 he was employed by the Norwegian Shipowners' Association. In the period from 1975 to 1980, he was Chief Economist and Research Manager of INTERTANKO, an industry association whose members control about 70% of the world's independently owned tanker fleet, excluding state owned and oil company fleets. During the 1980s, he was Chief Financial Officer of Kosmos/Andres Jahre, at the time one of the largest Norwegian based shipping and industry groups. In 1989, Mr. Hansson founded Ugland Nordic Shipping AS, or UNS, which became one of the world's largest owners of specialized shuttle tankers. He served as Chairman in the first phase and as Chief Executive Officer as from 1993 to 2001 when UNS, under his management, was sold to Teekay Shipping Corporation, or Teekay, for an enterprise value of \$780.0 million. He continued to work with Teekay, most recently as Vice Chairman of Teekay Norway AS, until he started working full-time for the Company on September 1, 2004. Mr. Hansson is the founder and has been Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Company since its establishment in 1995. He also is a member of various governing bodies of companies within shipping, insurance, banking, manufacturing, national/international shipping agencies including classification societies and protection and indemnity associations. Mr. Hansson is fluent in Norwegian and English, and has a command of German and French for conversational purposes.

Turid M. Sorensen was appointed Chief Financial Officer by the Board of Directors on February 6, 2006. She has a bachelor degree in Business Administration from the Norwegian School of Management. Ms. Sorensen has 20 years of experience in the shipping industry. During the period from 1984 to 1987, she worked for Anders Jahre AS and Kosmos AS in Norway and held various positions within accounting and information technology. In the period from 1987 to 1995, Ms. Sorensen was Manager of Accounting and IT for Skaugen PetroTrans Inc., in Houston, Texas. After returning to Norway she was employed by Ugland

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

Nordic Shipping ASA and Teekay Norway AS as Vice President, Accounting. From October 2004 until her appointment as Chief Financial Officer in February 2006, she served as our Treasurer and Controller.

Rolf Amundsen was appointed Chief Investor Relations Officer and Advisor to the Chairman by the Board of Directors on February 6, 2006 and prior to that time served as our Chief Financial Officer from June 2004. Mr. Amundsen has an M.B.A. in economics and business administration, and his entire career has been in international banking. Previously, Mr. Amundsen has served as the president of the financial analysts society in Norway. Mr. Amundsen served as the chief executive officer of a Nordic investment bank for many years, where he established a large operation for the syndication of international shipping investments.

Andreas Ove Ugland has been a director of the Company since February 1997. Mr. Ugland has also served as director and Chairman of Ugland International Holding plc, a shipping/transport company listed on the London Stock Exchange, Andreas Ugland & Sons AS, Grimstad, Norway, H0egh Ugland Autoliners AS, Oslo and Buld Associates Inc., Bermuda. Mr. Ugland has had his whole career in shipping in the Ugland family owned shipping group.

Andrew W. March has been a director of the Company since June 2005. Mr. March also currently serves in a management position with Vitol S.A., an international oil trader, involved in supply, logistics and transport and as a director for Imarex, an electronic trading platform for freight derivatives. From 1978 to 2004, Mr. March served in various positions with subsidiaries of BP p.l.c., an international oil major company. Most recently, from January 2001 to 2004, Mr. March was Commercial Director of BP Shipping Ltd., responsible for all aspects of the business including long term strategy. From 1986 to 2000, Mr. March was employed in various positions with BP Trading, serving as Global Product Trading Manager from 1999. Mr. March received his MBA from Liverpool University.

Sir David Gibbons has been a director of the Company since September 1995. Sir David served as the Premier of Bermuda from August 1977 to January 1982. Sir David has served as Chairman of The Bank of N.T. Butterfield and Son Limited from 1986 to 1997, Chairman of Colonial Insurance Co. Ltd. since 1986 and as Chief Executive Officer of Edmund Gibbons Ltd. since 1954. Sir David Gibbons is a member of our Audit Committee.

George C. Lodge has been a director of the Company since September 1995. Professor Lodge has been a member of the Harvard Business School faculty since 1963. He was named associate professor of business administration at Harvard in 1968 and received tenure in 1972.

Paul J. Hopkins has been a director of the Company since June 2005. Mr. Hopkins is also a Vice President and a director of Corridor Resources Inc., a Canadian publicly traded exploration and production company. From 1989 through 1993 he served with Lasmo as Project Manager during the start-up of the Cohasset/Panuke oilfield offshore Nova Scotia, the first offshore oil production in Canada. Earlier, Mr. Hopkins served as a consultant on frontier engineering and petroleum economic evaluations in the international oil industry. Mr. Hopkins was seconded to Chevron UK in 1978 to assist with the gas export system for the Ninian Field. From 1973, he was employed with Ranger Oil (UK) Limited, being involved in the drilling and production testing of oil wells in the North Sea. Through the end of 1972 he worked with Shell Canada as part of its offshore Exploration Group.

Torbj0rn Glads0 has been a director of the Company since October 2003. Mr. Gladso is a partner in Saga Corporate Finance AS. He has extensive experience within investment banking since 1978. He has been the Chairman of the Board of the Norwegian Register of Securities and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

of the Oslo Stock Exchange. Mr. Glads0 is Chairman of our Audit Committee.

Jan Erik Langangen is the Executive Vice President, Business Development and Legal, of the Manager. Mr. Langangen previously served as the Chief Financial Officer from 1979 to 1983, and as Chairman of the Board from 1987 to 1992, of Statoil, an oil and gas company that is controlled by the Norwegian government and that is the largest company in Norway. He also served as Chief Executive Officer of UNI Storebrand from 1985 to 1992. Mr. Langangen was also Chairman of the Board of the Norwegian Governmental Value Commission from 1998 to 2001. Mr. Langangen is a partner of Langangen & Helset, a Norwegian law firm and previously was a partner of the law firm Langangen & Engesaeth from 1996 to 2000 and of the law firm Thune & Co. from 1994 to 1996. Mr. Langangen received a Masters of Economics from The Norwegian School of Business Administration and his law degree from the University of Oslo.

Frithjof Bettum was appointed Vice President--Technical Operations & Chartering of the Manager on October 1, 2005. Mr. Bettum has a Mechanical Engineering degree from Vestfold University College. Mr. Bettum has 21 years of experience in the shipping and the offshore business. From 1984 to 1992, Mr. Bettum was employed by Allum Engineering AS in Sandefjord, Norway where he served as project manager. At Allum Engineering AS Mr. Bettum worked on projects in the areas of engineering, the new building and conversion management of shuttle tankers, Floating Production, Storage and Offloading (FPSO), semi-submersible drilling units and the shore based manufacturer industry. From 1993 to 2001, Mr. Bettum was employed by Nordic American Shipping AS (which later became Uglan Nordic Shipping ASA) where he served as Vice President--Offshore. In 2004, Mr. Bettum joined Teekay Norway AS as Vice President Offshore where he was responsible for business development, the daily operations of the company and the conversion of shuttle tankers and offshore units.

### B. COMPENSATION

#### Compensation of Directors and Officers

During 2006, the six non-employee directors received, in the aggregate, approximately \$280,000 in cash fees for their services as directors. The Board consists of seven directors of which each of the non-employee directors receives a fee at the annual rate of \$60,000 effective from December 1, 2006. We do not pay director fees to employee directors. We do, however, reimburse our directors for all reasonable expenses incurred by them in connection with serving on our board of directors. Directors may receive restricted shares or other grants under our 2004 Stock Incentive Plan described below.

We have an employment agreement with Herbjorn Hansson, our Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Turid M. Sorensen, our Chief Financial Officer, and Rolf Amundsen, our Chief Investor Relations Officer and Advisor to the Chairman. Mr. Hansson does not receive any additional compensation for serving as a director or the Chairman of the Board. The aggregate compensation of our executive officers during 2006 was \$1.1 million. The aggregate compensation of our executive officers is expected to be approximately \$1.2 million during 2007. On certain terms the employment agreement with Mr. Hansson may be terminated by us or Mr. Hansson upon six months' written notice to the other party. The employment agreement with Ms. Sorensen may be terminated by us or by Ms. Sorensen upon six months' written notice to the other party. The employment agreement with Mr. Amundsen may be terminated by us or Mr. Amundsen upon three months' written notice to the other party.

#### 2004 Stock Incentive Plan

Under the terms of the Company's 2004 Stock Incentive Plan, the directors, officers and certain key employees of the Company and the Manager are eligible

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

to receive awards which include incentive stock options, non-qualified stock options, stock appreciation rights, dividend equivalent rights, restricted stock, restricted stock units and performance shares. A total of 400,000 common shares are reserved for issuance upon exercise of options, as restricted share grants or otherwise under the plan. Included under the 2004 Stock Incentive Plan are options to purchase common shares at an exercise price equal to \$38.75, subject to annual downward adjustment if the payment of dividends in the related fiscal year exceed a 3% yield calculated based on the initial strike price. During 2005 the Company granted, under the terms of the Company's 2004 Stock Incentive Plan, an aggregate of 320,000 stock options that the Board of Directors had agreed to issue during 2004. These options will vest in equal installments on each of the first four anniversaries of the grant dates. During 2006, the Company granted an aggregate of 16,700 restricted shares. No stock options were granted in 2006.

### C. BOARD PRACTICES

The members of the Company's board of directors serve until the next annual general meeting following his or her election to the board. The members of the current board of directors were elected at the annual general meeting held in 2006. The Company's Board of Directors has established an Audit Committee, consisting of two independent directors, Messrs. Glads0 and Gibbons. Mr. Glads0 serves as the audit committee financial expert. The members of the Audit Committee receive additional remuneration of \$25,000 in aggregate for serving on the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee provides assistance to the Company's board of directors in fulfilling their responsibility to shareholders, and investment community relating to corporate accounting, reporting practices of the Company, and the quality and integrity of the financial reports of the Company. The Audit Committee, among other duties, recommends to the Company's board of directors the independent auditors to be selected to audit the financial statements of the Company; meets with the independent auditors and financial management of the Company to review the scope of the proposed audit for the current year and the audit procedures to be utilized; reviews with the independent auditors, and financial and accounting personnel, the adequacy and effectiveness of the accounting and financial controls of the Company; and reviews the financial statements contained in the annual report to shareholders with management and the independent auditors.

Pursuant to an exemption for foreign private issuers, we are not required to comply with many of the corporate governance requirements of the New York Stock Exchange that are applicable to U.S. listed companies. A description of the significant differences between our corporate governance practices and the New York Stock Exchange requirements is available on our website [www.nat.bm](http://www.nat.bm) under "Corporate Governance".

### D. EMPLOYEES

As at December 31, 2006, the Company had two full-time employees and one part-time employee.

### E. SHARE OWNERSHIP

The following table sets forth information regarding the share ownership of the Company as of June 26, 2007 by its directors and officers. All of the shareholders are entitled to one vote for each share of common stock held.

Title	Identity of Person	No. of Shares	Percent of Class
-----	-----	-----	-----
Common	Herbjorn Hansson(1)	538,282	2.00%
	Hon. Sir David Gibbons		*
	Thorbjorn Gladso		*

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

Andrew W. March	*
Paul J. Hopkins	*
George C. Lodge	*
Andreas Ove Ugland	*
Turid M. Sorensen	*
Rolf Amundsen	*

(1) Represents shares held by the Manager, of which Mr. Hansson is the sole shareholder.

\* Less than 1% of our outstanding shares of common stock.

### ITEM 7. MAJOR SHAREHOLDERS AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

#### A. MAJOR SHAREHOLDERS

The Company is not aware of any shareholder who beneficially owns 5% or more of the Company's outstanding common stock.

#### B. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Since May 30, 2003, Scandic American Shipping Ltd., which is owned by Messrs. Ugland and Hansson, has been our Manager pursuant to the Management Agreement with the Company. See Item 4--Information on the Company -- Business Overview -- The Management Agreement.

Mr. Jan Erik Langangen, Executive Vice President of the Manager, is a partner of Langangen & Helset Advokatfirma AS which in the past has also provided and may continue to provide legal services to us.

#### C. INTERESTS OF EXPERTS AND COUNSEL

Not Applicable

### ITEM 8. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

#### A. CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INFORMATION

See Item 18

#### Legal Proceedings

To the best of the Company's knowledge, the Company is not currently involved in any legal or arbitration proceedings that would have a significant effect on the Company's financial position or profitability and no such proceedings are pending or known to be contemplated by governmental authorities.

#### Dividend Policy

Our policy is to declare quarterly dividends to shareholders, substantially equal to our net operating cash flow during the previous quarter after reserves as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine are required, taking into account contingent liabilities, the terms of our New Credit Facility, our other cash needs and the requirements of Bermuda law. However, if we declare a dividend in respect of a quarter in which an equity issuance has taken place, we calculate the dividend per share as our net operating cash flow for the quarter (after taking into account the factors described above) divided by the weighted average number of shares over that quarter. Net operating cash flow represents net income plus depreciation and non-cash administrative charges. The dividend paid is the calculated dividend per share multiplied by the number of shares outstanding at the end of the quarter.

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

Total dividend paid out in 2006 was \$122.6 million or \$5.85 per share. The dividend payments per share in 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003 and 2002 have been as follows:

Period	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
-----	----	----	----	----	----
1st Quarter	1.88	\$1.62	\$1.15	\$0.63	\$0.36
2nd Quarter	1.58	1.15	1.70	1.27	0.34
3rd Quarter	1.07	0.84	0.88	0.78	0.33
4th Quarter	1.32	0.60	1.11	0.37	0.32
Total	5.85	\$4.21	\$4.84	\$3.05	\$1.35

The dividend paid out in a quarter is based on the results of the previous quarter.

The Company declared a dividend of \$1.00 per share for the first quarter of 2007 which was paid to shareholders in March 2007. In addition, the Company declared a dividend of \$1.248 per share for the second quarter of 2007, which was paid to shareholders in May 2007.

### B. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Not applicable

### ITEM 9. THE OFFER AND LISTING

Not applicable except for Item 9.A.4. and Item 9.C

#### Price Range of Common Shares

Since November 16, 2004, the primary trading market for our common shares has been the New York Stock Exchange, or the NYSE, on which our shares are listed under the symbol "NAT." The primary trading market for our common shares was the American Stock Exchange, or the AMEX, until November 15, 2004, at which time trading of our common shares on the AMEX ceased. The secondary trading market for our common shares was the Oslo Stock Exchange, or the OSE, until January 14, 2005, at which time trading of our common share on the OSE ceased.

The following table sets forth the high and low closing prices for shares of our common stock as reported by the New York Stock Exchange, the American Stock Exchange and the Oslo Stock Exchange:

The year ended:	NYSE HIGH	NYSE LOW	AMEX HIGH	AMEX LOW	OSE HIGH
-----	----	---	----	---	----
2002	N/A	N/A	\$16.55	\$ 9.86	NOK
2003	N/A	N/A	\$16.90	\$11.25	NOK
2004	\$41.30	\$35.26	\$41.59	\$15.00	NOK
2005 (1)	\$56.68	\$28.60	N/A	N/A	NOK
2006	\$41.70	\$27.90	N/A	N/A	
	AMEX HIGH	AMEX LOW	NYSE HIGH	NYSE LOW	
	-----	---	----	---	
March 31, 2005 (1)	N/A	N/A	\$56.68	\$35.95	NOK
June 30, 2005	N/A	N/A	\$49.79	\$37.48	

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

September 30, 2005	N/A	N/A	\$46.48	\$37.30
December 31, 2005	N/A	N/A	\$37.90	\$28.60
March 31, 2006	N/A	N/A	\$36.92	\$27.90
June 30, 2006	N/A	N/A	\$36.60	\$28.50
September 30, 2006	N/A	N/A	\$41.70	\$31.95
December 31, 2006	N/A	N/A	\$36.40	\$31.00

-----

(1) The OSE numbers for 2005 are based on trading through January 14, 2005

The high and low market prices for our common shares by month since December 2006 have been as follows:

For the month:

	NYSE HIGH ----	NYSE LOW ---
January 2007	\$35.75	\$32.26
February 2007	\$37.53	\$32.50
March 2007	\$36.99	\$32.06
April 2007	\$39.54	\$35.79
May 2007	\$41.24	\$36.91
June 1 - June 27, 2007	\$40.63	\$37.48

### C. MARKETS

See Item 9A above.

## ITEM 10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### A. SHARE CAPITAL

Not Applicable

### B. MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

The following description of our capital stock summarizes the material terms of our Memorandum of Association and our bye-laws.

Under our Memorandum of Association, as amended, our authorized capital consists of 51,200,000 common shares having a par value of \$0.01 per share.

The purposes and powers of the Company are set forth in Items 6 and 7 of our Memorandum of Association and in paragraphs (b) to (n) and (p) to (u) of the Second Schedule of the Bermuda Companies Act of 1981 (the "Companies Act") which is attached as an exhibit to our Memorandum of Association. These purposes include the entering into of any guarantee, contract, indemnity or suretyship and to assure, support, secure, with or without the consideration or benefit, the performance of any obligations of any person or persons; and the borrowing and raising of money in any currency or currencies to secure or discharge any debt or obligation in any manner.

Our bye-laws provide that our board of directors shall convene and the Company shall hold annual general meetings in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act at such times and places as the Board shall decide. Our board of directors may call special meetings at its discretion or as required by the Companies Act. Under the Companies Act, holders of one-tenth of our issued common shares may call special meetings of shareholders.

Bermuda law permits the bye-laws of a Bermuda company to contain a provision eliminating personal liability of a director or officer to the company

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

for any loss arising or liability attaching to him by virtue of any rule of law in respect of any negligence default, breach of duty or breach of trust of which the officer or person may be guilty. Bermuda law also grants companies the power generally to indemnify directors and officers of the company if any such person was or is a party or threatened to be made a party to a threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a director and officer of the company or was serving in a similar capacity for another entity at the company's request.

Our bye-laws do not prohibit a director from being a party to, or otherwise having an interest in, any transaction or arrangement with the Company or in which the Company is otherwise interested. Our bye-laws provide that a director who has an interest in any transaction or arrangement with the Company and who has complied with the provisions of the Companies Act and with our bye-laws with regard to disclosure of such interest shall be taken into account in ascertaining whether a quorum is present, and will be entitled to vote in respect of any transaction or arrangement in which he is so interested. Our bye-laws provide our board of directors the authority to exercise all of the powers of the Company to borrow money and to mortgage or charge all or any part of our property and assets as collateral security for any debt, liability or obligation. Our directors are not required to retire because of their age, and our directors are not required to be holders of our common shares. Directors serve for one year terms, and shall serve until re-elected or until their successors are appointed at the next annual general meeting.

Our bye-laws provide that each director, alternate director, officer, person or member of a committee, if any, resident representative, or his heirs, executors or administrators, which we refer to collectively as an indemnitee, will be indemnified and held harmless out of our funds to the fullest extent permitted by Bermuda law against all liabilities, loss, damage or expense (including liabilities under contract, tort and statute or any applicable foreign law or regulation and all reasonable legal and other costs and expenses properly payable) incurred or suffered by him as such director, alternate director, officer, person or committee member or resident representative (or in his reasonable belief that he is acting as any of the above). In addition, each indemnitee shall be indemnified against all liabilities incurred in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgment is given in such indemnitee's favor, or in which he is acquitted.

There are no pre-emptive, redemption, conversion or sinking fund rights attached to our common shares. The holders of common shares are entitled to one vote per share on all matters submitted to a vote of holders of common shares. Unless a different majority is required by law or by our bye-laws, resolutions to be approved by holders of common shares require approval by a simple majority of votes cast at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

Special rights attaching to any class of our shares may be altered or abrogated with the consent in writing of not less than 75% of the issued and outstanding shares of that class or with the sanction of a resolution passed at a separate general meeting of the holders of such shares voting in person or by proxy.

Our Memorandum of Association and our bye-laws may be amended upon the consent of not less than two-thirds of the issued and outstanding common shares.

In the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of common shares are entitled to share in our assets, if any, remaining after the payment of all of our debts and liabilities, subject to any liquidation preference on any outstanding preference shares.

Our bye-laws provide that our board of directors may, from time to time, declare and pay dividends out of contributed surplus. Each common share is



## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

entitled to dividends if and when dividends are declared by our board of directors, subject to any preferred dividend right of the holders of any preference shares.

There are no limitations on the right of non-Bermudians or non-residents of Bermuda to hold or vote our common shares.

Our bye-laws permit the Company to refuse to register the transfer of any common shares if the effect of that transfer would result in 50% or more of our aggregated issued share capital, or 50% or more of the outstanding voting power being held by persons who are resident for tax purposes in Norway or the United Kingdom.

Our bye-laws permit the Company to increase its capital, from time to time, with the consent of not less than two-thirds of the outstanding voting power of the Company's issued and outstanding common shares.

### C. MATERIAL CONTRACTS

For a description of our New Credit Facility, see Item 4 -- Information on the Company -- Business Overview -- Our Credit Facility.

Otherwise, the Company has not entered into any material contracts outside the ordinary course of business during the past two years.

### D. EXCHANGE CONTROLS

The Company has been designated as a non-resident of Bermuda for exchange control purposes by the Bermuda Monetary Authority, whose permission for the issue of the Common Shares was obtained prior to the offering thereof.

The transfer of shares between persons regarded as resident outside Bermuda for exchange control purposes and the issuance of Common Shares to or by such persons may be effected without specific consent under the Bermuda Exchange Control Act of 1972 and regulations thereunder. Issues and transfers of Common Shares involving any person regarded as resident in Bermuda for exchange control purposes require specific prior approval under the Bermuda Exchange Control Act 1972.

Subject to the foregoing, there are no limitations on the rights of owners of the Common Shares to hold or vote their shares. Because the Company has been designated as non-resident for Bermuda exchange control purposes, there are no restrictions on its ability to transfer funds in and out of Bermuda or to pay dividends to United States residents who are holders of the Common Shares, other than in respect of local Bermuda currency.

In accordance with Bermuda law, share certificates may be issued only in the names of corporations or individuals. In the case of an applicant acting in a special capacity (for example, as an executor or trustee), certificates may, at the request of the applicant, record the capacity in which the applicant is acting. Notwithstanding the recording of any such special capacity, the Company is not bound to investigate or incur any responsibility in respect of the proper administration of any such estate or trust.

The Company will take no notice of any trust applicable to any of its shares or other securities whether or not it had notice of such trust.

As an "exempted company", the Company is exempt from Bermuda laws which restrict the percentage of share capital that may be held by non-Bermudians, but as an exempted company, the Company may not participate in certain business transactions including: (i) the acquisition or holding of land in Bermuda (except that required for its business and held by way of lease or tenancy for

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

terms of not more than 21 years) without the express authorization of the Bermuda legislature; (ii) the taking of mortgages on land in Bermuda to secure an amount in excess of \$50,000 without the consent of the Minister of Finance of Bermuda; (iii) the acquisition of securities created or issued by, or any interest in, any local company or business, other than certain types of Bermuda government securities or securities of another "exempted company, exempted partnership or other corporation or partnership resident in Bermuda but incorporated abroad; or (iv) the carrying on of business of any kind in Bermuda, except in so far as may be necessary for the carrying on of its business outside Bermuda or under a license granted by the Minister of Finance of Bermuda.

There is a statutory remedy under Section 111 of the Companies Act 1981 which provides that a shareholder may seek redress in the Bermuda courts as long as such shareholder can establish that the Company's affairs are being conducted, or have been conducted, in a manner oppressive or prejudicial to the interests of some part of the shareholders, including such shareholder. However, this remedy has not yet been interpreted by the Bermuda courts.

The Bermuda government actively encourages foreign investment in "exempted" entities like the Company that are based in Bermuda but do not operate in competition with local business. In addition to having no restrictions on the degree of foreign ownership, the Company is subject neither to taxes on its income or dividends nor to any exchange controls in Bermuda. In addition, there is no capital gains tax in Bermuda, and profits can be accumulated by the Company, as required, without limitation. There is no income tax treaty between the United States and Bermuda pertaining to the taxation of income other than applicable to insurance enterprises.

### E. TAXATION

The Company is incorporated in Bermuda. Under current Bermuda law, the Company is not subject to tax on income or capital gains, and no Bermuda withholding tax will be imposed upon payments of dividends by the Company to its shareholders. No Bermuda tax is imposed on holders with respect to the sale or exchange of Shares. Furthermore, the Company has received from the Minister of Finance of Bermuda under the Exempted Undertakings Tax Protection Act 1966, as amended, an assurance that, in the event that Bermuda enacts any legislation imposing any tax computed on profits or income, including any dividend or capital gains withholding tax, or computed on any capital asset, appreciation, or any tax in the nature of an estate, duty or inheritance tax, then the imposition of any such tax shall not be applicable. The assurance further provides that such taxes, and any tax in the nature of estate duty or inheritance tax, shall not be applicable to the Company or any of its operations, nor to the shares, debentures or other obligations of the Company, until March 2016.

### F. DIVIDENDS AND PAYING AGENTS

Not Applicable

### G. STATEMENT BY EXPERTS

Not Applicable

### H. DOCUMENTS ON DISPLAY

The Company is subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. In accordance with these requirements we file reports and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These materials, including this annual report and the accompanying exhibits may be inspected and copied at the public reference facilities maintained by the Commission at 100 F Street, NE, Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. You may

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

obtain information on the operation of the public reference room by calling 1 (800) SEC-0330, and you may obtain copies at prescribed rates from the Public Reference Section of the Commission at its principal office in Washington, D.C. The SEC maintains a website (<http://www.sec.gov>) that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding registrants that file electronically with the SEC. In addition, documents referred to in this annual report may be inspected at the Company's headquarters at LOM Building, 27 Reid Street, Hamilton, HM11, Bermuda.

We furnish holders of our common shares with annual reports containing audited financial statements and a report by our independent public accountants, and intend to make available quarterly reports containing selected unaudited financial data for the first three quarters of each fiscal year. The audited financial statements will be prepared in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles. As a "foreign private issuer," we are exempt from the rules under the Securities Exchange Act prescribing the furnishing and content of proxy statements to shareholders. While we intend to furnish proxy statements to shareholders in accordance with the rules of the New York Stock Exchange, those proxy statements do not conform to Schedule 14A of the proxy rules promulgated under the Exchange Act. All reports, proxy statements and other information filed by us with the New York Stock Exchange may be inspected at the New York Stock Exchange's offices at 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005. In addition, as a "foreign private issuer," we are exempt from the rules under the Exchange Act relating to short swing profit reporting and liability.

### I. SUBSIDIARY INFORMATION

Not applicable.

### ITEM 11. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

The Company is exposed to market risk from changes in interest rates related to the variable rate of the Company's borrowings, or the Loan under our 2005 Credit Facility.

Amounts borrowed under the 2005 Credit Facility bears interest at a rate equal to LIBOR plus a margin between 0.70% to 1.20% per year (depending on the loan to vessel value ratio). Increasing interest rates could affect our future profitability. In certain situations, the Company may enter into financial instruments to reduce the risk associated with fluctuations in interest rates.

A 100 basis point increase in LIBOR would have resulted in an increase of approximately \$0.9 million in our interest expense for the year ended December 31, 2006.

The Company is exposed to the spot market. Historically, the tanker markets have been volatile as a result of the many conditions and factors that can affect the price, supply and demand for tanker capacity. Changes in demand for transportation of oil over longer distances and supply of tankers to carry that oil may materially affect our revenues, profitability and cash flows. Eleven of our twelve vessels are currently operated in the spot market or on spot market related time charters. We believe that over time, spot employment generates premium earnings compared to longer-term employment.

We estimate that during 2006, a \$1,000 per day decrease in the spot market rate would have decreased our voyage revenue by approximately \$2.9 million.

### ITEM 12. DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES OTHER THAN EQUITY SECURITIES

Not Applicable

# Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

## PART II

### ITEM 13. DEFAULTS, DIVIDEND ARREARAGES AND DELINQUENCIES

Not Applicable

### ITEM 14. MATERIAL MODIFICATIONS TO THE RIGHTS OF SECURITY HOLDERS AND USE OF PROCEEDS

On February 13, 2007, the Board of Directors adopted a shareholders' rights agreement and declared a dividend of one preferred share purchase right to purchase one one-thousandth of a share of the Company's Series A Participating Preferred Stock for each outstanding share of the Company's common stock, par value \$0.01 per share. The dividend was payable on February 27, 2007 to stockholders of record on that date. Each right entitles the registered holder to purchase from the Company one one-thousandth of a share of Series A Participating Preferred Stock at an exercise price of \$115, subject to adjustment. The Company can redeem the rights at any time prior to a public announcement that a person has acquired ownership of 15% or more of the company's common stock.

This shareholder rights plan was designed to enable the Company to protect shareholder interests in the event that an unsolicited attempt is made for a business combination with or takeover of the Company. The Company believes that the shareholder rights plan should enhance the Board's negotiating power on behalf of shareholders in the event of a coercive offer or proposal. The Company is not currently aware of any such offers or proposals.

### ITEM 15. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

#### (a) Disclosure Controls and Procedures.

Pursuant to Rules 13a-15(e) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"), the Company's management, under the supervision and with the participation of the Chief Executive Officer and Interim Chief Financial Officer, evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures as of December 31, 2006. The term disclosure controls and procedures means controls and other procedures of an issuer that are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by the issuer in the reports that it files or submits under the Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the Commission's rules and forms. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by an issuer in the reports that it files or submits under the Act is accumulated and communicated to the issuer's management, including its principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosure.

Based on that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Interim Chief Financial Officer have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective, as of the end of the period covered by this report, in timely alerting them to material information required to be disclosed in our periodic filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), and in ensuring that the information required to be disclosed in those filings is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms.

#### (b) Management's annual report on internal control over financial reporting.

Our management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

internal control over financial reporting as defined in Rule 13a-15(f) or 15d-15(f) under the Exchange Act. Our internal control system was designed to provide reasonable assurance to our management and board of directors regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of published financial statements for external purposes in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. All internal control systems, no matter how well designed, have inherent limitations. Therefore, even those systems determined to be effective may not prevent or detect misstatements and can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and presentation.

Our management assessed the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006. In making this assessment, management used the criteria for effective internal control over financial reporting set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission ("COSO") in Internal Control-Integrated Framework. Based on this assessment, management has concluded that, as of December 31, 2006, our internal control over financial reporting was effective based on those criteria.

(c) Attestation report of the registered public accounting firm.

Management's assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006 has been audited by Deloitte AS, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report included in this annual report.

(d) Changes in internal control over financial reporting.

There have been no changes in internal controls over financial reporting (identified in connection with management's evaluation of such internal controls over financial reporting) that occurred during the year covered by this annual report that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal controls over financial reporting.

ITEM 16. RESERVED.

ITEM 16A. AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT

The Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Torbj0rn Glads0 is an audit committee financial expert and the Chairman of the committee. Mr. Glads0 is "independent" as determined in accordance with the rules of the New York Stock Exchange.

ITEM 16B. CODE OF ETHICS.

The Company has adopted a code of ethics that applies to all of the Company's employees, including our principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller. The Code may be downloaded at our website ([www.nat.bm](http://www.nat.bm)). Additionally, any person, upon request, may ask for a hard copy of electronic file of the Code. If we make any substantive amendment to the Code of Ethics or grant any waivers, including any implicit waiver, from a provision of our Code of Ethics, we will disclose the nature of that amendment or waiver on our website. During the year ended December 31, 2006, no such amendment was made or waiver granted.

ITEM 16C. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES.

(a) Audit Fees

The Company's Board of Directors has established preapproval and procedures for the engagement of the Company's independent public accounting firms for all audit and non-audit services. The following table sets forth, for the two most

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

recent fiscal years, the aggregate fees billed for professional services rendered by our principal accountant, Deloitte AS, for the audit of the Company's annual financial statements and services provided by the principal accountant in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements for the two most recent fiscal years.

FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006	\$199,600
FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005	\$71,400

(1) Included in the amounts are costs associated with the implementation of the requirements of Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 for the fiscal years 2006 and 2005 of \$36,000 and \$0, respectively.

(b) Audit-Related Fees (1)

FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006	\$132,300
FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005	\$150,455

(1) Audit-Related-Fees consists of accounting consultations related to accounting, financial reporting or disclosure matters not classified as "Audit Services".

(c) Tax Fees

Not applicable

(d) All Other Fees

Not applicable.

(e) Audit Committee's Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures

Our audit committee pre-approves all audit, audit-related and non-audit services not prohibited by law to be performed by our independent auditors and associated fees prior to the engagement of the independent auditor with respect to such services.

(f) Not applicable.

ITEM 16D. EXEMPTIONS FROM THE LISTING STANDARDS FOR AUDIT COMMITTEES

Not Applicable

ITEM 16E. PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES BY THE ISSUER AND AFFILIATED PERSONS.

Not Applicable

### PART III

ITEM 17. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

See item 18.

ITEM 18. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

See pages F-1 through F-11

# Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LIMITED

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS	F-2
REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING	F-3
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
Statements of Operations	F-4
Balance Sheets	F-5
Statements of Cash Flows	F-6
Statements of Shareholders' Equity	F-7
Notes to Financial Statements	F-8

## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of Nordic American Tanker Shipping Limited

We have audited the accompanying balance sheets of Nordic American Tanker Shipping Ltd. (the "Company") as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, and the related statements of operations, shareholders' equity and cash flows for each of the three years ended December 31, 2006. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2006 and 2005, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2006, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006, based on the criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated May 18, 2007 expressed an unqualified opinion on management's assessment of the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting and an unqualified opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

/s/ Deloitte AS

Oslo, Norway  
May 18, 2007

### REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of Nordic American Tanker Shipping Ltd

We have audited management's assessment, included in the accompanying Management's report on internal control over financial reporting, that Nordic American Tanker Shipping Ltd (the "Company") maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006, based on criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. The Company's management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on management's assessment and an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, evaluating management's assessment, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed by, or under the supervision of, the company's principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, and effected by the company's board of directors, management, and other personnel to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of collusion or improper management



## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

override of controls, material misstatements due to error or fraud may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Also, projections of any evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

In our opinion, management's assessment that the Company maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006, is fairly stated, in all material respects, based on the criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Also in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2006, based on the criteria established in Internal Control-Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2006 of the Company and our report dated May 18, 2007 expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements.

\s\ Deloitte AS

Oslo, Norway  
May 18, 2007

### STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

All figures in USD '000, except share data

	Notes	Year Ended Dec
	-----	-----
Voyage Revenues	3	175,520
Voyage Expenses		(40,172)
Vessel Operating Expenses - excluding depreciation expense presented below		(21,102)
General and Administrative Expenses	2, 5, 7	(12,750)
Depreciation Expense	6	(29,254)
Net Operating Income		72,242
Interest Income		1,602
Interest Expense	9	(6,339)
Other Financial (Expense) Income		(112)
Total Other Expense		(4,849)
Net Income before Tax		67,393
Tax Expense		0
Net Income for the Year		67,393

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

Basic Earnings per Share	3.14	
Diluted Earnings per Share	3.14	
Basic Weighted Average Number of Common Shares Outstanding	21,476,196	15
Diluted Weighted Average Number of Common Shares Outstanding	21,476,196	15

The footnotes are an integral part of these financial statements.

### BALANCE SHEETS

All figures in USD '000, except share data

	Notes	December 31, 2006
	-----	-----
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents		11,745
Accounts Receivable, net \$0 allowance at December 31, 2006 and 2005	3	13,400
Voyages in Progress		7,800
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	4	11,400
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>44,400</b>
Long-term Assets		
Vessels, Net	6	752,400
Other Long-term Assets		3,200
<b>Total Long-term Assets</b>		<b>755,600</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>800,000</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		3,000
Deferred Revenue	10	500
Accrued Liabilities	11	11,100
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>14,700</b>
Long-term Liabilities		
Long-term Debt	8	173,500
<b>Total Long-term Liabilities</b>		<b>173,500</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>188,200</b>
Commitments and Contingencies	13	
<b>SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Common Stock,	12	200

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

\$0.01 par value; 51,200,000 shares authorized,  
26,914,088 shares issued and outstanding and 16,644,496 shares issued and  
outstanding at December 31, 2006 and December 31, 2005, respectively

Additional Paid-in Capital	728,8
Accumulated Deficit	(117,17
 Total Shareholders' Equity	 611,9
 Total Liabilities & Shareholders' Equity	 800,1

The footnotes are an integral part of these financial statements.

### STATEMENTS OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

All figures in USD '000, except number of shares

	Number of Shares -----	Common Shares -----	Additional Paid-in Capital -----	Accumulated Deficit -----	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss -----
Balance at 12.31.03	9,706,606	97	144,396	(37,635)	(1,150)
Net Income				40,816	
Common Shares Issued, net of \$0 issuance costs	3,361,232	34	112,105		
Compensation - Restricted Shares			9,252		
Unrealized Loss on Derivative Instruments					(21)
Adjustment for Losses on Derivatives Reclassified to Earnings					1,171
Dividend Paid, \$4.84 per share				(47,196)	
Total Comprehensive Income					
Balance at 12.31.04	13,067,838	131	265,753	(44,015)	0
Net Income				46,318	
Common Shares Issued, net of \$11.3 million issuance costs	3,576,658	35	161,932		
Compensation - Restricted			3,583		

Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

Shares

Stock Options			1,415		
Dividend Paid, \$4.21 per share				(64,279)	
Total Comprehensive Income					
Balance at 12.31.05	16,644,496	166	432,682	(61,977)	0
Net Income				67,393	
Common Shares Issued, net of \$16.5 million issuance costs	10,269,592	103	288,254		
Compensation - Restricted Shares			6,369		
Stock Options			1,545		
Dividend Paid, \$5.85 per share				(122,590)	
Total Comprehensive Income					
Balance at 12.31.06	26,914,088	269	728,851	(117,174)	0

The footnotes are an integral part of these financial statements.

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

All figures in USD '000

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2006	2005
	----	----
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Net Income	67,393	46,317
Reconciliation of Net Income to Net Cash from Operating Activities		
Depreciation Expense	29,254	17,529
Amortization of Prepaid Finance Costs	402	718
Compensation - Restricted Shares & Stock Options	7,914	4,998
Changes in Operating Assets and Liabilities:		
Accounts Receivables	6,140	(15,019)
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	9,763	2,545

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

Prepaid and Other Assets	(8,332)	(1,667)
Deferred Revenue	0	(749)
Voyages in Progress	(5,407)	(2,446)
Other Long-term Assets	(514)	(1,171)
 Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	 106,613	 51,056
 Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Investment in Vessels	(317,800)	(294,161)
 Net Cash Used in Investing Activities	 (317,800)	 (294,161)
 Cash Flows from Financing Activities		
Proceeds from Issuance of Common Stock	288,357	161,967
Proceeds from Use of Credit Facility	274,500	135,000
Repayments on Credit Facility	(231,000)	(5,000)
Credit Facility Costs	(591)	(1,075)
Dividends Paid	(122,590)	(64,279)
 Net Cash Provided by Financing Activities	 208,676	 226,613
 Net (Decrease) Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	 (2,511)	 (16,492)
 Beginning Cash and Cash Equivalents	 14,240	 30,732
 Ending Cash and Cash Equivalents	 11,729	 14,240
 Cash Paid for Interest	 5,499	 916

The footnotes are an integral part of these financial statements.

### NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LIMITED

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(All amounts in USD '000 except where noted)

#### 1. BUSINESS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Nature of Business:** Nordic American Tanker Shipping Limited (the "Company") was formed on June 12, 1995 under the laws of the Islands of Bermuda. The Company owns and operates crude oil tankers. The Company trades under the symbol "NAT" on the New York Stock Exchange.

**Basis of Accounting:** These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("US GAAP").

**Use of Estimates:** Preparation of financial statements in accordance with US GAAP necessarily includes amounts based on estimates and assumptions made by management. Actual results could differ from those amounts. The effects of changes in accounting estimates are accounted for in the same period in which

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

the estimates are changed.

**Reclassifications:** Certain amounts in the prior year financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents:** Cash and cash equivalents consist of deposits with original maturities of three months or less.

**Inventories:** Inventories, which comprise principally of bunker fuel, are stated at cost which is determined on a first-in, first-out (FIFO) basis.

**Vessel and Other Property:** Vessel and other property are recorded at cost. Depreciation is calculated based on cost less estimated salvage value and is provided over estimated useful lives of the related assets using the straight-line method. The estimated useful life of the vessels is 25 years from the date the vessel is delivered from the shipyard. Repairs and maintenance are expensed as incurred.

**Impairment of Long-Lived Assets:** Long-lived assets are required to be reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of an asset may not be recoverable. If the estimated undiscounted future cash flows expected to result from the use of the asset and its eventual disposition is less than the carrying amount of the asset, the asset is deemed impaired. The amount of the impairment is measured as the difference between the carrying value and the fair value of the asset. There have been no impairments recorded for the years ended December 31, 2006, 2005 or 2004.

**Drydocking:** The Company's vessels are required to be drydocked approximately every 30 to 60 months for major repairs and maintenance that cannot be performed while the vessels are in operation. The Company follows the deferral method of accounting for drydocking costs whereby actual costs incurred are deferred and are amortized on a straight-line basis through the expected date of the next drydocking. Ballast tank improvements are capitalized and amortized on a straight-line basis over a period of 8 years. Unamortized drydocking costs of vessels that are sold are written off to income in the year of the vessel's sale. The capitalized and unamortized drydocking costs are included in the book value of the vessels. Amortization expense of the drydocking costs is included in depreciation expense.

**Fair Value of Financial Instruments:** The fair values of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, and accounts payable approximate carrying value because of the short-term nature of these instruments.

**Deferred Financing costs:** Finance costs, including fees, commissions and legal expenses, which are presented as other assets are capitalized and amortized on a straight-line basis over the term of the relevant debt borrowings. Amortization of finance costs is included in interest expense.

**Revenue and expense recognition:** Revenue and expense recognition policies for voyage and time charter agreements are as follows:

**Bareboat:** Revenues from bareboat charters are recorded at a fixed charterhire rate per day over the term of the charter. The charterhire is payable monthly in advance. During the charter period the charterer is responsible for operating and maintaining the vessel and bears all costs and expenses with respect to the vessel.

**Time charters under spot related terms:** Revenues from time charters under spot related terms is based on a formula designed to generate earnings as if the Company had operated the vessels in the spot market on two routes, less 5% in commission to the charterer. The charterhire is payable to the Company monthly.

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

The charterer is responsible for all voyage related costs while the Company is responsible for providing the crew and paying other operating costs.

**Spot charters:** Voyage revenues and voyage expenses are recognized on a pro rata basis based on the relative transit time in each period. Estimated losses on voyages are provided for in full at the time such losses become evident. A voyage is deemed to commence upon the completion of discharge of the vessel's previous cargo and is deemed to end upon the completion of discharge of the current cargo. Voyage expenses primarily include only those specific costs which are borne by the Company in connection with voyage charters which would otherwise have been borne by the charterer under time charter agreements. These expenses principally consist of fuel, canal and port charges. Demurrage income represents payments by the charterer to the vessel owner when loading and discharging time exceed the stipulated time in the voyage charter. Demurrage income is measured in accordance with the provisions of the respective charter agreements and the circumstances under which demurrage claims arise and is recognized on a pro rata basis over the length of the voyage to which it pertains. At December 31, 2006 and 2005, the Company had no reserves against its due from charterers balance associated with demurrage revenues.

**Pooling arrangements:** Revenues and voyage expenses of the vessels operating in pool arrangements are pooled and the resulting net pool revenues, calculated on a time charter equivalent basis, are allocated to the pool participants according to an agreed formula. Formulas used to allocate net pool revenues vary among different pools, but generally, revenues are allocated to pool participants on the basis of the number of days a vessel operates in the pool with weighting adjustments made to reflect each vessels' differing capacities and performance capabilities. The pool managers are responsible for collecting voyage revenue, paying voyage expenses and distribute net pool revenues to the participants.

Based on the guidance from Emerging Issuance Task Force ("EITF") No. 99-19, "Reporting Revenue Gross as a Principal versus Net as an Agent" ("EITF 99-19"), earnings generated from pools in which the Company is the principal of its vessels activities are recorded based on gross method. Earnings generated from pools in which the Company is not regarded as the principal of the vessels activities are recorded per the net method.

The Company accounts for the net pool revenues allocated by these pools as "Voyage Revenue" in its statements of operations.

**Vessel Operating Expenses:** Vessel operating expenses include crewing, repair and maintenance, insurance, stores, lube oils and communication expenses. These expenses are recognized when incurred.

**Segment Information:** The Company has identified only one operating segment under Statement of Financial Accounting Standards ("SFAS") No. 131 "Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information." The Company has only one type of vessel - Suezmax crude oil tankers - operating on time charter contracts at market related rates, in the spot market and on long-term bareboat contract.

**Geographical Segment:** The Company currently operates nine of its vessels in spot market pools with other vessels that are not owned by us. The pools are managed by third party pool administrators. The earnings of all of the vessels are aggregated, or pooled, and divided according to the relative performance capabilities of the vessel and the actual earning days each vessel is available. The pool vessels are operated in the spot market by the pool administrators. As a significant portion of the Company's vessels are operated in pools, it is not practical to allocate geographical data to each vessel nor would it give meaningful information to the reader.

**Derivative instruments:** The Company did not hold any derivative instruments at

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

December 31, 2006 or 2005.

**Share-Based Compensation:** Effective December 31, 2005, the Company adopted SFAS No. 123(R) "Share-Based Payment" ("SFAS 123R"), using the modified prospective application transition method. Because the fair value recognition provisions of SFAS No. 123, "Stock-Based Compensation, and SFAS No. 123(R) were materially consistent under the Company's equity plan, the adoption of SFAS No. 123(R) did not have a significant impact on the Company's financial position or results of operations. See to Note 7 for additional information.

**Earnings per Share:** SFAS No. 128 "Earnings Per Share " requires earnings per share ("EPS") to be computed and reported as both basic EPS and diluted EPS. Basic EPS is computed by dividing net income by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period. Diluted EPS is computed by dividing net income by the weighted average number of common shares and dilutive common stock equivalents (i.e. stock options, warrants) outstanding during the period.

The Company's average stock price during 2006 was above the average exercise price of the option and a dilutive effect on EPS could potentially arise. However, the proceeds of an exercise of all outstanding options calculated as per the Treasury Stock Method would exceed the costs of acquiring stocks at the average 2006 stock price. The potential effect of the outstanding options is therefore anti-dilutive and is not included in the calculation of diluted earnings per share. The average number of potentially dilutive options was 320,000 for the year ended December 31, 2006, and 295,000 for the year ended December 31, 2005, respectively. There were no outstanding options as of December 31, 2004.

**Concentration of Credit Risk:** Financial instruments that potentially subject the Company to concentrations of credit risk consist principally of cash and cash equivalents and accounts receivable. The Company maintains its cash with reputable financial institutions. The terms of these deposits are on demand to minimize risk. The Company has not experienced any losses related to these cash deposits and believes it is not exposed to any significant credit risk.

Accounts receivable consist of uncollateralized receivables from international customers engaged in the international shipping industry. The Company routinely assesses the financial strength of its customers. Accounts receivable are presented net of allowances for doubtful accounts relating to demurrage claims. If amounts become uncollectible, they will be charged to operations when that determination is made.

**Interest Rate Risk:** The Company is exposed to interest rate risk for its debt borrowed under the New Credit Facility. In certain situations, the Company may enter into financial instruments to reduce the risk associated with fluctuations in interest rates. The Company has no outstanding derivatives at December 31, 2006 and has not entered into any such arrangements in 2006.

**Foreign Currency Risk:** The Company's functional currency is the U.S. dollar as all revenues are received in U.S. dollars and the majority of the Company's expenditures are made in U.S. dollars. The Company's reporting currency is U.S. dollars. The Company considers currency risk to be insignificant.

**Income taxes:** The Company is incorporated in Bermuda. Under current Bermuda law, the Company is not subject to corporate income taxes.

**Recent Accounting Pronouncements:** In July 2006, the FASB issued FASB Interpretation No. 48 "Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes" ("FIN 48"), which clarifies the criteria that must be met prior to recognition of the financial statement benefit of a position taken in a tax return. FIN 48 provides a benefit recognition model with a two-step approach consisting of a "more-likely-than-not" recognition criteria, and a measurement attribute that



## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

measures the position as the largest amount of tax benefit that is greater than 50% likely of being realized upon ultimate settlement. FIN 48 also requires the recognition of liabilities created by differences between tax positions taken in a tax return and amounts recognized in the financial statements. FIN 48 is effective as of the beginning of the first annual period beginning after December 15, 2006. The Company is currently assessing the impact of adopting FIN 48 on the financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows of the Company

In September 2006, the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") issued Staff Accounting Bulletin ("SAB") No. 108, "Considering the Effects of Prior Year Misstatements when Quantifying Misstatements in Current Year Financial Statements" ("SAB 108"), which provides interpretive guidance on the consideration of the effects of prior year misstatements in quantifying current year misstatements for the purpose of a materiality assessment. SAB 108 is effective for the Company as of December 31, 2006. There was no impact as a result of the Company's adoption of SAB 108 on its consolidated financial statements.

In September 2006, the FASB issued SFAS No. 157, "Fair Value Measurement," ("SFAS 157") which defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value and expands disclosures about assets and liabilities measured at fair value. This Statement does not require any new fair value measurements. SFAS 157 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. The Company is currently assessing the impact of SFAS 157, and has not yet determined the impact that its adoption will have on its results of operations and financial position.

In February 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 159, "The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities" ("SFAS 159"). SFAS 159 permits entities to choose to measure many financial instruments and certain other items at fair value that are not currently required to be measured at fair value. SFAS 159 also establishes presentation and disclosure requirements designed to facilitate comparisons between entities that choose different measurement attributes for similar types of assets and liabilities. SFAS 159 is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007. The Company is currently assessing the impact of SFAS 157, and has not yet determined the impact that its adoption will have on its results of operations and financial position.

## 2. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Manager, Scandic American Shipping Ltd., is jointly owned by the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") of the Company, Mr. Herbjorn Hansson, and a member of the Board of Directors, Mr. Andreas Ove Ugland. The Manager, under the Management Agreement, assumes commercial and operational responsibility of the Company's vessels and is required to manage the Company's day-to-day business subject to our objectives and policies as established from time to time by the Board of Directors. For its services under the Management Agreement, the Manager is entitled to reimbursement of costs directly related to the Company plus a management fee equal to \$100,000 per annum. The Manager also has a right to 2% of the Company's total outstanding shares (see Note 7 "Share-Based Compensation"). The Company recognized \$1.6 million, \$1.5 million and \$0.3 million of total costs for services provided under the Management Agreement for the years ended December 31, 2006, 2005 and 2004, respectively. Additionally the Company recognized \$6.3 million, \$3.6 million, and \$9.2 million in non-cash share-based compensation expense for the years ended December 31, 2006, 2005 and 2004, respectively, related to the issuance of shares to the Manager (see Note 7 "Share-Based Compensation"). The costs are included in general and administrative expenses. The balances included within accounts payable were \$491,081 and \$396,314 at December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively.

Mr. Jan Erik Langangen, Executive Vice President of the Manager, is a partner of

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

Langangen & Helset Advokatfirma AS, which in the past has provided and may continue to provide legal services to us. The Company recognized \$97,071, \$77,526 and \$33,435 in costs for the years ended December 31, 2006, 2005 and 2004, respectively, for the services provided by Langangen & Helset Advokatfirma AS. These costs are included in general and administrative expenses. There were no amounts included within accounts payable at December 31, 2006 and December 31, 2005, respectively. .

### 3. REVENUE

For the twelve months ending December 31, 2006, the Company's only source of revenue was from the Company's twelve vessels. The table below provides the current employment of the vessels.

Vessel name -----	Employment -----	Charterer*/ Commercial Operator -----
Gulf Scandic	Bareboat	Gulf Navigation*
Nordic Hawk	Spot / TC(1)	BP Shipping*
Nordic Hunter	Spot / TC(1)	BP Shipping*
Nordic Freedom	Spot	Teekay Shipping
Nordic Fighter	Spot	Frontline
Nordic Discovery	Spot	Frontline
Nordic Apollo	Spot	Frontline
Nordic Saturn	Spot	Gemini Tankers
Nordic Jupiter	Spot	Gemini Tankers
Nordic Voyager	Spot	Stena Bulk
Nordic Cosmos	Spot	Stena Bulk
Nordic Moon	Spot	Stena Bulk

(1) Spot/TC = Time Charter on spot market related terms.

One customer accounted for 23%, 37%, and 97% of the Company's revenues during the year ended December 31, 2006, 2005 and 2004, respectively.

Five customers accounted for 23%, 22 %, 21%, 18%, 16% and 27%, 24%, 21%, 15%, 14% of the accounts receivable balance for the year ended December 31, 2006 and December 31, 2005, respectively.

### 4. PREPAID EXPENSES AND OTHER CURRENT ASSETS

All figures in USD '000 -----	2006 ----	2005 ----
Bunkers and lubricants inventory	5,110	2,136
Other current assets - Managers	3,247	56
Prepaid expenses - Managers	1,716	345
Other	1,406	610
Total as per December 31,	11,479	3,147

The line items "Other current assets - Managers" and "Prepaid expenses - Managers" relate to assets held and prepaid expenses incurred by our technical and commercial managers at our risk.

### 5. GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

All figures in USD '000 -----	2006 ----	2005 ----	2004 ----
----------------------------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

Management fee	100	100	175
Directors and officers insurance	116	121	113
Salary and wages	1,022	635	165
Audit, legal and consultants	1,171	679	588
Outsourced administrative services	1,564	1,461	313
Compensation - restricted shares (non-cash)	6,369	3,583	9,252
2004 Stock Incentive Plan	1,545	1,415	0
Other fees and expenses	864	498	245
 Total as per December 31,	 12,750	 8,492	 10,852

### 6. VESSEL AND OTHER PROPERTY

Vessel and Other Property consist of twelve modern double hull Suezmax crude oil tankers, drydocking charges and ballast tank improvements. Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the vessels. The estimated useful life of a new vessel is 25 years.

All figures in USD '000 -----	2006 ----	2005 ----
Acquisition Costs as per January 1 ,	531,074	236,913
Acquisitions	317,800	294,161
 Acquisition Costs as per December 31,	 848,874	 531,074
 Accumulated Depreciation as per January 1,	 (67,141)	 (49,612)
Depreciation	(29,254)	(17,529)
 Accumulated Depreciation	 (96,396)	 (67,141)
 Net Book Value as per December 31,	 752,478	 463,933

Included in the above amounts are drydocking charges and ballast tank improvements with a net book value of \$3.2 million and \$2.2 million as at December 31, 2006 and 2005, respectively. Depreciation expenses for drydocking and ballast tank improvements were \$0.6 million and \$0.2 million for the years 2006 and 2005, respectively. Accumulated depreciation for docking and ballast tank improvements were \$0.8 million and \$0.2 million for the year ended December 31, 2006 and December 31, 2005.

### 7. SHARE-BASED COMPENSATION

The Company has two share-based compensation plans, which are described below. The compensation cost that has been charged against income as part of General and Administrative expenses for those plans was \$7.9 million, \$5.0 million, and \$9.3 million for 2006, 2005, and 2004, respectively. Unrecognized compensation cost related to the Plan is \$2.5 million as at December 31, 2006. That cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.49 years.

#### 2004 Stock Incentive Plan

Under the terms of the Company's 2004 Stock Incentive Plan ("Plan"), the directors, officers and certain key employees of the Company and the Manager will be eligible to receive awards which include incentive stock options, non-qualified stock options, stock appreciation rights, dividend equivalent rights, restricted stock, restricted stock units and performance shares. The Company believes that such awards better align the interests of its employees with those of its shareholders. A total of 400,000 common shares are reserved for issuance upon exercise of options, as restricted share grants or otherwise under the plan. A total of 320,000 options and 16,700 restricted shares have been issued as at December 31, 2006. All stock options were issued during fiscal

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

year 2005, while all of the restricted shares were issued during fiscal year 2006. There was no activity during fiscal year 2004.

Stock option awards were granted with an exercise price that is subject to adjustment for dividends to share holders exceeding 3% of the initial stock option exercise price. Stock option awards generally vest equally over four years from grant date and have a 10-year contractual term. There have not been any modifications to the terms of the granted awards during the year ended December 31, 2006.

The fair value of each option award is estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option valuation model that uses the assumptions noted in the following table below. Stock options issued to non-employees are measured at each reporting date and fair value is estimated with the same model used for estimating fair value of the options granted to employees. Because the option valuation model incorporates ranges of assumptions for inputs, those ranges are disclosed. Expected volatilities are based on implied volatilities from historical volatility of the Company's stock and other factors. Expected life of the options is estimated to be equal to the vesting period for employees when calculating the fair value of the options. When calculating the fair value of the options issued to non-employees, the expected life is equal to the actual life of options. The Company recognizes the compensation cost for stock options issued to non-employees over the requisite service period, which is considered to be equal to the vesting period.

Stock options to employees are measured at fair value at the grant date and the compensation cost is recognized on a straight-line basis over the vesting period. The assumptions used when estimating the fair value at grant date are specified in the table below. Stock options to non-employees are measured at fair value at the balance sheet date and the assumptions used are specified separately in the table below.

The risk-free rate for periods within the contractual life of the stock options is based on the U.S. Treasury yield curve in effect at the time of grant for options to employees. The risk-free rate at year-end is used for stock options issued to non-employees.

	December 31, 2006		December 31,
Weighted average figures	Employees	Non-employees	Employees
Volatility	42.60%	40.48%	42.60%
Dividends yield	3.0%	3.0 %	3.0%
Expected life	3.81	8.27	3.81
Risk-free rate (range)	3.52% - 4.43%	4.70%	3.52% - 4.43%

A summary of option activity under the Plan as of December 31, 2006, and changes during the year then ended is presented below:

Options	Options - employees	Options - non-employees
Outstanding at January 1, 2006	240,000	80,000
Granted	-	-
Exercised	-	-

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

Forfeited or expired	-	-
Outstanding at December 31, 2006	240,000	80,000
Exercisable at December 31, 2006	115,000	32,500

Outstanding and exercisable stock options as at December 31, 2006 have a weighted-average remaining term of 8.09 years for employees and 8.31 years for non-employees. The exercise price for outstanding stock options as at December 31, 2006 is \$31.01.

	Options -Employees -----	Weighted-average grant-date fair value - Employees -----	Options - Non-employ -----
Non-vested at January 1, 2006	185,000	\$18.38	67,500
Granted during the year	-	-	-
Vested during the year	(72,500)	\$17.84	(20,000)
Forfeited during the year	-	-	-
Estimated forfeitures unvested options	-	-	-
Non-vested at December 31, 2006	112,500	\$18.64	47,500

### Restricted Shares to Employees and Non-Employees

Under the terms of the Company's 2004 Stock Incentive Plan, 16,700 shares of restricted stock were granted to certain employees and non-employees during 2006. The restricted shares were granted on May 12, 2006 at a grant date fair value of \$31.99 per share.

The fair value of restricted shares is estimated based on the market price of the Company's shares. The fair value of restricted shares granted to employees is measured at the grant date and the fair value of restricted shares granted to non-employees is measured at fair value at each reporting date.

The shares are considered restricted as the holders of the shares cannot dispose of them for a period of up to four years from issuance, as the restricted shares vest in yearly instalments during this period. The holders of the restricted shares do have ordinary shareholder rights including entitlement to dividends declared during the period and voting rights.

The restricted shares vest in four equal amounts in May 2007, May 2008, May 2009 and May 2010. No restricted shares vested fully during in 2006.

There were 9,700 restricted shares issued to employees and 7,000 restricted shares to non-employees in 2006. The compensation cost for employees and non-employees are recognized on a straight-line basis over the vesting period. The total compensation cost in 2006 related to restricted shares was \$80,319.

At December 31, 2006, there were 16,700 restricted shares outstanding at a weighted-average grant date fair value of \$31.99 for employees and \$31.99 for non-employees. As of December 31, 2006, unrecognized compensation cost related to unvested restricted stock aggregated \$470,433, which will be recognized over a weighted average period of 3.4 years.

The table below summarizes the Company's restricted stock awards as of December 31, 2006:

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

	Restricted shares -Employees -----	Weighted-average grant-date fair value - Employees -----	Restricted s - Non-employ -----
Outstanding at January 1, 2006	-	-	-
Granted during the year	9,700	\$31.99	7,000
Vested during the year	-	-	-
Forfeited during the year	-	-	-
Outstanding at December 31, 2006	9,700	\$31.99	7,000

### Restricted Shares to Manager

Prior to December 31, 2004 the Management Agreement provided that the Manager would receive 1.25% of any gross charterhire paid to the Company. In order to further align the Manager's interests with those of the Company, the Manager agreed to amend the Management Agreement, effective October 12, 2004, to eliminate this payment, and the Company has issued to the Manager restricted common shares equal to 2% of our outstanding common shares at par value of \$0.01 per share. Any time additional common shares are issued, the Manager will receive additional restricted common shares to maintain the number of common shares issued to the Manager at 2% of total outstanding common shares. These restricted shares are non-transferable for three years from issuance. During 2006 the Company has issued to the Manager 205,392 shares at an average fair value of \$30.62. The share-based compensation expense related to the issuance of restricted shares to the Manager of \$6.3 million in 2006 was classified as general and administrative expenses.

### 8. LONG-TERM DEBT

In September 2005, the Company entered into a \$300 million revolving credit facility, which is referred to as the 2005 Credit Facility. The 2005 Credit Facility became effective as of October 2005 and replaced the previous credit facility from October 2004, a portion of which was set to mature in October 2005. The 2005 Credit Facility will mature in September 2010.

The 2005 Credit Facility provides funding for future vessel acquisitions and general corporate purposes. The 2005 Credit Facility cannot be reduced by the lender and there is no repayment obligation of the principal during the five year term. Amounts borrowed under the 2005 Credit Facility bear interest at an annual rate equal to LIBOR plus a margin between 0.70% and 1.20% (depending on the loan to vessel value ratio). The Company pays a commitment fee of 30% of the applicable margin on any undrawn amounts. Total commitment fees paid for the year ended December 31, 2006 and December 31, 2005 were \$0.7 million and \$0.7 million, respectively.

In September 2006, the Company increased the 2005 Credit Facility to \$500 million. The other material terms of the 2005 Credit Facility were not amended. The undrawn amount of this facility as of December 31, 2006 and 2005 was \$326.5 million and \$170 million, respectively.

Borrowings under the 2005 Credit Facility are secured by mortgages over the Company's vessels and assignment of earnings and insurance. The Company will be able to pay dividends in accordance with its dividend policy as long as it is not in default under the 2005 Credit Facility.

Accrued interest as per December 31, 2006 is \$1.0 million and was paid during the first quarter of 2007.

### 9. INTEREST EXPENSE

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

Interest expense consists of interest expense on the long-term debt, the commitment fee and loan financing costs related to the \$500 million 2005 Credit Facility. The \$173.5 million drawn on the facility bears interest equal to LIBOR plus a margin between 0.7% and 1.2%. The loan financing costs incurred in connection with the refinancing of the previous credit facility are deferred and amortized over the term of the 2005 Credit Facility on a straight-line basis. Amortization of loan costs is included in the interest expense. The amortization of loan financing costs was for the years 2006, 2005 and 2004 \$0.4 million, \$0.7 million and \$0.1 million respectively. Total capitalized loan financing costs are \$1.9 million as per December 31, 2006 and \$1.7 million as per December 31, 2005. The amortization of loan financing costs for the years 2007 to 2009 are \$0.5 million per year and \$0.4 million for the year 2010.

### 10. DEFERRED REVENUE

Deferred revenue of \$0.5 million represents prepaid freight received from one of our customers prior to December 31, 2006, for services to be rendered during January 2007.

### 11. ACCRUED LIABILITIES

All figures in USD '000 -----	2006 ----	2005 ----
Accrued Interest	1,003	1,170
Accrued Expenses	5,054	1,459
Other Current Liabilities	4,808	0
Other	326	244
 Total as per December 31,	 11,191	 2,873

The line item Other Current Liabilities relates to liabilities incurred by our technical and commercial managers at our risk.

### 12. SHARE HOLDERS' EQUITY

Authorized, and issued and outstanding common shares roll-forward is as follows:

	Authorized Shares -----	Issued and Outstanding Shares -----
Balance at December 31, 2003	51,200,000	9,706,606
Issuance of Common Shares in Follow-on Offering		3,105,000
Share-based Compensation		256,232
Balance at December 31, 2004	51,200,000	13,067,838
Issuance of Common Shares in Follow-on Offering		3,500,000
Share-based Compensation		76,658
Balance at December 31, 2005	51,200,000	16,644,496
Issuance of Common Shares in Follow-on Offering		4,297,500
Share-based Compensation		87,704
Issuance of Common Shares in Follow-on Offering		5,750,000

## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

Share-based Compensation		117,347
Restricted Shares		16,700
Share-based Compensation		341
Balance at December 31, 2006	51,200,000	26,914,088

The total issued and outstanding shares as of December 31, 2006 were 26,914,088 shares of which 538,282 shares were restricted to the Manager and 16,700 shares were restricted to employees and non-employees as described in Note 7. The total issued and outstanding shares as of December 31, 2005 was 16,644,496 shares of which 332,890 shares were restricted as described in Note 7.

### 13. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

The Company may be a party to various legal proceedings generally incidental to its business and is subject to a variety of environmental and pollution control laws and regulations. As is the case with other companies in similar industries, the Company faces exposure from actual or potential claims and legal proceedings. Although the ultimate disposition of legal proceedings cannot be predicted with certainty, it is the opinion of the Company's management that the outcome of any claim which might be pending or threatened, either individually or on a combined basis, will not have a materially adverse effect on the financial position of the Company, but could materially affect the Company's results of operations in a given year.

No claims have been made against the Company for the fiscal year 2006 or 2005. The Company is not a party to any legal proceedings for the year ended December 31, 2006 and December 31, 2005, respectively.

### 14. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In February 2007, the Company declared a dividend of \$1.00 per share in respect of the fourth quarter of 2006 which was paid to shareholders in March 2007.

In May 2007, the Company declared a dividend of \$1.24 per share in respect of the first quarter of 2007 which will be paid to shareholders in May 2007.

In May 2007, the Board of Directors decided to implement a Pension Plan for the CEO. The features of such a plan are expected to be in place during the second half of 2007. The CEO has no plans at all to retire from his present position.

### ITEM 19. EXHIBITS

- 1.1 Memorandum of Association of the Company incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's registration statement on Form F-1 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 28, 1995 (Registration No. 33-96268).
- 1.2 Bye-Laws of the Company incorporated by reference to Form 6-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 18, 2004.
- 2.1 Form of Share Certificate incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's registration statement on Form F-1 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 28, 1995 (Registration No. 33-96268).
- 4.1 Form of Bareboat Charter between Nordic American Tanker Shipping Limited and BP Shipping Ltd, incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.3 in the



## Edgar Filing: NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD - Form 20-F

Registration Statement filed on Form F-1, Registration No. 33-96268.

- 4.2 Amended and Restated Management Agreement dated October 12, 2004, between Scandic American Shipping Ltd. and Nordic American Tanker Shipping Limited incorporated by reference to Form 6-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 29, 2004.
- 4.3 Amendment to Restated Management Agreement dated April 29, 2005, between Scandic American Shipping Ltd. and Nordic American Tanker Shipping.
- 4.4 2004 Stock Incentive Plan incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.5 to the Company's annual report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 30, 2005.
- 4.5 Revolving Credit Facility Agreement by and among the Company and the financial institutions listed in schedule 1 thereto, dated September 14, 2005, incorporated by reference into the Company's annual report on Form 20-F filed June 30, 2006.
- 4.6 Addendum No. 1 to Revolving Credit Facility Agreement by and among the Company and the financial institutions listed in schedule 2 thereto, dated September 21, 2006.
- 12.1 Rule 13a-14(a) Certification of the Chief Executive Officer.
- 12.2 Rule 13a-14(a) Certification of the Chief Financial Officer.
- 13.1 Certification of the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 13.2 Certification of the Chief Financial Officer pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 15.1 Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.

### SIGNATURES

The registrant hereby certifies that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form 20-F and that it has duly caused and authorized the undersigned to sign this annual report on its behalf.

NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER  
SHIPPING LIMITED

By: /s/ Herbjorn Hansson

-----  
Name: Herbjorn Hansson  
Title: Chairman, Chief Executive  
Officer and President

DATED: June 29, 2007

SK 01318 0002 786748