
**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, 2014

OR

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

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 1-34153

Global Ship Lease, Inc.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Republic of The Marshall Islands
(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

c/o Portland House
Stag Place
London SW1E 5RS
United Kingdom
(Address of principal executive offices)

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

<u>Title of each class</u>	<u>Name of each exchange on which registered</u>
Class A Common Shares, par value of \$0.01 per share Depository Shares, each of which represents a 1/100th interest in a share of 8.75% Series B Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares, par value \$0.01 per share (and 8.75% Series B Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares*)	New York Stock Exchange New York Stock Exchange

* Not for trading, but only in connection with the registration of the Depository Shares representing such 1/100th interest in shares of 8.75% Series B Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares, pursuant to the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission

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

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.

47,541,484 Class A Common Shares, par value of \$0.01 per share
7,405,956 Class B Common Shares, par value of \$0.01 per share
14,000 Series B Preferred Shares, par value of \$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 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

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 No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the 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 Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer

Indicate by check mark which basis of accounting the registrant has used to prepare the financial statements included in this filing:

U.S. GAAP International Financial Reporting Standards as Issued by the International Accounting Standards Board Other

If "Other" has been checked in response to the previous question, indicate by check mark which financial statement item the registrant has elected to follow.

Item 17 Item 18

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

Table of Contents

GLOBAL SHIP LEASE, INC.

INDEX TO REPORT ON FORM 20-F

	<u>Page</u>
<u>PART I</u>	1
Item 1. Identity of Directors, Senior Management and Advisors	1
Item 2. Offer Statistics and Expected Timetable	1
Item 3. Key Information	1
A. Selected Financial Data	1
B. Capitalization and Indebtedness	3
C. Reasons for the Offer and Use of Proceeds	3
D. Risk Factors	3
Item 4. Information on the Company	31
A. History and Development of the Company	31
B. Business Overview	32
C. Organizational Structure	49
D. Property, Plants and Equipment	49
Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects	49
A. Results of Operations	49
B. Liquidity and Capital Resources	59
C. Research and Development	67
D. Trend Information	67
E. Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements	67
F. Contractual Obligations	67
Item 6. Directors, Senior Management and Employees	68
A. Directors and Senior Management	68
B. Compensation	70
C. Board Practices	73
D. Employees	74
E. Share Ownership	74
Item 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions	75
A. Major Shareholders	75
B. Related Party Transactions	76
Item 8. Financial Information	76
A. Financial Statements and Other Financial Information	76
B. Significant Changes	78
Item 9. The Offer and Listing	78
Item 10. Additional Information	78
A. Share Capital	78
B. Memorandum and Articles of Association	79
C. Material Contracts	79
D. Exchange Controls	80
E. Taxation	80
F. Dividends and Paying Agents	88
G. Statements by Experts	88
H. Documents on Display	88
Item 11. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk	88
Item 12. Description of Securities Other than Equity Securities	89
<u>PART II</u>	89

Item 13.	Defaults, Dividend Arrearages and Delinquencies	89
Item 14.	Material Modifications to the Rights of Security Holders and Use of Proceeds	89
Item 15.	Controls and Procedures	89
Item 16. A.	Audit Committee Financial Expert	91
Item 16. B.	Code of Ethics	91
Item 16. C.	Principal Accountant Fees and Services	91
Item 16. D.	Exemptions from the Listing Standards for Audit Committees	92
Item 16. E.	Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers	92
Item 16. F.	Change in Registrants' Certifying Accountant	92
Item 16. G.	Corporate Governance	92
Item 16. H.	Mine Safety Disclosures	92

[PART III](#) 92

Item 17.	Financial Statements	92
Item 18.	Financial Statements	92
Item 19.	Exhibits	93

PART I

Special Note Regarding Forward Looking Statements

This Annual Report contains forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements provide our current expectations or forecasts of future events. Forward-looking statements include statements about our expectations, beliefs, plans, objectives, intentions, assumptions and other statements that are not historical facts. Words or phrases such as “anticipate,” “believe,” “continue,” “estimate,” “expect,” “intend,” “may,” “ongoing,” “plan,” “potential,” “predict,” “project,” “will” or similar words or phrases, or the negatives of those words or phrases, may identify forward-looking statements, but the absence of these words does not necessarily mean that a statement is not forward-looking. Examples of forward-looking statements in this Annual Report include, but are not limited to, statements regarding our disclosure concerning our operations, cash flows, financial position, dividend policy and likelihood of success in acquiring additional vessels to expand our business.

Forward-looking statements appear in a number of places in this Annual Report including, without limitation, in the sections entitled “Business Overview,” “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Conditions and Operations,” and “Dividend Policy.”

Forward-looking statements are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties and are based on potentially inaccurate assumptions that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expected or implied by the forward-looking statements. Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in forward-looking statements for many reasons, including the factors described in “Risk Factors” in this Annual Report. The risks described under “Risk Factors” are not exhaustive. Other sections of this Annual Report describe additional factors that could adversely affect our results of operations, financial condition, liquidity and the development of the industries in which we operate. New risks can emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for us to predict all such risks, nor can we assess the impact of all such risks on our business or the extent to which any risks, or combination of risks and other factors, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements. Accordingly, you should not unduly rely on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this Annual Report. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement to reflect circumstances or events after the date of this Annual Report or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. You should, however, review the factors and risks we describe in the reports we will file from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, after the date of this Annual Report.

Unless the context otherwise requires, references to “the company”, “we”, “us” , “our” or “Global Ship Lease” refers to Global Ship Lease, Inc.; “CMA CGM” refers to CMA CGM S.A. and “CMA Ships” refers to CMA Ships, a wholly-owned subsidiary of CMA CGM and our principal ship manager. For the definition of certain terms used in this Annual Report, please see “Glossary of Shipping Terms” at the end of this Annual Report. Unless otherwise indicated, all references to “\$” and “dollars” in this Annual Report are in U.S. dollars. We use the term “TEU”, meaning twenty-foot equivalent unit, the international standard measure of container size, in describing volumes in world container trade and other measures, including the capacity of our containerhips, which we also refer to as vessels. Unless otherwise indicated, we calculate the average age of our vessels on a weighted average basis, based on TEU capacity.

Item 1. Identity of Directors, Senior Management and Advisors

Not applicable.

Item 2. Offer Statistics and Expected Timetable

Not applicable.

Item 3. Key Information

A. Selected Financial Data

You should read the information set forth below in conjunction with “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” and our consolidated financial statements and notes thereto, which are referred to as our consolidated financial statements, included elsewhere in this Annual Report.

This historical selected consolidated financial data has been derived from our audited consolidated financial statements and has been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“U.S. GAAP”). Certain financial information has been rounded, and, as a result, certain totals shown in this Annual Report may not equal the arithmetic sum of the figures that should otherwise aggregate to those totals.

Table of Contents

This selected financial data should be read together with, and is qualified in its entirety by, our consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto included elsewhere in this Annual Report.

	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
	(in millions of U.S. dollars, except per share data)				
Statement of Income					
Operating revenues:					
Time charter revenue	\$138.6	\$143.2	\$153.2	\$ 156.3	\$ 158.8
Operating expenses:					
Vessel expenses	(48.8)	(46.0)	(45.6)	(45.5)	(42.1)
Depreciation	(41.1)	(40.4)	(40.3)	(40.1)	(40.1)
General and administrative	(7.0)	(6.0)	(5.8)	(7.4)	(8.3)
Impairment charge ⁽¹⁾	—	—	—	(13.6)	(17.1)
Other operating income	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4
Total operating expenses	(96.3)	(92.1)	(91.4)	(106.3)	(107.1)
Operating income	42.3	51.2	61.8	49.9	51.8
Non operating income (expense)					
Interest income	0.1	—	0.1	0.1	0.2
Interest expense	(43.9)	(18.8)	(21.2)	(20.6)	(23.8)
Gain on redemption of Series A preferred shares	8.6	—	—	—	—
Realized (loss) on interest rate derivatives	(2.8)	(14.0)	(18.4)	(19.4)	(16.7)
Unrealized gain (loss) on interest rate derivatives	1.9	14.3	9.7	(0.9)	(15.3)
Income (loss) before income taxes	6.2	32.6	32.1	9.1	(3.9)
Taxes on income	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)
Net income (loss)	6.1	32.5	31.9	9.1	(4.0)
Earnings allocated to Series B preferred shares	(1.1)	—	—	—	—
Net income (loss) available to common shareholders	5.0	\$ 32.5	\$ 31.9	\$ 9.1	\$ (4.0)
Net income (loss) per Class A common share in \$					
Basic and diluted	0.10	0.68	0.67	0.19	(0.08)
Weighted average number of Class A common shares outstanding					
Basic in millions	47.7	47.6	47.5	47.3	46.9
Diluted in millions	47.8	47.8	47.6	47.4	46.9
Net income per Class B common share in \$					
Basic and diluted	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Weighted average number of Class B common shares outstanding					
Basic and diluted in millions	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4
Statement of cash flow					
Net cash from operating activities	\$ 60.9	\$ 74.3	\$ 83.7	\$ 74.9	\$ 85.2
Net cash (used in) Investing Activities	(80.1)	(16.6)	(24.3)	(27.3)	(32.2)
Net cash provided by (used in) Financing Activities	27.9	(59.3)	(59.1)	(50.2)	(55.4)
Balance sheet data (at period end)					
Total current assets	39.8	38.4	44.0	45.5	41.0
Total vessels	836.5	817.9	856.4	890.2	922.5
Total assets	886.6	858.2	903.7	939.5	981.0
Long-term debt (current and non-current portion) ⁽²⁾	414.8	366.4	425.7	483.6	532.8
Preferred shares ⁽³⁾	—	45.0	45.0	48.0	48.0
Class A and B common stock	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Stockholders' equity ⁽⁴⁾	438.1	399.5	366.6	334.2	324.6
Other data (time charter business)					
Number of vessels in operation at period end	18	17	17	17	17
Ownership days ⁽⁵⁾	6,270	6,205	6,222	6,205	6,205
Utilization ⁽⁶⁾	98.0%	99.5%	98.4%	98.3%	99.9%

(1) On November 8, 2010, we signed agreements with the sellers of two 4,231 TEU container vessels which terminated our purchase obligations totaling \$154.8 million. Under the agreements we (i) released deposits, including accrued interest and totaling approximately \$8.1 million per vessel (ii) made a further cash payment of approximately \$6.2 million per vessel and (iii) transferred to the sellers certain supplies purchased for the vessels which were valued at approximately \$0.4 million per vessel. The total value of these items was \$29.4 million or \$14.7 million per vessel. In exchange, we acquired purchase options giving us the right, but not the obligation, to purchase each vessel on the first anniversary of its delivery by the builder to the seller, for a final payment of \$61.25 million per vessel. The purchase options were to be exercised by September 16, 2011 for one vessel and October 4, 2011 for the other vessel. Under U.S. GAAP, (i) the estimated fair value of the two purchase options was recorded as an intangible asset in the balance sheet of \$13.6 million and (ii) the balance of the consideration paid in the transaction amounting to \$17.1 million was expensed as an impairment charge in 2010. The purchase of these vessels was always predicated on achieving a strong return for shareholders by acquiring the vessels, which had time charters attached, at an attractive price and securing financing on favorable terms. As we were not able to obtain committed finance on acceptable terms, the purchase options were allowed to expire.

(2) Prior to March 19, 2014, long-term debt comprised amounts outstanding under a senior secured credit facility ("Previous Credit Facility") that was first drawn in December 2007. The Company completed the issue of \$420 million 10.000% First Priority Senior Secured Notes (the "notes") on March 19, 2014, the principal use of proceeds being to repay the amounts outstanding under the Previous Credit Facility which was then terminated.

Table of Contents

- (3) Represents the aggregate outstanding liquidation preference on our Series A preferred shares. The Series A preferred shares were mandatorily redeemable in 11 quarterly instalments of approximately \$4.0 million from August 31, 2016 with a final payment of the remaining amount outstanding on May 31, 2019. They were classified as a long-term liability on our balance sheet. Preferred shareholders were entitled to cash dividends equal to three-month USD LIBOR plus 2.0% of the original liquidation preference which was accounted for as a liability on our balance sheet. Dividends were payable quarterly or at such other times at our choice. The dividend that preferred shareholders was entitled to is included as part of interest expense. All of the Series A preferred shares were held by CMA CGM. The Series A preferred shares, which had a liquidation value at maturity of \$45.0 million, were redeemed at a discount pursuant to a Share Repurchase Agreement for \$36.4 million on August 22, 2014, using the proceeds received from the issuance of the 8.75% Series B Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares (the "Series B preferred shares"), the balance of the restricted cash and cash on hand.
- (4) On August 20, 2014, we issued 1,400,000 depository shares (the "depository shares"), each of which represents 1/100th of one share of our Series B preferred shares. Dividends are payable at 8.75% per annum in arrears on a quarterly basis. At any time after August 20, 2019 (or within 180 days after the occurrence of a fundamental change), the Series B preferred shares may be redeemed, at our discretion, in whole or in part, at a redemption price of \$2,500.00 per share (equivalent to \$25.00 per depository share). The net proceeds from the offering were \$33.5 million. These shares are classified as equity in the consolidated financial statements.
- (5) Ownership days represent the number of days in the period that we owned the relevant vessels.
- (6) Utilization is used to measure our efficiency in operating the fleet and is calculated by dividing the total number of operating days when hire was being earned by the total number of ownership days, with the result expressed as a percentage. Operating days represent the aggregate number of days in the period that the vessels were available and were not off-hire or otherwise not earning revenue for any reason, including scheduled dry-dockings, breakdowns, repairs or idle time between charters. These data are non-U.S. GAAP statistical measures used by management to assess operating performance and are not included in consolidated financial statements prepared under U.S. GAAP.

B. Capitalization and Indebtedness

Not applicable.

C. Reasons for the Offer and Use of Proceeds

Not applicable.

D. Risk Factors

Risks Relating to Our Business

We are highly dependent on charter payments from CMA CGM.

All but four of our 19 vessels are chartered to CMA CGM. CMA CGM's payments to us under these charters are our principal source of operating revenue. We are consequently highly dependent on the performance by CMA CGM of its obligations under these charters. The container shipping industry suffered a significant cyclical downturn in the second half of 2008 and through 2009, with positive industry conditions returning in 2010. The industry suffered a further cyclical downturn in 2011 and many container shipping companies reported substantial losses. Financial performance of container shipping companies improved in 2012, 2013 and 2014, however, the industry remains under pressure due to oversupply of container ship capacity. We have experienced, from time to time, delays in receiving charterhire payments from CMA CGM, which under the charter contracts are due to be paid on the 1st and 16th of each month, in advance. Up to two instalments were outstanding at times during 2014. As at December 31, 2014, no charterhire was outstanding.

If CMA CGM ceases doing business or fails to perform its obligations under our charters, our business, financial position and results of operations would be materially adversely affected as it is probable that, even if we were able to find replacement charters, such replacement charters would be at significantly lower daily rates and for shorter durations. If such events occur, there would be significant uncertainty about our ability to continue as a going concern.

[Table of Contents](#)

We are dependent on third parties to manage our ships.

All but two of our 19 vessels are managed by CMA Ships, a wholly owned subsidiary of CMA CGM, which, for an annual management fee of \$123,000 per vessel, is responsible for all day-to-day ship management, including crewing, purchasing stores, lubricating oils and spare parts, paying wages, pensions and insurance for the crew, and organizing other vessel operating necessities, including the arrangement and management of drydocking. Our ship management agreements with CMA Ships may be terminated by either party on two months written notice. In the future, CMA Ships may demand a higher fee or other more favorable terms in consideration for its services or decide to terminate its agreements with us. The prices or terms of new ship management agreements with CMA Ships or an alternate provider may be significantly less favorable to us than the terms of our existing ship management agreements. Our other two vessels are managed by a ship manager based in Hong Kong, on similar terms.

CMA CGM and CMA Ships are privately held companies and there is little or no publicly available information about them.

CMA CGM is our principal charterer and its wholly owned subsidiary, CMA Ships, is our principal ship manager. CMA CGM has guaranteed the performance of CMA Ships under the ship management agreements. CMA CGM's ability to continue to pay charterhire and CMA Ships' ability to render ship management services will depend in part on their own financial position.

Circumstances beyond their control could impair CMA CGM's and CMA Ships' financial position, and because they are privately held companies, limited information about their financial position is publicly available. As a result, we and an investor in our securities might have little advance warning of financial or other difficulties affecting CMA CGM or its wholly owned subsidiaries even though their financial or other difficulties could have a material adverse effect on us.

CMA CGM and CMA Ships have conflicts of interest with us which may make them favor their own interests to our detriment.

As at December 31, 2014, CMA CGM owned approximately 44.4% of our outstanding common stock. Accordingly, CMA CGM has the power to exert considerable influence over our actions and its concentration of ownership may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control, merger, consolidation, takeover or other business combination, which could have an adverse effect on the price of our common stock. In addition, the standstill provisions of the stockholders agreement entered into between us, CMA CGM and Marathon Founders, LLC, at the time of the Merger, expired on August 14, 2013. Accordingly, CMA CGM is no longer precluded from acquiring additional shares of our common stock or initiating changes to our board of directors. In May 2014 we appointed two additional directors to our board with those seats filled by CMA CGM nominees. Under our bylaws, in order for the approval of contracts or transactions involving a related party not to be voidable (1) any interested director's relationship or interest as to the contract or transaction must be disclosed to the board of directors and such contract or transaction is authorized by a majority of the disinterested directors (or, in certain cases, all of the disinterested directors) or (2) the contract or transaction is specifically approved in good faith by vote of the shareholders. Furthermore, our corporate governance guidelines require a director with a personal interest in a matter being approved by the board of directors to disclose the interest, to recuse himself or herself from participation in the discussion and to not vote on the matter.

Moreover, conflicts of interest may also arise between us, on the one hand, and CMA CGM, our charterer, or CMA Ships, our principal ship manager, on the other hand. As a result of these conflicts, CMA Ships may favor its own or its parent company's interests over our interests. These conflicts may have unfavorable consequences for us. Although our ship management agreements expressly prohibit CMA Ships from giving preferential treatment when performing any of its ship management services to any other vessel that is affiliated with it, or otherwise controlled by CMA CGM, conflicts of interest may arise between us, and CMA Ships as ship manager and CMA CGM as charterer. These risks may be exacerbated in the event that CMA CGM elects to exert more influence in the management of our business through its nominated board representation, acquiring additional shares of our common stock or otherwise.

Our financial reporting is dependent on CMA Ships.

Under the ship management agreements with CMA Ships, CMA Ships is obliged to provide us with requisite financial information on a timely basis so that we can meet our own reporting obligations under U.S. securities laws. CMA Ships and its parent company CMA CGM are privately held corporations with financial reporting arrangements different from ours. If CMA Ships or any of its affiliates is delayed in providing us with key financial information, we could fail to meet our financial reporting deadlines, which could lead to regulatory sanctions being imposed on us and cause us to default on reporting covenants under our financing agreements. Any such results may have a material adverse effect on our results of operation, financial condition and reputation.

CMA CGM could compete with us.

Along with many other vessel-owning companies, CMA CGM, currently our principal charterer and largest holder of our common shares, could compete with us for the purchase of vessels. Further, CMA CGM is not precluded from acting as an owner in the direct chartering market. While we understand that CMA CGM currently has no intention of becoming such an owner, competition from CMA CGM may potentially harm our ability to grow the business and may decrease our results of operations.

Certain terms in our agreements with CMA CGM and its affiliates may be the result of negotiations that were not conducted at arms-length and may not reflect market standard terms. In addition, they may include terms that may not be obtained from future negotiations with unaffiliated third parties.

The initial charters, the ship management agreements and the other contractual agreements, including the terms of the Series A preferred shares and the subsequent agreement to redeem these in August 2014, we have entered into with CMA CGM and its wholly owned subsidiaries were made during an affiliated relationship in the context of a previously contemplated public offering of our Class A common shares in 2007, the Merger in August 2008 and other related transactions. New charters, now expired, that came into effect on the expiration of the initial charters in September 2012 for Ville d' Aquarius and Ville d' Orion were also agreed with CMA CGM, a significant shareholder and related party. Further, we agreed with CMA CGM, with effect from February 1, 2014, to extend by three years the charters on four other vessels at a lower on-going daily charter rate. Our agreements with CMA CGM may include terms that could not have been obtained from arms-length negotiations with unaffiliated third parties for similar services and assets. As a result, our future operating results may be negatively affected if we do not receive terms as favorable in future negotiations with unaffiliated third parties.

Our growth depends on our ability to purchase further vessels, obtain new charters and maintain our relationship with CMA CGM. We will require additional financing to be able to grow and will face substantial competition.

One of our objectives is to grow by acquiring additional vessels and chartering them out to container shipping companies potentially including CMA CGM. Acquisition of vessels will be challenging as, inter alia, we may need to obtain additional financing in order to complete vessel purchases. Due to the continuing effects of the economic downturn and the severe cyclical downturn in the container shipping industry, financing for investment in containerships, whether newbuildings or existing vessels, is severely limited. Further, the cost of any available financing has increased significantly. In addition, in recent years, the number of lenders for shipping companies has decreased and lenders have generally lowered their loan-to-value advance ratios, shortened loan terms and accelerated repayment schedules. The actual or perceived credit quality of our charterers and proposed charterers, and any defaults by them, may materially affect our ability to obtain the additional capital resources that we will require to purchase additional vessels or may significantly increase our costs of obtaining such capital. These factors may hinder our ability to access financing and we may be unable to obtain adequate funding for growth.

The process of obtaining further vessels and new charters is highly competitive. The purchase of vessels and gaining of new charters depends on a variety of factors relating to the vessel owner, including:

- competitiveness of overall price;

Table of Contents

- availability of committed financing;
- containership leasing experience and quality of ship operations (including cost effectiveness);
- shipping industry relationships and reputation for reliability, customer service and safety;
- quality and experience of seafaring crew;
- ability to finance containerships at competitive rates and financial stability generally;
- relationships with shipyards and the ability to get suitable berths for newbuildings; and
- construction management experience, including the ability to obtain on-time delivery of new vessels according to customer specifications.

We will face substantial competition in expanding our business from a number of experienced companies. Many of these competitors may have greater financial resources than us, may also operate larger fleets, may have been established for longer and may be able to offer better charter rates. During any industry downturn there are an increased number of vessels available for charter, including many from owners with strong reputations and experience. Excess supply of vessels results in greater price competition for charters. As a result of these factors, we may be unable to purchase additional containerships, expand our relationships with CMA CGM or to obtain new charters on a profitable basis, if at all, which would have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

We may be unable to recharter our vessels at profitable rates, if at all, upon their time charter expiry.

The time charters for two of our 19 containerships can be terminated on 30 days' notice and will in any case expire no later than June 3, 2015 and July 17, 2015. While we generally expect to be able to obtain new time charters for our vessels within a reasonable period prior to their expiry, we cannot be assured that this will occur in any particular case, or at all. In addition, the supply/demand balance for containerships has been under pressure since late 2008 with, from time to time, a significant number of vessels idle and charter rates in the spot market depressed and we may not be able to secure charter rates at the same level as the current time charters. If we are unable to obtain new time charters for these containerships at favorable rates or are unable to secure new charters, in which case the vessels would be idle and we would continue to incur certain operating costs but earn no revenue, at all it could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Our substantial indebtedness could adversely affect our ability to raise additional capital to fund our operations and limit our ability to react to changes in the economy or our industry.

We are highly leveraged. As at December 31, 2014, we had \$420.0 million of secured indebtedness outstanding (all of which is represented by our notes) and we had availability of \$40.0 million under our senior secured revolving credit facility (the "revolving credit facility"). The revolving credit facility was drawn in full to partly fund the purchase of our 19th vessel on March 11, 2015.

Our high degree of leverage could have important consequences, including:

- increasing our vulnerability to adverse economic, industry or competitive developments;
- requiring a substantial portion of our cash flows from operations to be dedicated to the payment of interest on our indebtedness and up to \$20.0 million to repurchase notes under the Excess Cash Flow offer, therefore reducing our ability to use our cash flows to fund operations, capital expenditure and future business opportunities;
- making it more difficult for us to satisfy our obligations with respect to our indebtedness, including the revolving credit facility and notes, and any failure to comply with the obligations of any of our debt instruments, including restrictive covenants and borrowing conditions, could result in an event of default under the indenture governing the notes and the agreements governing such other indebtedness;

Table of Contents

- restricting us from making strategic acquisitions or causing us to make non-strategic divestitures;
- limiting our ability to obtain additional financing for working capital, capital expenditures, debt service requirements, acquisitions and general corporate or other purposes; and
- limiting our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business or market conditions and placing us at a competitive disadvantage compared to our competitors who are less highly leveraged and who, therefore, may be able to take advantage of opportunities that our leverage may prevent us from exploiting.

Despite our indebtedness levels, we may be able to incur substantially more indebtedness. This could further exacerbate the risks associated with our substantial indebtedness.

We may be able to incur substantial additional indebtedness in the future. Although the indenture governing the notes and our revolving credit facility contain restrictions on the incurrence of additional indebtedness, these restrictions are subject to a number of significant qualifications and exceptions, and under certain circumstances, the amount of indebtedness that could be incurred in compliance with these restrictions could be substantial. In addition, the indenture governing the notes and our revolving credit facility will not prevent us from incurring obligations that do not constitute indebtedness thereunder. Our covenants also permit us to incur substantial non-recourse indebtedness in subsidiaries that do not guarantee our obligations under our notes.

Our debt agreements contain restrictions that limit our flexibility in operating our business.

The indenture governing the notes and our revolving credit facility contain various covenants that limit our ability to engage in specified types of transactions. These covenants limit our ability and the ability of our restricted subsidiaries to, among other things:

- incur additional indebtedness or issue certain preferred stock;
- pay dividends on, redeem or repurchase capital stock or make other restricted payments and investments;
- create certain liens;
- transfer or sell assets;
- enter into certain transactions with affiliates;
- merge, consolidate or sell all or substantially all of our properties and assets;
- create or designate unrestricted subsidiaries; and
- impair the security interests.

In addition, the restrictive covenants in the revolving credit facility require us to satisfy certain financial condition tests at the risk of default or reduction and cancellation of certain commitments under the revolving credit facility. Our ability to meet those financial ratios and tests will depend on our ongoing financial and operating performance, which, in turn, will be subject to economic conditions and to financial, market, and competitive factors, many of which are beyond our control.

[Table of Contents](#)

Due to the restrictive covenants under our revolving credit facility, we may need to seek consent from our lenders in order to engage in some corporate and commercial actions that we believe would be in the best interest of our business, and a denial of consent may make it difficult for us to successfully execute our business strategy or effectively compete with companies that are not similarly restricted. Our lenders' interests may be different from our interests, and we cannot guarantee that we will be able to obtain our lenders' permission when needed. This may prevent us from taking actions that are in our best interest. Any future agreements governing our indebtedness may include similar or more restrictive restrictions.

A breach of any of these covenants could result in a default under one or more of these agreements, including as a result of cross default provisions, and, in the case of our revolving credit facility, permit the lenders to cease making loans to us. Upon the occurrence of an event of default under our revolving credit facility, the lenders could elect to declare all amounts outstanding under our revolving credit facility to be immediately due and payable. Such actions by the lenders could cause cross defaults under the indenture governing our notes.

Substantially all of the assets currently owned by us serve as security under our revolving credit facility and for our notes. If our operating performance declines, we may be required to obtain waivers from the holders of our notes and the lenders under the revolving credit facility to avoid default thereunder. If we are not able to obtain a waiver from the holders of our notes and the lenders under the revolving credit facility, the lenders could exercise their rights upon default and we could be forced into bankruptcy or liquidation.

The vessels' mortgagor or other maritime claimants could arrest our vessels, which could interrupt the charterer's or our cash flow.

If we default under our revolving credit facility or on our notes, our lenders under our revolving credit facility and/or holders of our notes who hold mortgages on our vessels could arrest some or all of our vessels and cause them to be sold. We would not receive any proceeds of such sale unless all amounts outstanding under such indebtedness had been repaid in full. Crew members, suppliers of goods and services to a vessel, shippers of cargo and other parties may be entitled to a maritime lien against that vessel for unsatisfied debts, claims or damages. In many jurisdictions, a maritime lien holder may enforce its lien by arresting a vessel through foreclosure proceedings. The arrest or attachment of one or more of our vessels, for valid or invalid reasons, could interrupt the charterer's or our cash flow and require the charterer or us or our insurance to pay a significant amount to have the arrest lifted. In addition, in some jurisdictions, such as South Africa, under the "sister ship" theory of liability, a claimant may arrest both the vessel that is subject to the claimant's maritime lien and any "associated" vessel, which is any vessel owned or controlled by the same owner. Claimants could try to assert "sister ship" liability against one vessel in our fleet for claims relating to another vessel in our fleet. In any event, any lien imposed may adversely affect our results of operations by delaying the revenue gained from ships.

Vessel values may fluctuate, which may adversely affect our financial condition, result in the incurrence of a loss upon disposal of a vessel or increase the cost of acquiring additional vessels.

Vessel values may fluctuate due to a number of different factors, including:

- general economic and market conditions affecting the shipping industry;
- the types, sizes and demand for available vessels;
- the availability of other modes of transportation;
- increases in the supply of vessel capacity;
- the cost of newbuildings;
- governmental or other regulations; and

[Table of Contents](#)

- the need to upgrade second hand and previously owned vessels as a result of charterer requirements, technological advances in vessel design or equipment, or otherwise.

In addition, as vessels grow older, they generally decline in value. Due to the cyclical nature of the container market, if for any reason we sell any of our owned vessels at a time when prices are depressed, we could incur a loss and our business, results of operations, cash flow and financial condition could be adversely affected. Additionally, under our current time charter agreements with CMA CGM, the charterer has a right of first refusal should we decide to sell the vessel during or at the end of the charter period. If they do not exercise this right, we are entitled to sell the vessel, subject to their prior approval, which cannot be unreasonably withheld. We may be forced to sell our vessels for a lesser amount because of these constraints. Moreover, if the book value of a vessel is impaired due to unfavorable market conditions we may incur a loss that could adversely affect our operating results.

Conversely, if vessel values are elevated at a time when we wish to acquire additional vessels, the cost of acquisition may increase and this could adversely affect our business, results of operations, cash flow and financial condition.

Our vessels may be subject to extended periods of off-hire, which could materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Under the time charters for our vessels, when the vessel is not available for service, it will likely be “off-hire,” and the charterer is generally not required to pay hire, and we will be responsible for all costs unless the charterer is responsible for the circumstances giving rise to the lack of availability. A vessel generally will be deemed to be off-hire if there is an occurrence that affects the full working condition of the vessel, such as:

- any drydocking for repairs, maintenance or classification society inspection;
- any damage, defect, breakdown or deficiency of the ship’s hull, machinery or equipment or repairs or maintenance thereto;
- any deficiency of the ship’s master, officers and/or crew, including the failure, refusal or inability of the ship’s master, officers and/or crew to perform the service immediately required, whether or not within its control;
- its deviation, other than to save life or property, which results in charterer’s lost time;
- crewing labor boycotts or certain vessel arrests;
- our failure to maintain the vessel in compliance with the charter’s requirements, such as maintaining operational certificates.
- the vessel’s declared performance speed is reduced or fuel consumption is increased by more than 5% over a specified period of time; or
- the vessel is requisitioned by any government or governmental authority.

Additionally, the charterer may have the right to terminate the charter agreement under a number of circumstances, such as, if:

- the vessel is off-hire for a specified number of days, in the case of our charters with CMA CGM more than 90 consecutive days, and the vessel is free of cargo;
- the charterer informs us of a default under the charter, and the default is not rectified, in the case of our charters with CMA CGM, within 60 days of such notice;

Table of Contents

- there is a total (actual or constructive) loss of the vessel;
- the vessel is requisitioned by any government or governmental authority; or
- a vessel's declared performance speed is reduced or fuel consumption increased in excess of 10% over a continuous period of 30 days, and the reason is within our or the vessel's control.

We may be unable to make or realize expected benefits from acquisitions of vessels or container shipping-related assets, and implementing our growth strategy through acquisitions which may harm our business, financial condition and operating results.

Our growth strategy includes, among other things, selectively acquiring secondhand and, potentially, newbuilding vessels and we may also seek to diversify our asset base by acquiring containers and other container shipping-related assets if an attractive investment opportunity presents itself in the future. Growing any business through acquisition presents numerous risks, such as undisclosed liabilities and obligations, the possibility that indemnification agreements will be unenforceable or insufficient to cover potential losses and obtaining the necessary resources to manage an enlarged business. We cannot give any assurance that we will be successful in executing our growth plans, that we will be able to employ any acquired vessels under long-term charters, that we will be able to purchase secondhand vessels or newbuildings at satisfactory prices or obtain ship management agreements with similar or better terms than those we have obtained from CMA Ships, that we will be able to purchase containers and subsequently lease them out at satisfactory prices or that we will not incur significant expenses and losses in connection with our future growth.

Factors that may limit our ability to acquire additional vessels and container shipping-related assets include competition from other owners and lessors, availability of financing, shipyard capacity for newbuildings and the limited number of modern vessels with appropriate characteristics not already subject to existing long-term or other charters. Competition from other purchasers could reduce our acquisition opportunities or cause us to pay higher prices.

Any acquisition of a vessel or container shipping-related assets may not be profitable to us and may not generate cash flow sufficient to justify our investment. In addition, our acquisition growth strategy exposes us to risks that may harm our business, financial condition and operating results, including risks that we may:

- fail to obtain financing, ship management agreements and charters on acceptable terms;
- be unable, including through our ship managers, to hire, train or retain qualified shore and seafaring personnel to manage and operate our enlarged business and fleet;
- fail to realize anticipated benefits of cost savings or cash flow enhancements;
- decrease our liquidity by using a significant portion of our available cash or borrowing capacity to finance acquisitions or by additional repayments of debt;
- significantly increase our interest expense or financial leverage if we incur additional debt to finance acquisitions; or
- incur or assume unanticipated liabilities, losses or costs associated with the vessels acquired.

Should we expand our business or provide services to third parties, we may need to improve our operating and financial systems, expand our commercial and technical management staff, and recruit suitable employees and crew for our vessels.

Our current operating and financial systems may not be adequate if we expand the size of our fleet or begin to lease containers, and attempts to improve those systems may be ineffective. In addition, we may need to recruit suitable additional administrative and management personnel to manage any growth. We may not be able to

[Table of Contents](#)

continue to hire suitable employees in such circumstances. If a shortage of experienced labor exists or if we encounter business or financial difficulties, we may not be able to adequately staff our vessels. If we expand our fleet, or begin to lease containers, and we are unable to grow our financial and operating systems or to recruit suitable employees, our business, results of operations and financial condition may be harmed.

We are exposed to risks associated with the purchase and operation of secondhand vessels.

Secondhand vessels typically do not carry warranties as to their condition at the time of acquisition. While we would generally inspect secondhand containerhips prior to purchase, such an inspection would normally not provide us with as much knowledge of the vessel's condition as if it had been built for and operated by us during its life. Future repairs and maintenance costs for secondhand vessels are difficult to predict and may be substantially higher than for equivalent vessels of which we have had direct experience. These additional costs could decrease our cash flow and reduce our liquidity. There can be no assurance that market conditions will justify such expenditures or enable us to operate our vessels profitably during the remainder of the economic lives of such vessels.

We may not perform underwater inspections of vessels prior to purchase.

Although we would perform physical inspections of any vessel prior to its purchase, it may not be possible for us to undertake any underwater inspections. As a result, we will not be aware of any damage to a vessel that may have existed at the time of purchase and which could only be discovered through an underwater inspection. However, if any damage is subsequently found, we could incur substantial costs to repair the damage which would not be recoverable from the sellers.

Our ability to grow may be reduced by the introduction of new accounting rules for leasing.

International and U.S. accounting standard-setting organizations have proposed the elimination of allowing operating leases to not be recorded on the balance sheet. The proposals are still under discussion. The date for implementation is now unlikely to be before 2017. If the proposals are adopted as currently proposed, they would have the effect of bringing most off-balance sheet operating leases, including time charters, onto a lessee's balance sheet as liabilities. This proposed change could affect charterers by causing them to breach certain financial covenants. This may make them less likely to enter into time charters for our containerhips, which could reduce our growth opportunities.

We must make substantial expenditures to maintain our fleet and to acquire vessels.

We must make substantial expenditures to maintain our fleet and we generally expect to finance these maintenance expenditures from operating cashflow. In addition, we will need to make substantial capital expenditures to acquire vessels in accordance with our growth strategy. Further, we may be obliged to incur substantial expenditure to become compliant with changes in the regulatory environment, particularly concerning clean air and ballast water. Maintenance expenditures could increase as a result of, among other things, the cost of labor and materials, customer requirements and governmental regulations and maritime self-regulatory organization standards relating to safety, security or the environment. If we are unable to generate sufficient operating cash flow, we will need to fund these significant expenditures, including those required to maintain our fleet, with borrowings under our revolving credit facility or otherwise find alternative sources of financing. Such alternatives may not be available on economic terms or at all.

As our fleet ages, we may incur increased operating costs, which would adversely affect our earnings.

In general, the day-to-day cost of operating and maintaining a vessel increases with age. In addition, older vessels are typically less fuel efficient and may attract lower charter rates compared to modern more fuel efficient vessels. Governmental regulations and safety or other equipment standards may also require expenditures for modifications or the addition of new equipment and may restrict the type of activities in which our vessels may engage. We cannot assure you that, as our vessels age, market conditions will justify any such expenditures or expenditures to otherwise improve their operating characteristics, such as fuel efficiency to enable us to operate our vessels profitably during the remainder of their useful lives. Our fleet of 18 vessels as at December 31, 2014 had an average age weighted by TEU capacity of 10.7 years.

[Table of Contents](#)

Unless we set aside reserves or are able to borrow funds for vessel replacement, at the end of the useful lives of our vessels our revenue will decline, which would adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Our fleet of 18 containerships as at December 31, 2014, had an average age weighted by TEU capacity of 10.7 years. Unless we maintain reserves or are able to borrow or raise funds for vessel replacement we will be unable to replace the older vessels in our fleet. Our cash flows and income are dependent on the revenues earned by the chartering of our containerships. The inability to replace the vessels in our fleet upon the expiration of their useful lives could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. Any reserves set aside by any of our subsidiaries for vessel replacement will not be available for servicing our indebtedness.

Our business depends upon certain individuals who may not necessarily continue to be affiliated with us.

Our current performance and future success depend to a significant extent upon our Chief Executive Officer, Ian J. Webber, our Chief Financial Officer, Susan J. Cook, our Chief Commercial Officer, Thomas A. Lister and our Chief Technical Officer, Vivek Puri. Mr. Webber, Ms. Cook, Mr. Lister and Mr. Puri have over 100 years of cumulative experience in the shipping industry and have worked with several of the world's largest shipping, ship leasing and ship management companies. They and members of the board of directors are crucial to the execution of our business strategies and to the growth and development of our business. If these individuals were no longer to be affiliated with us, or if we were to otherwise cease to receive advisory services from them, we may be unable to recruit other employees with equivalent talent and experience, and our business and financial condition may suffer as a result.

Rising crew and other vessel operating costs may adversely affect our profits.

Acquiring and renewing long-term time charters with leading liner companies depends on a number of factors, including our ability to man our containerships with suitably experienced, high quality masters, officers and crews. In recent years, the limited supply of and increased demand for well-qualified crew, due to the increase in the size of the global shipping fleet, has created upward pressure on crewing costs, which we generally bear under our time charters. Increases in crew costs and other vessel operating costs such as insurance, repairs and maintenance, and lubricants may adversely affect our profitability. In addition, if we cannot retain a sufficient number of high quality onboard seafaring personnel, our fleet utilization will decrease, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Increased fuel prices may have an adverse effect on our profits.

The cost of fuel is a significant factor in negotiating charter rates and can affect us in both directly and indirectly. The cost of fuel will be borne by us if our containerships are being positioned between charters or are employed on voyage charters or contracts of affreightment. We currently have no voyage charters or contracts of affreightment, but we may enter into such arrangements in the future, and to the extent we do so, an increase in the price of fuel beyond our expectations may adversely affect our profitability. We also bear the cost of fuel associated with dry-dockings and when a vessel is off-hire. Even where the cost of fuel is borne by the charterer, which is the case with all of our existing time charters, that cost will affect the level of charter rates that charterers are prepared to pay, depending in part of the fuel efficiency of a particular vessel.

The price of fuel is unpredictable and fluctuates based on events outside our control, including but not limited to geo-political developments, supply and demand for oil, actions by members of the OPEC and other oil and gas producers, economic or other sanctions levied against oil and gas producing countries, war and unrest in oil producing countries and regions, regional production patterns and environmental concerns and regulations.

[Table of Contents](#)

We are a holding company and we depend on the ability of our subsidiaries to distribute funds to us in order to satisfy our financial and other obligations.

We are a holding company and have no significant assets other than the equity interests in our subsidiaries. Our subsidiaries own all of the vessels and payments under charters are made to them. As a result, our ability to pay dividends and meet any debt service obligations and other liabilities depends on the performance of our subsidiaries and their ability to distribute funds to us. The ability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends or make other distributions or payments to us will be subject to the availability of profits or funds for such purpose which, in turn, will depend on the future performance of the subsidiary concerned which, to a certain extent, is subject to general economic, financial, competitive, legislative, regulatory and other factors that may be beyond its control. Additionally, the ability of our subsidiaries to make these distributions could be affected by a claim or other action by a third party, including a creditor, or by English, Marshall Islands, Cypriot or Hong Kong law or the laws of any jurisdiction which regulates the payment of dividends by companies. Applicable tax laws may also subject such payments to further taxation. Applicable law may also limit the amounts that some of our subsidiaries will be permitted to pay as dividends or distributions on their equity interests, or even prevent such payments. Limitations on our ability to transfer cash among and within our group may mean that even though we, in aggregate, may have sufficient resources to meet our obligations, we may not be permitted to make the necessary transfers from one entity in our group to another entity in our group in order to make payments on our obligations. Therefore, if we are unable to obtain funds from our subsidiaries, we may not be able to pay dividends, including on our preferred shares, or meet our debt service obligations or our other liabilities.

Because we generate all of our revenues in U.S. dollars but incur a portion of our expenses in other currencies, exchange rate fluctuations could hurt our results of operations.

We generate all of our revenues in U.S. dollars and some of our expenses are denominated in currencies other than U.S. dollars. This currency mismatch could lead to fluctuations in net income due to changes in the value of the U.S. dollar relative to other currencies. Expenses incurred in foreign currencies against which the U.S. dollar falls in value could increase, thereby decreasing our net income. We have not hedged any of this exposure and our U.S. dollar denominated results of operations and financial condition and ability to pay dividends could suffer from adverse currency exchange rate movements. Future declines in the U.S. dollar versus other currencies could have a material effect on our operating expenses and net income.

Our insurance may be insufficient to cover losses that may occur to our property or result from our operations.

The shipping industry has inherent operational risks. Although we carry hull and machinery insurance, war risks insurance and protection and indemnity insurance (which includes coverage for environmental damage and pollution) and other insurances commonly used by vessel owners, we may not be adequately insured against all risks or our insurers may not pay every claim. Even if our insurance coverage is adequate to cover our losses, we may not be able to obtain a replacement vessel in the event of a total or constructive total loss in a timely manner. Further, under our revolving credit facility and the indenture that governs our notes, we are subject to restrictions on the use of any proceeds we may receive under claims in the event of a total or constructive total loss. Furthermore, in the future, we may not be able to obtain adequate insurance coverage at reasonable rates for our fleet. 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. In addition, insurers typically charge additional premiums if vessels transit certain "excluded areas" which may be subject to higher risk of piracy, war or terrorism. We cannot be certain that our insurers will continue to provide such cover, or that we will be able to recover these increased costs from our charterers. Our insurance policies also contain deductibles, limitations and exclusions which, although we believe are standard in the shipping industry, may nevertheless increase our costs.

In addition, we do not presently carry loss-of-hire insurance, which covers the loss of revenue during extended vessel off-hire periods, such as those that might occur during an unscheduled drydocking due to damage to the vessel from a major accident. Accordingly, any vessel that is off-hire for an extended period of time, due to an accident or otherwise, could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

We cannot assure you if and when we will resume paying dividends on our common shares.

We have not paid dividends on our common shares since March 2009. Subject to the limitations contained in our revolving credit facility, the indenture governing our notes and other contractual obligations, we may resume the distribution of a portion of our cash flow to our shareholders, while retaining the remaining cash flow for reinvestment in our business, to fund vessel or fleet acquisitions, make debt repayments and for other purposes, as determined by our board of directors. The timing and amount of any dividends declared will depend on, among other things (a) our earnings, financial condition, cash flow and cash requirements, (b) our liquidity, including our ability to obtain debt and equity financing on acceptable terms as contemplated by our vessel acquisition strategy, (c) restrictive covenants in our existing and future debt instruments and (d) provisions of Marshall Islands law. The declaration and payment of dividends is also subject at all times to the discretion of our board of directors.

The international containership and containership leasing industry is highly volatile, and we cannot predict with certainty the amount of cash, if any, that will be available for distribution as dividends in any period. Also, there may be a high degree of variability from period to period in the amount of cash, if any, that is available for the payment of dividends. The amount of cash we generate from operations and the actual amount of cash we will have available for dividends will vary based upon, among other things:

- the charter-hire payments we obtain from our charters as well as the rates obtained upon the expiration of our existing charters;
- acquisition of additional vessels;
- delays in the delivery of newbuilding vessels, if any, and the beginning of payments under charters relating to those vessels;
- the level of our operating costs, such as the costs of crews, lubricants and insurance;
- the number of unscheduled off-hire days for our fleet and the timing of, and number of days required for, scheduled dry-docking of our containerships;
- any idle time after one charter expires and a new charter is agreed or the vessel is disposed of, should a new charter not be agreed;
- unexpected repairs to, or required expenditures on, vessels or dry-docking costs in excess of those anticipated;
- the loss of a vessel;
- prevailing global and regional economic and political conditions;
- changes in interest rates;
- the effect of governmental regulations and maritime self-regulatory organization standards on the conduct of our business;
- changes in the basis of taxation of our activities in various jurisdictions;
- modification or revocation of our dividend policy by our board of directors; and
- the amount of any cash reserves established by our board of directors.

[Table of Contents](#)

The amount of cash we generate from our operations may differ materially from our net income or loss for the period, which will be affected by non-cash items. We may incur other expenses or liabilities that could reduce or eliminate the cash available for distribution as dividends.

In addition, Marshall Islands law generally prohibits the payment of dividends other than from surplus (retained earnings and the excess of consideration received from the sale of shares above the par value of the shares) or if there is no surplus, from the net profits for the current and prior fiscal years, or while a company is insolvent or if it would be rendered insolvent by the payment of such a dividend. We may not have sufficient surplus or net profits in the future to pay dividends, and our subsidiaries may not have sufficient funds, surplus or net profits to make distributions to us. As a result of these and other factors, we may be able to pay dividends during periods when we record losses and may not pay dividends during periods when we record net income. We can give no assurance that dividends will be paid in the future.

We are incorporated in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, which does not have a well-developed body of corporate law.

Our corporate affairs are governed by our articles of incorporation and bylaws and by the Business Corporations Act of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or BCA. The provisions of the BCA resemble provisions of the corporation laws of a number of states in the U.S. However, there have been very few judicial cases in the Republic of the Marshall Islands interpreting the BCA. The rights and fiduciary responsibilities of directors under the law of the Republic of the Marshall Islands are not as clearly established as the rights and fiduciary responsibilities of directors under statutes or judicial precedent in existence in certain U.S. jurisdictions. Shareholder rights may differ as well. While the BCA does specifically incorporate the non-statutory law, or judicial case law, of the State of Delaware and other states with substantially similar legislative provisions, our shareholders may have more difficulty in protecting their interests in the face of actions by the management, directors or controlling shareholders than would shareholders of a corporation incorporated in a U.S. jurisdiction.

Risks Relating to Our Industry

Our growth and long term profitability depend mainly upon growth in demand for containerships, the condition of the charter market and the availability of capital. The container shipping industry is cyclical and volatile. It experienced a severe cyclical downturn from mid-2008 through 2009, favorable conditions in 2010 and a further severe downturn in 2011 with over supply of capacity, although less acute, continuing to date.

Container shipping is a cyclical industry, with the demand for container shipping services and therefor the demand for container ships, driven by global trade. Between 1997 and 2007 containerized trade exhibited compound annual growth of approximately 10.0%, with a period of super-cyclical growth from 2002 to mid-2008 fuelled partly by exports from China. The global financial crisis, from late 2008, contributed to a contraction of demand for the first time in the history of containerization, with 2009 volumes falling by 9%. In 2010 demand rebounded, with volume growth of almost 13%. During 2011, macroeconomic sentiment softened and containerized trade growth slowed to approximately 7.0%. In 2012, 2013 and 2014 containerized trade is estimated to have grown, year-on-year, by 3.0%, 4.9% and 6.0%, respectively.

Weak conditions in the containership sector may affect our ability to generate cash flows and maintain liquidity, as well as adversely affect our ability to obtain financing.

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

The factors that influence demand for containership capacity include:

- supply and demand for products suitable for shipping in containers;
- changes in the pattern of global production of products transported by containerships;
- the globalization of manufacturing;

Table of Contents

- global and regional economic and political conditions;
- developments in international trade;
- changes in seaborne and other transportation patterns, including changes in the distances over which container cargoes are transported, the size of containerships, the extent of trans-shipments and the competitiveness of other forms of marine transportation including dry bulk and refrigerated vessels;
- environmental and other legal and regulatory developments;
- the price of oil and economics of slow steaming;
- the availability of trade finance and currency exchange rates; and
- port and canal congestion.

The factors that influence the supply of containership capacity include:

- the containership newbuilding orderbook;
- the availability of financing;
- the scrapping rate of older containerships;
- the number of containerships off-hire or otherwise idle including laid-up;
- the price of steel and other raw materials;
- changes in environmental and other laws and regulations that may limit the useful life of containerships;
- the availability of shipyard capacity;
- port and canal congestion; and
- the extent of slow steaming.

Our ability to recharter our containerships upon the expiration or termination of their current charters, which for two vessels can be terminated on 30 days' notice and will in any case expire no later than June 3, 2015 and July 17, 2015, and the charter rates receivable under any renewal or replacement charters will depend upon, among other things, the prevailing state of the containership charter market. If the charter market is depressed when our charters expire, we may be forced to recharter our containerships at reduced or even unprofitable rates, or we may not be able to recharter them at all, which may reduce or eliminate our earnings or make our earnings volatile. The same issues will exist in respect of any additional vessels we may acquire either when obtaining the initial charters or on rechartering at their expiry.

Weak economic conditions throughout the world, particularly the Asia Pacific region and recent EU sovereign debt default fears, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Negative trends in the global economy emerged in 2008 and continued into 2009, and although there has been some improvement from 2010, the global economy remains fragile. The global economy is still subject to downside risks stemming from factors like fiscal fragility in advanced economies, highly accommodative macroeconomic policies and persistent difficulties in access to credit. In particular, recent concerns regarding the

[Table of Contents](#)

possibility of sovereign debt defaults by European Union member countries, including Cyprus, Greece, Ireland and Portugal, have significantly weakened the Euro zone, disrupted financial markets throughout the world, and may lead to weaker consumer demand in the European Union, the U.S., and other parts of the world. The deterioration in the global economy has caused, and may continue to cause, a decrease in worldwide demand for certain goods shipped in containerized form.

We anticipate that a significant number of port calls made by our containerships will continue to involve the loading or unloading of container cargoes in ports in the Asia Pacific region. In recent years, China has been one of the world's fastest growing economies in terms of gross domestic product, which has had a significant impact on shipping demand. However, if China's growth in gross domestic product declines and other countries in the Asia Pacific region experience slowed or negative economic growth in the future, then this may exacerbate the effect of the significant downturns in the economies of the U.S. and the European Union, and thus, may negatively impact container shipping demand. For example, the possibility of sovereign debt defaults by European Union member countries, including Cyprus, Greece, Ireland and Portugal, and the possibility of market reforms to float the Chinese Renminbi, either of which development could weaken the Euro against the Chinese Renminbi, could adversely affect consumer demand in the European Union. Such weak economic conditions could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Disruptions in world financial markets and the resulting governmental action in the U.S. and in other parts of the world could have a material adverse impact on our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

The U.S. and other parts of the world, including the Euro zone, have exhibited very weak economic trends at times since 2008 and certain parts of the world continue to show weak economic conditions. The credit markets in the U.S. and elsewhere have, from time to time, experienced significant contraction, deleveraging and reduced liquidity, and the U.S. federal government and state and other governments have implemented and are also considering a broad variety of governmental action and/or new regulation of the financial markets. Securities and futures markets and the credit markets are subject to comprehensive statutes, regulations and other requirements. The U.S. SEC, other regulators, self-regulatory organizations and exchanges are authorized to take extraordinary actions in the event of market emergencies, and may effect changes in law or interpretations of existing laws.

Global financial markets and economic conditions have been severely disrupted and volatile at times in recent years and remain subject to significant vulnerabilities, such as the deterioration of fiscal balances and the rapid accumulation of public debt, continued deleveraging in the banking sector and limited supply of credit. Credit markets and the debt and equity capital markets have been exceedingly distressed and volatile. The sovereign debt crisis in countries such as Cyprus and Greece, for example, and concerns over debt levels of certain other European Union member states and other countries around the world, as well as concerns about some international banks, has increased volatility in global credit and equity markets. These issues, along with the re-pricing of credit risk and the difficulties currently experienced by financial institutions have made, and will likely continue to make, it difficult to obtain financing. As a result of the disruptions in the credit markets, many lenders have increased margins, enacted tighter lending standards, required more restrictive terms (including higher collateral ratios for advances, shorter maturities and smaller loan amounts), or refused to refinance existing debt at all or on terms similar to our current debt. Furthermore, certain banks that have historically been significant lenders to the shipping industry have announced an intention to reduce or cease lending activities in the shipping industry. New banking regulations, including larger capital requirements and the resulting policies adopted by lenders, could reduce lending activities. We may experience difficulties obtaining financing commitments in the future if current or future lenders are unwilling to extend financing to us or unable to meet their funding obligations due to their own liquidity, capital or solvency issues.

We cannot be certain that financing will be available on acceptable terms or at all. If financing is not available when needed, or is available only on unfavorable terms, we may be unable to meet our future obligations as they come due. Our failure to obtain such funds could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition, as well as our cash flows, including cash available for dividends to our shareholders. In the absence of available financing, we also may be unable to take advantage of business opportunities or respond to competitive pressures.

[Table of Contents](#)

A decrease in the level of China's export of goods or an increase in trade protectionism could have a material adverse impact on our charterer's business and, in turn, could cause a material adverse impact on our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

China exports considerably more goods than it imports. Our containerships are deployed on routes involving containerized trade in and out of emerging markets, and our charterer's container shipping and business revenue may be derived from the shipment of goods from the Asia Pacific region to various overseas export markets including the U.S. and Europe. Any reduction in or hindrance to the output of China based exporters could have a material adverse effect on the growth rate of China's exports and on our charterers' business. For instance, the government of China has implemented economic policies aimed at increasing domestic consumption of Chinese made goods. This may have the effect of reducing the supply of goods available for export and may, in turn, result in a decrease of demand for container shipping. Additionally, though in China there is an increasing level of autonomy and a gradual shift in emphasis to a "market economy" and enterprise reform, many of the reforms, particularly some limited price reforms that result in the prices for certain commodities being principally determined by market forces, are unprecedented or experimental and may be subject to revision, change or abolition. Furthermore, if China was to permit the Renminbi to float to a free market rate of exchange, it is widely anticipated that the Renminbi would appreciate significantly in value against the U.S. dollar. An increase in the value of the Renminbi may negatively impact the U.S.' demand for imported goods, many of which are shipped in containerized form. The level of imports to and exports from China could be adversely affected by changes to these economic reforms by the Chinese government, as well as by changes in political, economic and social conditions or other relevant policies of the Chinese government.

Our operations expose us to the risk that increased trade protectionism will adversely affect our business. If the incipient global recovery is undermined by downside risks and the recent economic downturn is prolonged, governments may turn to trade barriers to protect their domestic industries against foreign imports, thereby depressing the demand for shipping. Specifically, increasing trade protectionism in the markets that our charterer serves has caused and may continue to cause an increase in: (i) the cost of goods exported from China, (ii) the length of time required to deliver goods from China and (iii) the risks associated with exporting goods from China, as well as a decrease in the quantity of goods to be shipped.

Any increased trade barriers or restrictions on trade, especially trade with China, would have an adverse impact on our charterer's business, operating results and financial condition and could thereby affect its ability to make timely charter hire payments to us and to renew and increase the number of its time charters with us. This could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

We may incur realized and unrealized losses and impairments in connection with declining containership values and/or in connection with vessel dispositions.

Containership values can fluctuate substantially over time. Containership values have decreased significantly since late 2008 and have remained at depressed levels, generally below long term averages. A number of factors may contribute to a decrease in the market value of containerships, including:

- unfavorable economic conditions;
- a substantial or extended decline in world trade growth leading to reduced demand for container shipping services;
- increases or an over-supply in containership capacity including from new vessels on order;
- increased age;
- prevailing charter rates; and

[Table of Contents](#)

- the cost of retrofitting or modifying existing ships, as a result of technological advances in vessel design or equipment, changes in applicable environmental or other regulations or standards or otherwise.

If a charter terminates when the charter market for containerships is depressed, we may be unable to recharter the vessel at attractive rates and, rather than continue to incur costs to maintain and finance the vessel, we may seek to dispose of it. It is likely that in such circumstances asset values will also be depressed. Inability to dispose of the containership at a reasonable price could result in a loss on the vessel's sale and adversely affect our results of operations and financial condition.

Future fluctuations in charter rates and vessel values may trigger a possible impairment of our vessels as described in Item 5.A. "Operating and Financial Review and Prospects—Results of Operations—Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations—Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates."

We may have more difficulty entering into long-term charters if a more active and cheaper short-term or spot container shipping market develops.

At the expiration of our charters or if a charter terminates early for any reason or if we acquire vessels charter-free, we will need to charter or recharter our vessels. If an excess of vessels is available on the spot or short-term market at the time we are seeking to fix new long-term charters, we may have difficulty entering into such charters at profitable rates and for any term other than short term and, as a result, our cash flow may be subject to instability in the long-term. In addition, it would be more difficult to fix relatively older vessels should there be an oversupply of younger vessels on the market. A more active short-term or spot market may require us to enter into spot or short-term charters based on prevailing market rates, as opposed to long-term contracts, which could result in a decrease in our cash flow in periods when charter rates are depressed.

An over-supply of containership capacity may lead to reductions in charter hire rates and profitability.

While the size of the containership orderbook has declined over the last three years, the containership newbuilding orderbook as at December 31, 2014 represented approximately 18.4% of the total on the water fleet capacity. Further containerships are likely to be ordered. Delivery of newly built containerships will result in an increase in the size of the world containership fleet over the next few years. An over-supply of containership capacity, combined with any decline in the rate of growth in demand for containerships, would be likely to result in a reduction of charter hire rates. If such a reduction occurs when we seek to charter newbuilding vessels, our growth opportunities may be diminished. If such a reduction occurs upon the expiration or termination of our containerships' current time charters, we may only be able to recharter our containerships for reduced rates or unprofitable rates or we may not be able to recharter our containerships at all.

Increased competition in technology and innovation could reduce our charter hire income and the value of our vessels.

The charter rates and the value and operational life of a vessel are determined by a number of factors, including the vessel's efficiency, operational flexibility and physical life. Efficiency includes speed and fuel economy. Flexibility includes the ability to enter harbors, utilize related docking facilities and pass through canals and straits together with other vessel specifications such as the capacity to carry temperature controlled containers (reefers). Physical life is related to the original design and construction, maintenance and the impact of the stress of operations. If new ship designs currently promoted by shipyards as being more fuel efficient perform, or if new containerships built in future that are more efficient or flexible or have longer physical lives than our vessels, competition from these more technologically advanced containerships could adversely affect our ability to re-charter, the amount of charter-hire payments that we receive for our containerships once their current time charters expire and the resale value of our containerships. This could adversely affect our ability to service our debt or pay dividends to our stockholders.

Acts of piracy on ocean-going vessels have increased in frequency, which could adversely affect our business.

Piracy is an inherent risk in the operation of ocean-going vessels and particularly affects vessels operating in specific regions of the world such as the South China Sea, the Gulf of Aden, the Arabian Sea, off the coast of West Africa and especially off the coast of Somalia. In recent years, the frequency of piracy incidents against commercial shipping vessels has increased significantly, particularly in the Gulf of Aden and off the coasts of Somalia and West Africa. Generally, we do not control the routing of our vessels which is determined by the charterer. Pirate attacks on any of our vessels could result in loss of life, the kidnapping of crew or the theft, damage or destruction of vessels or of containers or cargo being transported thereon. In addition, while we believe the charterer remains liable for charter payments when a vessel is seized by pirates, the charterer may dispute this and withhold charter hire until the vessel is released. A charterer may also claim that a vessel seized by pirates was not “on-hire” for a certain number of days and it is therefore entitled to cancel the charter party, a claim that we would dispute. We may not be adequately insured to cover losses from these incidents, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition. In addition, insurance premiums and costs such as onboard security guards, should we decide to employ them, could increase in such circumstances. Further, acts of piracy may materially adversely affect our charterer’s business, impairing its ability to make payments to us under our charters.

Terrorist attacks and international hostilities could affect our results of operations and financial condition.

Terrorist attacks, such as the attacks on the U.S. on September 11, 2001, and in Mumbai on November 26, 2008 and the continuing response of the U.S. and other countries to these attacks, as well as the threat of future terrorist attacks, continue to cause uncertainty in the world financial markets and may affect our business, results of operations and financial condition from increased security costs and more rigorous inspection procedures at borders and ports. From time to time acts of terrorism, regional conflict and other armed conflict around the world, may contribute to further economic instability in the global financial markets. These uncertainties could also adversely affect our ability to obtain additional financing on terms acceptable to us or at all.

Terrorist attacks targeted at oceangoing vessels may also negatively affect our future operations and financial condition from, for example, increased insurance costs, and directly impact our containerships or our charterer. Future terrorist attacks could result in increased market volatility or even a recession in the U.S. or elsewhere or negatively affect global financial markets, and could further increase inspection and security requirements and regulation that could slow our operations and negatively affect our profitability. Any of these occurrences could have a material adverse impact on our operating results, revenue and costs.

Our vessels may call on ports located in countries that are subject to restrictions imposed by the U.S. government, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

From time to time on charterers’ instructions, our vessels may call on ports located in countries subject to sanctions and embargoes imposed by the U.S. government and in countries identified by the U.S. government as state sponsors of terrorism. In addition, as a result of actions taken by our charterers, we may be deemed to have engaged in financial transactions that are prohibited by such sanctions or embargoes. The U.S. sanctions and embargo laws and regulations vary in their application, as they do not all apply to the same covered persons or proscribe the same activities, and such sanctions and embargo laws and regulations may be amended or strengthened over time. In 2010, the U.S. enacted the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions Accountability and Divestment Act (“CISADA”), which amended the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996. Among other things, CISADA introduces limits on the ability of companies and persons to do business or trade with Iran when such activities relate to the investment, supply or export of refined petroleum or petroleum products. In 2012, President Obama signed Executive Order 13608 which prohibits U.S. persons from engaging in transactions or dealings with foreign individuals or entities that (1) have violated, attempted to violate, conspired to violate or caused a violation of any sanctions in effect against Iran or Syria, (2) facilitated any deceptive transactions for or on behalf of any person subject to U.S. sanctions concerning Iran or Syria, or (3) are owned or controlled by, or are acting on behalf of, any such person or entity subject to sanctions. The Secretary of the Treasury may prohibit any transactions or dealings, including any U.S. capital markets financing, involving any person found to be evading foreign sanctions under Executive Order 13608. Also in 2012, the U.S. enacted the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (the “ITRA”) which expanded the range of Iran-related activities that expose third parties to sanctions created new sanctions and

strengthened existing sanctions. Among other things, the ITRA intensifies existing sanctions regarding the provision of goods, services, infrastructure or technology to Iran's petroleum or petrochemical sector. The ITRA also includes a provision requiring the President of the U.S. to impose five or more sanctions from Section 6(a) of the Iran Sanctions Act, as amended, on a person the President determines is a controlling beneficial owner of, or otherwise owns, operates, or controls or insures a vessel that was used to transport crude oil from Iran to another country and (1) if the person is a controlling beneficial owner of the vessel, the person had actual knowledge the vessel was so used or (2) if the person otherwise owns, operates, or controls, or insures the vessel, the person knew or should have known the vessel was so used. Such a person could be subject to a variety of sanctions, including exclusion from U.S. capital markets, exclusion from financial transactions subject to U.S. jurisdiction, and exclusion of that person's vessels from U.S. ports for up to two years. The ITRA also includes a requirement that issuers of securities must disclose to the SEC in their annual and quarterly reports filed after February 6, 2013 if the issuer or "any affiliate" has "knowingly" engaged in certain sanctioned activities involving Iran during the timeframe covered by the report. Finally, in January 2013, the U.S. enacted the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012 (the "IFCPA") which expanded the scope of U.S. sanctions on any person that is part of Iran's energy, shipping or shipbuilding sector and operators of ports in Iran, and imposes penalties on any person who facilitates or otherwise knowingly provides significant financial, material or other support to these entities.

To the best of our knowledge, none of our vessels have called at ports in Iran, Syria, Sudan or Cuba since January 1, 2012, nor have we provided any services or products to Iran, Syria, Sudan and Cuba, or entered into any agreements, commercial arrangements or had any contact with the governments of, or entities controlled by the governments of, the aforementioned countries, during this time period. Additionally, to the best of our knowledge, we have not since January 1, 2012 directly provided any services or products to Iran, or entered into any agreements, commercial arrangements or had any contact with the government of, or entities controlled by the government of Iran.

Although we believe that we are in compliance with all applicable sanctions and embargo laws and regulations, and intend to maintain such compliance, there can be no assurance that we will be in compliance in the future, particularly as the scope of certain laws may be unclear and may be subject to changing interpretations. Any such violation could result in fines or other penalties and could result in some investors deciding, or being required, to divest their interest, or not to invest, in us. Moreover, our charterers may violate applicable sanctions and embargo laws and regulations as a result of actions that do not involve us or our vessels, and those violations could in turn negatively affect our reputation. Investor perception of the value of our common stock may also be adversely affected by the consequences of war, the effects of terrorism, civil unrest and governmental actions in these and surrounding countries.

It may not be possible for some of our vessels to call on Turkish ports due to the Turkish embargo on Cypriot flag vessels and vessels owned by Cypriot companies.

In 1987 the Turkish Government introduced certain restrictive measures against Cypriot flag vessels prohibiting such vessels to call on Turkish ports. In 1997 the restrictive measures were extended and since then they apply not only against Cypriot flag vessels but also against vessels registered under a foreign flag (of any nationality) sailing to Turkish ports directly from any Cypriot port under the effective control of the Republic of Cyprus or against vessels of any flag related to the Republic of Cyprus in terms of ownership or ship management. Cypriot vessels will be allowed passage through the Turkish Straits (Bosphorus) with or without pilot but no other services or provisions will be given, including bunker supply. Currently, 16 of our 19 vessels are owned by Cypriot companies and of these 11 are Cyprus flagged. Whilst the restrictive measures remain in place, our vessels which are either Cypriot flagged or owned by a Cypriot company may not call on Turkish ports. This may restrict the use of Cypriot ports by our charterers and may have an effect on the possible operation of our vessels by them in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

The smuggling of drugs, weapons or other contraband and stowaways on our vessels may lead to governmental claims against us.

We expect that our vessels will call in areas where smugglers attempt to hide drugs, weapons and other contraband on vessels or stowaways attempt to board, with or without the knowledge of crew members. To the extent our vessels are found with contraband or stowaways, whether with or without the knowledge of any of our crew or charterers, we may face governmental or other regulatory claims which could have an adverse effect on our business, results of operations, cash flows and financial condition.

We are exposed to significant risks in relation to compliance with anti-corruption laws and regulations.

Our business entails numerous interactions with government authorities, including port authorities, health, safety, and environment authorities, labor and tax authorities and customs and immigration authorities. Furthermore, at our charterer's direction, our vessels call at ports throughout the world, including in some countries where corruption is endemic. Although we have strict and adequate procedures prohibiting our employees or persons associated with us from making unlawful payments to government officials, we cannot guarantee that such payments may not be made despite our procedures and without our approval. In such case, such payments may be deemed to have violated anti-corruption laws potentially applicable to us, including the UK Bribery Act 2010 and the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. Both civil and criminal penalties may be imposed on us as a result of violations of anti-corruption laws, and such penalties could have a significant impact on our reputation, business and financial condition.

Risks inherent in the operation of containerships could impair the ability of the charterer to make payments to us, increase our costs or reduce the value of our assets.

Our containerships and their cargoes are at risk of being damaged or lost because of events such as marine accidents, bad weather, mechanical failures, human error, war, terrorism, piracy, environmental accidents and other circumstances or events. Any of these events connected to our vessels or other vessels under the charterer's control, or any other factor which negatively affects the charterer's business such as economic downturn and significant cyclical depression in the container shipping industry, could impair the ability of the charterer to make payments to us pursuant to our charters. Although the charterer is obligated to pay us charterhire regardless of the amount of cargo being carried on board, it is possible that generally low cargo volumes and low freight rates or events noted above may render the charterer financially unable to pay us its hire. Furthermore, there is a risk that a vessel may become damaged, lost or destroyed during normal operations and any such occurrence may cause us additional expenses to repair or substitute the vessel or may render us unable to provide the vessel for chartering, which will cause us to lose charter revenue.

These occurrences could also result in death or injury to persons, loss of property or environmental damage, loss of revenues from or termination of charter contracts, governmental fines, penalties or restrictions on conducting business, higher insurance rates, and damage to our reputation and customer relationships generally. Any of these circumstances or events could increase our costs or lower our revenues, which could result in reduction in the market price of our common shares.

Governments could requisition our vessels during a period of war or emergency without adequate compensation, which under most of our time charter agreements would permit the customer to terminate the charter agreement for that vessel.

A government could requisition one or more of our vessels for title or for hire. Requisition for title occurs when a government takes control of a vessel and becomes its owner, while requisition for hire occurs when a government takes control of a vessel and effectively becomes its charterer at dictated charter rates. Generally, requisitions occur during periods of war or emergency, although governments may elect to requisition vessels in other circumstances. Although we would likely be entitled to compensation in the event of a requisition of one or more of our vessels, the amount and timing of payment would be uncertain. Additionally, under most of our time charter agreements, if a vessel is requisitioned, our customer has the option to terminate the charter agreement within 14 days of receipt of notice of the requisition. Government requisition of one or more of our vessels may negatively impact our revenues and cash flow.

[Table of Contents](#)

Compliance with safety and other vessel requirements imposed by classification societies may be costly and may adversely affect our business and operating results.

The hull and machinery of every commercial vessel must conform to the rules and standards of a classification society approved by the vessel's country of registry. Such societies set the rules and standards for the design, construction, classification, and surveys of vessels and conduct surveys to determine whether vessels are in compliance with such rules and standards. A certification by a society is an attestation that the vessel is in compliance with the society's rules and standards. A vessel involved in international trade must also conform to national and international regulations on safety, environment and security, including (but not limited to) the Safety of Life at Sea Convention, or SOLAS, and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships. A vessel conforms to such regulations by obtaining certificates from its country of registry and/or a classification society authorized by the country of registry.

A vessel must undergo annual surveys, intermediate surveys and special surveys. In lieu of a special or class renewal survey, a vessel's machinery may be reviewed on a continuous survey cycle, under which the machinery would be surveyed over a five-year period. See Item 4.B. "Information on the Company—Business Overview—Inspection by Classification Societies" for more information regarding annual surveys, intermediate surveys and special surveys. Bureau Veritas, Lloyd's Register and Germanischer Lloyd, the classification societies for the vessels in our fleet, may approve and carry out in-water inspections of the underwater parts of our vessels once every three to five years, in lieu of drydocking inspections. In-water inspections are typically less expensive than drydocking inspections and we intend to conduct in-water inspections when that option is available to us.

If a vessel does not maintain its "in class" certification or fails any annual survey, intermediate survey or special survey, port authorities may detain the vessel, refuse her entry into port or refuse to allow her to trade resulting in the vessel being unable to trade and therefore rendering her unemployable. In the event that a vessel becomes unemployable, we could also be in violation of provisions in our charters, insurance coverage, covenants in our loan agreements and ship registration requirements and our revenues and future profitability would be negatively affected.

We are subject to regulation and liability under environmental laws that could require significant expenditures and affect our cash flows and net income.

The shipping industry and the operation of containerships are materially affected by environmental regulation in the form of international conventions, national, state and local laws and regulations in force in the jurisdictions in which our containerships operate, as well as in the country or countries of their registration, including those governing the management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, the cleanup of oil spills and other contamination, air emissions, water discharges and ballast water management. Because such conventions, laws and regulations are often revised, we cannot predict the cost of complying with such requirements or the impact thereof on the value or useful life of our containerships. Additional conventions, laws and regulations may be adopted that could limit our ability to do business or increase the cost of our doing business and which may materially adversely affect our operations. We are required by various governmental and quasi-governmental agencies to obtain certain permits, licenses, certificates and financial assurances with respect to our operations. Many environmental requirements are designed to reduce the risk of pollution, such as oil spills, and compliance with these requirements can be costly.

Environmental requirements can also affect the value or useful lives of vessels, require a reduction in cargo capacity, ship modifications or operational changes or restrictions, lead to decreased availability of insurance coverage for environmental matters or result in the denial of access to certain jurisdictional waters or ports, or detention in certain ports. Under local, national and foreign laws, as well as international treaties and conventions, we could incur material liabilities, including cleanup obligations and natural resource damages, in the event that there is a release of oil-based products or other hazardous materials from our vessels or otherwise in connection with our operations. We could also become subject to personal injury or property damage claims relating to the release of hazardous materials associated with our existing or historic operations. Violations of, or liabilities under, environmental requirements can result in substantial penalties, fines and other sanctions, including in certain instances, criminal liabilities or seizure or detention of our vessels.

[Table of Contents](#)

In addition, significant compliance costs could be incurred due to existing environmental laws and regulations and those that may be adopted, which could require new maintenance and inspection procedures and new restrictions on air emissions from our containerships, the development of contingency arrangements for potential spills and/or obtaining insurance coverage. Government regulation of vessels, particularly in the areas of safety and environmental requirements, can be expected to become increasingly strict in the future and require us to incur significant capital expenditures on our vessels to keep them in compliance, or even to scrap or sell certain vessels altogether. We believe that regulation of the shipping industry will continue to become more stringent and more expensive for us and our competitors. Substantial violations of applicable requirements or a catastrophic release of bunker fuel from one of our containerships, among other events, could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations. For additional information on these and other environmental requirements, you should review the information contained in Item 4.B. “Information on the Company—Business Overview—Environmental and Other Regulations.”

Increased inspection procedures, tighter import and export controls and new security regulations could increase costs and cause disruption of our containership business.

International container shipping is subject to security and customs inspection and related procedures in countries of origin, destination, and certain trans-shipment points. These inspection procedures can result in cargo seizure, delays in the loading, offloading, trans-shipment, or delivery of containers, and the levying of customs duties, fines and other penalties against us.

Since the events of September 11, 2001, U.S. authorities have substantially increased container inspections. Government investment in non-intrusive container scanning technology has grown and there is interest in electronic monitoring technology, including so-called “e-seals” and “smart” containers, which would enable remote, centralized monitoring of containers during shipment to identify tampering with or opening of the containers, along with potentially measuring other characteristics such as temperature, air pressure, motion, chemicals, biological agents and radiation. Also, as a response to the events of September 11, 2001, additional vessel security requirements have been imposed, including the installation of security alert and automatic identification systems on board vessels.

It is unclear what additional changes, if any, to the existing inspection and security procedures may ultimately be proposed or implemented in the future, or how any such changes will affect the industry. It is possible that such changes could impose additional financial and legal obligations on us. Furthermore, changes to inspection and security procedures could also impose additional costs and obligations on our customers and may, in certain cases, render the shipment of certain types of goods in containers uneconomical or impractical. Any such changes or developments could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition and our ability to pay dividends to our stockholders.

The operation of our vessels is also affected by the requirements set forth in the International Ship and Port Facilities Security Code (the “ISPS Code”). The ISPS Code requires vessels to develop and maintain a ship security plan that provides security measures to address potential threats to the security of ships or port facilities. Although each of our containerships is ISPS Code certified, any failure to comply with the ISPS Code or maintain such certifications may subject us to increased liability and may result in denial of access to, or detention in, certain ports. Furthermore, compliance with the ISPS Code requires us to incur certain costs. Although such costs have not been material to date, if new or more stringent regulations relating to the ISPS Code are adopted by the IMO and the flag states, these requirements could require significant additional capital expenditures or otherwise increase the costs of our operations.

Depending on the outcome of an ongoing European Union investigation of container liner companies related to potential antitrust violations, our growth, results of operations and our ability to charter our vessels may be reduced.

The European Commission is conducting investigations of certain major container liner companies, including CMA CGM, related to potential violations of European Union competition (antitrust) rules. Although we have no basis for assessing the outcome of these investigations, it is possible that additional financial and legal obligations may be imposed on one or more of these liner companies. Such obligations may make CMA CGM or

[Table of Contents](#)

similarly situated potential customers less likely to enter into or renew time charters for our containerships, which could reduce our growth opportunities and harm our business, results of operations and financial condition. In addition, any significant financial penalties arising from these or similar investigations could reduce the ability of CMA CGM or future customers to make charter payments to us, which likewise could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Risks Relating to our Common Stock and Depositary Shares Representing Series B Preferred Shares

The price of our securities may be volatile.

The price of our common shares and depositary shares representing Series B preferred shares may be volatile and may fluctuate due to factors such as:

- actual or anticipated fluctuations in our quarterly revenues and earnings and those of publicly held containership owners or operators;
- market conditions in the industry;
- perceived counterparty risk;
- shortfalls in our operating results from levels forecasted by securities analysts;
- announcements concerning us or other containership owners or operators;
- mergers and strategic alliances in the shipping industry;
- changes in government regulation including taxation; and
- the general state of the securities markets.

The international containership industry has been highly unpredictable and volatile. The market for common shares and depositary shares representing Series B preferred shares in companies operating in this industry may be equally volatile.

We have anti-takeover provisions in our organizational documents that may discourage a change of control.

Certain provisions of our articles of incorporation and bylaws may have an anti-takeover effect and may delay, defer or prevent a tender offer or takeover attempt that a shareholder might consider in its best interest, including those attempts that might result in a premium over the market price for the shares held by shareholders.

Certain of these provisions provide for:

- a classified board of directors with staggered three-year terms;
- restrictions on business combinations with certain interested shareholders;
- directors only to be removed for cause and only with the affirmative vote of holders of at least a majority of the common shares entitled to vote in the election of directors;
- advance notice for nominations of directors by shareholders and for shareholders to include matters to be considered at annual meetings; and
- a limited ability for shareholders to call special shareholder meetings.

[Table of Contents](#)

These anti-takeover provisions could make it more difficult for a third party to acquire us, even if the third party's offer may be considered beneficial by many shareholders. As a result, shareholders may be limited in their ability to obtain a premium for their shares.

There will be a substantial number of our common shares available for sale in the future that may adversely affect the market price of our Class A common shares.

Pursuant to the registration rights agreement entered into at the effective time of the Merger, Marathon's initial stockholders and, under certain circumstances, CMA CGM can demand that we register the resale of their holdings of our common shares at any time. 10,737,004 common shares held by Marathon's initial stockholders were registered for sale under Form F-3 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 28, 2014. The registration and availability of such a significant number of securities for trading in the public market may have an adverse effect on the market price of our Class A common shares.

Our management is required to devote substantial time to complying with public company regulations.

As a public company, we incur significant legal, accounting and other expenses. In addition, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 ("Sarbanes-Oxley") as well as rules subsequently adopted by the SEC and the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE"), including the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, have imposed various requirements on public companies, including changes in corporate governance practices. Our directors, management and other personnel will need to devote a substantial amount of time to comply with these requirements. Moreover, these rules and regulations relating to public companies will increase our legal and financial compliance costs and will make some activities more time-consuming and costly.

Sarbanes-Oxley requires, among other things, that we maintain and periodically evaluate our internal control over financial reporting and disclosure controls and procedures. In particular, under Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, we are required to include in each of our annual reports on Form 20-F a report containing our management's assessment of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting and a related attestation of our independent auditors. While we did not identify any material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in our internal controls under the current assessment, we cannot be certain at this time that all our controls will be considered effective in future assessments. Therefore, we can give no assurances that our internal control over financial reporting will satisfy regulatory requirements in the future.

We are a "foreign private issuer" under the NYSE rules, and as such we are entitled to exemption from certain NYSE corporate governance standards, and you may not have the same protections afforded to stockholders of companies that are subject to all of the NYSE corporate governance requirements.

We are a "foreign private issuer" under the securities laws of the U.S. and the rules of the NYSE. Under the securities laws of the U.S., "foreign private issuers" are subject to different disclosure requirements than U.S. domiciled registrants, as well as different financial reporting requirements. Under the NYSE rules, a "foreign private issuer" is subject to less stringent corporate governance requirements. Subject to certain exceptions, the rules of the NYSE permit a "foreign private issuer" to follow its home country practice in lieu of the listing requirements of the NYSE.

Accordingly, you may not have the same protections afforded to stockholders of companies that are subject to all of the NYSE corporate governance requirements.

Future sales of our common stock could cause the market price of our common stock to decline.

Sales of a substantial number of shares of our common stock in the public market, or the perception that these sales could occur, may depress the market price for our common stock. These sales could also impair our ability to raise additional capital through the sale of our equity securities in the future.

Subject to the rules of the NYSE, in the future, we may issue additional shares of common stock, and other equity securities of equal or senior rank, without stockholder approval, in a number of circumstances. The issuance by us of additional shares of common stock or other equity securities of equal or senior rank would have the following effects:

- our existing stockholders' proportionate ownership interest in us may decrease;

Table of Contents

- the dividend amount payable per share on our common stock may be lower;
- the relative voting strength of each previously outstanding share may be diminished; and
- the market price of our common stock may decline.

Our stockholders also may elect to sell large numbers of shares held by them from time to time. The number of shares of common stock available for sale in the public market will be limited by restrictions applicable under securities laws, and agreements that we and our executive officers, directors and existing stockholders may enter into with the underwriters at the time of an offering. Subject to certain exceptions, these agreements generally restrict us and our executive officers, directors and existing stockholders from directly or indirectly offering, selling, pledging, hedging or otherwise disposing of our equity securities or any security that is convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for our equity securities and from engaging in certain other transactions relating to such securities for a period of 180 days after the date of an offering prospectus without the prior written consent of the underwriter(s).

We may not have sufficient cash from our operations to enable us to pay dividends on or to redeem our Series B preferred shares, and accordingly the depositary shares, as the case may be, and our ability to pay dividends on or redeem our Series B preferred shares is limited by Marshall Islands law and our contractual obligations.

We pay quarterly dividends on the Series B preferred shares, and accordingly the depositary shares, only from funds legally available for such purpose when, as and if declared by our board of directors. We may not have sufficient cash available each quarter to pay dividends. In addition, if our board of directors does not authorize and declare a dividend for any dividend period prior to the related dividend payment date, holders of the Series B preferred shares and accordingly the depositary shares would not be entitled to receive a dividend for that dividend period. However, any unpaid dividends will accumulate.

In addition, we may have insufficient cash available to redeem the Series B preferred shares, and accordingly the depositary shares. The amount of cash we can use to pay dividends or redeem our Series B preferred shares and the depositary shares depends upon the amount of cash we generate from our operations, which may fluctuate significantly, and other factors, including the following:

- changes in our operating cash flow, capital expenditure requirements, working capital requirements and other cash needs;
- the amount of any cash reserves established by our board of directors;
- restrictions under Marshall Islands law as described below;
- restrictions under our credit facilities and other instruments and agreements governing our existing and future debt as described below; and
- our overall financial and operating performance, which, in turn, is subject to prevailing economic and competitive conditions and to the risks associated with the shipping industry and the other factors (see Item “Risks Related to our Business” above), many of which are beyond our control.

The amount of cash we generate from our operations may differ materially from our net income or loss for the period, which will be affected by noncash items, and our board of directors in its discretion may elect not to declare any dividends. We may incur other expenses or liabilities that could reduce or eliminate the cash available for distribution as dividends. As a result of these and the other factors mentioned above, we may pay dividends during periods when we record losses and may not pay dividends during periods when we record net income.

[Table of Contents](#)

Marshall Islands law provides that we may pay dividends on and redeem the Series B preferred shares only to the extent that assets are legally available for such purposes. Legally available assets generally are limited to our surplus, which essentially represents our retained earnings and the excess of consideration received by us for the sale of shares above the par value of the shares. In addition, under Marshall Islands law we may not pay dividends on or redeem Series B preferred shares if we are insolvent or would be rendered insolvent by the payment of such a dividend or the making of such redemption.

Further, the terms of our outstanding notes and our revolving credit facility prohibit us from declaring or paying any dividends or distributions on preferred stock, including the Series B preferred shares, or redeeming, purchasing, acquiring or making a liquidation payment on preferred stock in certain circumstances.

Risks Related to Tax Matters

Our operating income could fail to qualify for an exemption from U.S. federal income taxation, which would reduce our cash flow.

We do not expect to be engaged in a U.S. trade or business. In the case of a foreign corporation that is not so engaged, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), imposes a 4% U.S. federal income tax (without allowance of any deductions) on 50% of the corporation’s gross transportation income that is attributable to transportation that begins or ends, but that does not both begin and end, in the U.S., unless the corporation qualifies for the exemption provided in Section 883 of the Code. The imposition of this tax could have a negative effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. Under the charter agreements, the charterer has agreed to provide reimbursement for any such taxes as the charterer determines where each vessel trades.

We will qualify for the exemption under Section 883 if, among other things, our stock is treated as primarily and regularly traded on an established securities market in the U.S. However, under the Treasury regulations, our stock will not be treated as primarily and regularly traded on an established securities market if, during more than half the number of days during the taxable year, one or more shareholders who actually or constructively own at least 5% of our stock (“5% shareholders”), own, in the aggregate, 50% or more of our stock, unless a sufficient amount of our stock is owned by 5% shareholders that are considered to be “qualified shareholders” to preclude non-qualifying 5% shareholders from owning 50% or more of the total value of our stock held by the 5% shareholders group.

Generally, a 5% shareholder is a qualified 5% shareholder only if the 5% shareholder is an individual who is a resident of a qualified foreign country, the government of a qualified foreign country, a foreign corporation organized in a qualified foreign country that meets the “publicly-traded” test discussed herein, a non-profit organization organized in a qualified foreign country or an individual beneficiary (resident in a qualified foreign country) of a pension plan administered in or by a qualified foreign country. Generally, a foreign country is a qualified foreign country if it grants an equivalent exemption from tax to corporations organized in the U.S.

Based on information that we have as to our shareholders and other matters, we believe that we qualified for the Section 883 exemption for 2014, and expect to qualify for 2015. However, it is possible that our ownership may change such that qualified 5% shareholders will not own, in the aggregate, a sufficient amount of our stock for more than half the days during the taxable year to preclude the non-qualifying 5% shareholders from owning 50% or more of the total value of our stock held by the 5% shareholders group.

Such an ownership change, and certain other requirements for our stock to be treated as primarily and regularly traded on an established securities market, will be outside of our control and, as a result, no assurances can be provided that our stock will be so treated for any year. Moreover, since the availability of the Section 883 exemption depends on other matters over which we have no control, we can give no assurances that we will, or will continue to, qualify for the Section 883 exemption. See Item 10.E. “Additional Information—Taxation —Taxation of Global Ship Lease—The Section 883 exemption” for a more comprehensive discussion of the U.S. federal income tax rules related to Section 883.

We could be taxed as a U.S. corporation.

Section 7874 of the Code provides that a foreign corporation which acquires substantially all the properties of a U.S. corporation is generally treated as though it were a U.S. corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes if, after the acquisition, at least 80% (by vote or value) of the stock of the foreign corporation is owned by former shareholders of the U.S. corporation by reason of owning stock in the U.S. corporation. Although we believe that this rule should not apply to us in the context of the Merger, there is no definitive legal authority applying the principles of Section 7874 of the Code and therefore there can be no assurance that the Internal Revenue Service (the “IRS”) would not seek to challenge such position, or that such a challenge would not be successful. If we were to be treated as a U.S. corporation, our net income would be subject to U.S. federal corporate income tax, with the highest statutory rate currently being 35%. The imposition of this tax would likely have a negative effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Certain adverse U.S. federal income tax consequences could arise for U.S. holders.

Shareholders of a “passive foreign investment company,” or PFIC, that are U.S. persons within the meaning of the Code, which we refer to as “U.S. shareholders,” are subject to a disadvantageous U.S. federal income tax regime with respect to the distributions they receive from a PFIC and the gain, if any, they derive from the sale or other disposition of their shares in a PFIC (as discussed below). In addition, dividends paid by a PFIC do not constitute qualified dividend income and, hence, are ineligible for the preferential rate of tax that applies to qualified dividend income.

A foreign corporation is treated as a PFIC if either (1) 75% or more of its gross income for any taxable year consists of certain types of “passive income” or (2) 50% or more of the average value of the corporation’s assets produce or are held for the production of those 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 a trade or business; income derived from the performance of services does not, however, constitute “passive income.”

Based on the projected composition of our income and valuation of our assets, we do not expect that we will constitute a PFIC with respect to the current or any future taxable year, although there can be no assurance in this regard. Our expectation is based principally on the position that, for purposes of determining whether we are a PFIC, the majority, if not all, of the gross income we derive from our chartering activities should constitute services income rather than rental income.

In this regard, we have been advised by our tax advisor that the income from our chartering activities is, more likely than not, services income. There is, however, no direct legal authority under the PFIC rules addressing our current and projected future operations or supporting our position. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that the IRS will not assert that we are a PFIC with respect to any taxable year, nor that a court would not uphold any such assertion and we have not obtained advice from our tax advisor on whether we are a PFIC.

Further, in a case not concerning PFICs, *Tidewater Inc. v. U.S.*, 2009-1 USTC ¶ 50,337, the Fifth Circuit held that a vessel time charter at issue generated rental, rather than services, income. However, the court’s ruling was contrary to the position of the IRS that the time charter income should be treated as services income. Subsequently, the IRS has stated that it disagrees with and will not acquiesce to the rental versus services distinction in the *Tidewater* decision, and in its discussion stated that the time charters at issue in *Tidewater* would be treated as producing services income for PFIC purposes. The IRS’s statement with respect to *Tidewater* cannot be relied upon or otherwise cited as precedent by taxpayers. Further, the facts in *Tidewater* are not directly analogous to our facts. No assurance can be given that the IRS or a court of law would accept our position, and there is a risk that the IRS or a court of law could determine that the company is a PFIC.

[Table of Contents](#)

If the IRS were to determine that we are or have been a PFIC for any taxable year, our U.S. shareholders will face adverse U.S. tax consequences. Distributions paid by us with respect to our shares will not constitute qualified dividend income if we were a PFIC in the year we pay a dividend or in the prior taxable year and, hence, will not be eligible for the preferential rate of tax that applies to qualified dividend income. In addition, our U.S. shareholders (other than shareholders who have made a “qualified electing fund” or “mark-to-market” election) will be subject to special rules relating to the taxation of “excess distributions”—with excess distributions being defined to include certain distributions we may make on our Class A common shares as well as gain recognized by a U.S. holder on a disposition of our Class A common shares. In general, the amount of any “excess distribution” will be allocated ratably to each day of the U.S. holder’s holding period for our Class A common shares. The amount allocated to the current year and any taxable year prior to the first taxable year for which we were a PFIC will be included in the U.S. holder’s gross income for the current year as ordinary income. With respect to amounts allocated to prior years for which we were a PFIC, the tax imposed for the current year will be increased by the “deferred tax amount,” which is an amount calculated with respect to each prior year by multiplying the amount allocated to such year by the highest rate of tax in effect for such year, together with an interest charge as though the amounts of tax were overdue. See Item 10.E. “Additional Information—Taxation —Tax Consequences of Holding Class A Common Shares—Consequences of possible passive foreign investment company classification” for a more comprehensive discussion of the U.S. federal income tax consequences to U.S. shareholders if we were treated as a PFIC (including those applicable to U.S. shareholders who make a qualified electing fund or mark-to-market election).

We may be subject to taxation on all or part of our income in the United Kingdom, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

If we or our vessel owning subsidiaries were considered to be a resident of the United Kingdom or to have a permanent establishment in the United Kingdom, all or a part of our profits could be subject to UK corporate tax, which had a maximum rate of 26% for the year ended March 31, 2012, 24% for the year ended March 31, 2013, 23% for the year ending March 31, 2014 and 21% for the year ended March 31, 2015 and 20% thereafter. We and our vessel owning subsidiaries are strategically managed and controlled from outside the United Kingdom and have restricted activities within the United Kingdom. Certain intra-group services are provided from within the United Kingdom and UK corporate tax will be payable on the arms-length price for those services. The appropriate arms-length price in these circumstances is likely to be a matter of negotiation with the UK taxing authorities.

We do not believe that we or our vessel owning subsidiaries are residents of the United Kingdom, or that we or our vessel owning subsidiaries have permanent establishments in the United Kingdom. However, because some administrative and executive services are provided to us or our vessel owning subsidiaries by a subsidiary company located in the United Kingdom and certain of our directors reside in the United Kingdom, and because UK statutory and case law fail to definitively identify the activities that constitute a trade being carried on in the United Kingdom through a permanent establishment, the UK taxing authorities may contend that we or our vessel owning subsidiaries are subject to UK corporate tax on all of our income, or on a greater portion of our income than we currently expect to be taxed. If the UK taxing authorities made such a contention, we could incur substantial legal costs defending our position, and, if we were unsuccessful in our defense, our results of operations would be materially adversely affected.

We may be subject to taxes which will reduce our cash flow.

We and our vessel owning subsidiaries are subject to tax in certain jurisdictions in which we are organized, own assets or have operations, which reduces the amount of our cash available for distribution. In computing our tax obligations in these jurisdictions, we are required to take various tax accounting and reporting positions on matters that are not entirely free from doubt and for which we have not received rulings from the governing authorities. We cannot assure you that upon review of these positions, the applicable authorities will agree with our positions. A successful challenge by a tax authority, or a change in law in a jurisdiction in which we operate (including Cyprus and Hong Kong, where a number of our vessel owning subsidiaries are entered in the local tonnage tax regime), could result in additional tax imposed on us, further reducing the cash available for distribution.

Item 4. Information on the Company

A. History and Development of the Company

We are a Republic of the Marshall Islands corporation that owns a fleet of modern containerships of a range of sizes. Our business is to charter out our fleet under long-term, fixed-rate charters to reputable container shipping companies to generate stable revenues and predictable cashflows.

We were formed in 2007 to purchase and charter back containerships then owned or to be purchased by CMA CGM, the third largest containership operator in the world. We acquired our initial fleet of 17 containerships from CMA CGM between December 2007 and August 2009. All of the vessels were time chartered to CMA CGM for terms between five and 17 years. Two of the initial charters, relating to our 4,113 TEU vessels, Ville d’Aquarius and Ville d’Orion, expired in September 2012 and were renewed successively with CMA CGM until expiry late April 2014 for Ville d’Aquarius and late May 2014 for Ville d’Orion. New charters were agreed with Sea Consortium, trading as X-Press Feeders, commencing May 7, 2014 and extended effective December 3, 2014 for between four and six months for Ville d’Aquarius and July 17, 2014 for between six and 12 months for Ville d’Orion. On October 28, 2014 we took delivery of our eighteenth vessel, the 8,063 TEU OOCL Tianjin, having purchased her from Orient Overseas Container Lines Limited (“OOCL”). The vessel was immediately chartered back to OOCL for between 36 and 39 months. The TEU weighted average remaining term of our charters, excluding the Ville d’Aquarius and Ville d’Orion which are deployed in the short term charter market, was 6.4 years at December 31, 2014 and TEU weighted average age for the fleet was 10.7 years. On March 11, 2015 we took delivery of a second 8,063 TEU vessel, the OOCL Qingdao, also purchased from OOCL and, again, immediately chartered back for between 36 and 39 months. Our management team undertakes all management of our fleet including the supervision of the day-to-day technical ship management of our vessels which as at March 31, 2015 was provided for 17 of our 19 vessels by CMA Ships, a wholly owned subsidiary of CMA CGM, pursuant to ship management agreements, with an agreement to cap the reimbursement by us of expenses incurred on our behalf on the 15 vessels they charter. A third party ship manager based in Hong Kong provides the day-to-day technical management of the two vessels chartered to OOCL.

On March 21, 2008, Global Ship Lease entered into a merger agreement pursuant to which Marathon and Global Ship Lease, then a subsidiary of CMA CGM, merged with and into GSL Holdings, Inc. (“GSL Holdings”), Marathon’s newly-formed wholly owned Marshall Islands subsidiary, with GSL Holdings (now renamed Global Ship Lease, Inc.) continuing as the surviving company incorporated in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (collectively, “Merger”). The Merger was consummated on August 14, 2008.

Pursuant to the Merger, holders of shares of Marathon common stock (other than Marathon Founders, LLC and the other initial stockholders of Marathon) received one Class A common share of Global Ship Lease for each share of Marathon common stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger. In respect of the aggregate 9,375,000 shares of Marathon common stock held by them, Marathon Founders, LLC and the other initial stockholders of Marathon received in the Merger an aggregate of 2,846,906 Class A common shares of Global Ship Lease, 3,471,906 Class B common shares and warrants to acquire an aggregate of 3,056,188 Class A common shares at an exercise price of \$9.25. CMA CGM received consideration consisting of 6,778,650 Class A common shares, 3,934,050 Class B common shares, 12,375,000 Class C common shares, 1,000 Series A preferred shares, warrants to acquire 3,131,900 Class A common shares at an exercise price of \$9.25, and \$18,570,135 in cash. The rights of holders of Class B common shares are identical to those of holders of Class A common shares subject to meeting certain tests, except that the holders of Class B common shares were not entitled to receive any dividends with respect to any quarter prior to the fourth quarter of 2008 and their dividend rights were subordinated to those of holders of Class A common shares until at least the third quarter of 2011. The Class B common shares remain subordinated. The Class C common shares automatically converted into Class A common shares on a one-for-one basis on January 1, 2009. The warrants to acquire Class A shares at an exercise price of \$9.25 expired in September 2013. Pursuant to the Merger, CMA CGM holds approximately 44.5% of our outstanding common shares. See Item 7.A. “Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions—Major Shareholders.”

On August 20, 2014, we issued 1,400,000 Depositary Shares, each of which represents 1/100th of one share of our Series B preferred shares. Dividends are payable at 8.75% per annum in arrears on a quarterly basis. At any time after August 20, 2019 (or within 180 days after the occurrence of a fundamental change), the Series B preferred shares may be redeemed, at the discretion of the Company, in whole or in part, at a redemption price of \$2,500.00 per share (equivalent to \$25.00 per depositary share).

[Table of Contents](#)

Our Class A common shares and our Series B preferred shares are listed on the NYSE under the symbols “GSL” and “GSL-B”, respectively.

The mailing address of our principal executive office is c/o Global Ship Lease Services Limited, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5RS, United Kingdom, and our telephone number is 44 (0) 20 7869 8006.

B. Business Overview

Recent Developments

On March 11, 2015, we completed the purchase of the 2004 built 8,063 TEU containership OOCL Qingdao for \$53.6 million. The vessel was immediately chartered back to OOCL, the sellers, for a period of between 36 and 39 months at a gross charter rate of \$34,500 per day. The acquisition was financed with cash on hand and by drawing down on our \$40 million revolving credit facility.

Our Fleet

Our fleet, as of December 31, 2014, consisted of 18 containerships with an aggregate capacity of 74,412 TEU and a TEU weighted average age of approximately 10.7 years and a non-weighted average age of 11.8 years.

The table below provides information about our current fleet as at December 31, 2014:

<u>Vessel Name</u>	<u>Capacity in TEUs</u>	<u>Lightweight (tons)</u>	<u>Year Built</u>	<u>Purchase by GSL</u>	<u>Remaining Charter Term (years) (i)</u>	<u>Earliest Charter Expiry Date</u>	<u>Daily Charter Rate \$</u>
Ville d’Orion(2)	4,113	15,904	1997	Dec 2007	0.3	Jan 17, 2015	8,000
Ville d’Aquarius(2)	4,113	15,887	1996	Dec 2007	0.3	April 3, 2015	8,390
CMA CGM Matisse	2,262	11,676	1999	Dec 2007	5.0	Sept 21, 2019	15,300
CMA CGM Utrillo	2,262	11,676	1999	Dec 2007	5.0	Sept 12, 2019	15,300
Delmas Keta	2,207	11,731	2003	Dec 2007	3.0	Sept 20, 2017	18,465
Julie Delmas	2,207	11,731	2002	Dec 2007	3.0	Sept 11, 2017	18,465
Kumasi	2,207	11,731	2002	Dec 2007	3.0	Sept 21, 2017	18,465
Marie Delmas	2,207	11,731	2002	Dec 2007	3.0	Sept 14, 2017	18,465
CMA CGM La Tour	2,272	11,742	2001	Dec 2007	5.0	Sept 20, 2019	15,300
CMA CGM Manet	2,272	11,742	2001	Dec 2007	5.0	Sept 7, 2019	15,300
CMA CGM Alcazar	5,089	20,087	2007	Jan 2008	6.0	Oct 18, 2020	33,750
CMA CGM Château d’If	5,089	20,100	2007	Jan 2008	6.0	Oct 11, 2020	33,750
CMA CGM Thalassa	11,040	38,577	2008	Dec 2008	11.0	Oct 1, 2025	47,200
CMA CGM Jamaica	4,298	17,272	2006	Dec 2008	8.0	Sept 17, 2022	25,350
CMA CGM Sambhar	4,045	17,355	2006	Dec 2008	8.0	Sept 16, 2022	25,350
CMA CGM America	4,045	17,355	2006	Dec 2008	8.0	Sept 19, 2022	25,350
CMA CGM Berlioz	6,621	26,776	2001	Aug 2009	6.7	May 28, 2021	34,000
OOCL Tianjin(1)	8,063	34,243	2005	Oct 2014	3.0	Oct 28, 2017	34,500

(1) As at December 31, 2014. Plus or minus 90 days at charterer’s option, except (i) Ville d’Orion which is between January 17, and July 17, 2015 (ii) Ville d’Aquarius which is between April 3 and June 3, 2015, and (iii) OOCL Tianjin which is between October 28, 2017 and January 28, 2018 at charterer’s option.

(2) Ville d’Orion and Ville d’Aquarius can be redelivered on 30 days’ notice. If an extension to the charters is not agreed, depending on market conditions, we may seek employment of these vessels with another charterer, lay them up or effect a sale.

(3) The table does not include OOCL Qingdao, a 2004 built 8,063 TEU containership which we purchased on March 11, 2015 and immediately chartered back to OOCL at a daily charter rate of \$34,500 for a period of between 36 and 39 months.

Time Charters

A time charter is a contract for the use of a vessel for a fixed period of time at a specified daily rate. Under a time charter, the vessel owner provides crew, lubricating oil, all maintenance and other services related to the vessel’s operation, the cost of which is included in the daily rate. The vessel owner is also responsible for insuring

[Table of Contents](#)

its interests in the vessel and liabilities as owner arising from its use. The charterer is responsible for substantially all of the vessel's voyage costs, such as fuel (bunker) costs, canal fees, port expenses, extra war risk insurance costs if the vessel is deployed outside normal insurance limits and for entering areas which are specified by the insurance underwriters as being subject to additional premiums and cargo handling charges.

Initial Charters

Each of the vessels in our initial fleet of 17 vessels was or remains subject to a time charter with CMA CGM based on standard industry terms. We have separate subsidiaries to own each vessel in our fleet. We guarantee the obligations of each of our subsidiaries under the charters. Each of our initial charters commenced on each vessel's delivery. Due to different delivery dates and durations, our charters will expire on different dates and over a period of time. We believe the staggered expirations of our charters will reduce our exposure to rechartering risk upon expiration of our initial charters and may mitigate the impact of the cyclical nature of the container shipping industry. The charters on our initial 17 vessels had terms of five to 17 years (plus or minus 90 days at charterer's option). We agreed with CMA CGM, with effect from February 1, 2014, to extend by three years the charters on four vessels at a lower on-going daily charter rate. As at December 31, 2014, 15 vessels remained on their initial charters, as amended.

Subsequent charters

The initial charters for two of our vessels, Ville d'Aquarius and Ville d'Orion expired in September 2012. New charters were put in place with CMA CGM until May 23, 2013 plus or minus 22 days at the charterer's option. Further charters were entered into with effect from May 1, 2013 until April 30, 2014 plus or minus 30 days at the charterer's option. Ville d'Aquarius was redelivered to us by CMA CGM on April 26, 2014. On May 7, 2014, a new charter to Sea Consortium, doing business as X-Press Feeders came into effect for a period of 180 days plus or minus 30 days at charterer's option. That charter was extended effective December 3, 2014 for between four and six months, at charterer's option. Ville d'Orion was redelivered to us by CMA CGM on May 25, 2014. On July 17, 2014, a new charter to Sea Consortium came into effect for a period of between six and 12 months, at charterer's option. Each of these vessels can be redelivered to us by the charterer on 30 days' notice. If an extension to the charters is not agreed, depending on market conditions, we may seek employment of these vessels with another charterer, lay them up or effect a sale.

New Charters

On October 28, 2014 we purchased OOCL Tianjin from OOCL and immediately chartered the vessel back to OOCL for a period of 36 to 39 months, at charterer's option with 60 days' notice of re-delivery.

On March 11, 2015 we purchased OOCL Qingdao from OOCL and immediately chartered the vessel back to OOCL for a period of 36 to 39 months, at charterer's option with 60 days' notice of re-delivery.

Excluding the two vessels whose time charters expire in 2015 (representing 4% of operating revenues for the year ended December 31, 2014), the existing time charters had a TEU weighted average remaining charter term of 6.0 years, as at March 11, 2015.

Daily Charter Rate

Daily charter rate refers to the gross amount per day payable by the charterer to the owner for the use of the vessel. It may be reduced by chartering commission payable to a broker or other party. Under our time charters hire is payable to us typically every 15 days in advance and in U.S. dollars. The daily charter rate is a fixed daily amount that will remain the same for the duration of the charter, although the charter rate can be reduced in certain circumstances where there are added costs to the charterer due to vessel performance deficiencies in speed or fuel consumption. Hire can also be reduced, pro-rata for any cost savings that we may realize, if the vessel is laid up or idled at charterers' request. Our initial charters with CMA CGM provide for an increase in charter rate when we incur unavoidable capital expenditure above a specified threshold to comply, for example, with regulatory requirements introduced after the charters were agreed.

[Table of Contents](#)

Operations and Expenses

As owner, we are required to maintain each vessel in class and in an efficient state of hull and machinery and are responsible for vessel costs such as crewing, lubricating oil, maintenance, insurance and drydocking. The charterer is responsible for the voyage costs, which includes bunker fuel, stevedoring, port charges and towage. As described below, we have entered into ship management agreements to sub-contract the day-to-day technical management of our vessels.

Right of First Refusal

Pursuant to the terms of the time charters with CMA CGM, CMA CGM has a right of first refusal to purchase the vessel at matching terms to any offer of any third party if we decide to sell the vessel during, or at the end of, the charter period. Should CMA CGM decline to exercise its right of first refusal in case of a sale during the charter period, we will be entitled to sell the vessel, subject to CMA CGM's prior approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld. CMA CGM has the right to reject a sale of a vessel to owners whose business or shareholding is determined to be detrimental or contrary to its interest.

Off-hire

Under a time charter, when the vessel is not available for service, and is "off-hire," the charterer generally is not required to pay charter hire (unless the charterer is responsible for the circumstances giving rise to the ship's unavailability), and we are responsible for costs during any off-hire period, and possible additional costs of fuel to regain lost time. A vessel generally will be deemed to be off-hire if there is an occurrence that affects the full working condition of the vessel, including:

- any drydocking for repairs, maintenance or classification society inspection;
- any damage, defect, breakdown or deficiency of the ship's hull, machinery or equipment or repairs or maintenance thereto;
- any deficiency of the ship's master, officers and/or crew, including the failure, refusal or inability of the ship's master, officers and/or crew to perform the service immediately required, whether or not within its control;
- its deviation, other than to save life or property, which results in the charterer's lost time;
- crewing labor boycotts or certain vessel arrests; or
- our failure to maintain the vessel in compliance with the charter's requirements, such as maintaining operational certificates.

Ship Management and Maintenance

Under each of our time charters, we are responsible for the operation and technical management of each vessel, which includes crewing, provision of lubricating oils, maintaining the vessel, periodic drydocking and performing work required by regulations. The day-to-day crewing and technical management of our vessels are provided by our ship managers pursuant to the terms of ship management agreements.

Termination and Withdrawal

Generally, if a vessel is off-hire for more than a specified number of consecutive days, for example 90 in the case of the initial charters with CMA CGM, then the charterer may cancel the charter without any further consequential claims provided the vessel is free of cargo. Some of our charters provide that we can in some circumstances provide a substitute a vessel during an anticipated extended period of off-hire. If a vessel's fuel consumption exceeds a level specified in the charter over a continuous period of 30 days, and the reason is within our or the vessel's control, CMA CGM may request that we cure the deficiency. If the deficiency is not cured within 30 days after we receive notice, then CMA CGM may terminate the charter.

[Table of Contents](#)

Generally, if either party informs the other party of a default under the charter, and the default is not rectified within 60 days of such notice, then the party giving the notice has the right to terminate the time charter with respect to that vessel.

The charter will terminate in the event of a total (actual or constructive) loss of the vessel or if the vessel is requisitioned.

We may suspend the performance of our obligations under the charter if the charterer defaults on its payment obligations under the charter.

Ship Management Agreements

CMA Ships, a subsidiary of CMA CGM, provides day-to-day technical ship management services on all of our vessels other than the two vessels on charter to OOCL, where the service is provided by a third party ship manager based in Hong Kong. Such services include purchasing, crewing, provision of lubricating oil, vessel maintenance including arranging drydocking inspections and ensuring compliance with flag, class and other statutory requirements necessary to support our business. CMA CGM guarantees the performance of all services and any payment due to us by CMA Ships pursuant to its ship management agreements.

We pay CMA Ships an annual management fee of \$123,000 (up to and including 2013, \$114,000) per vessel it manages. The annual fee payable to the manager of the OOCL vessels is not materially different. Under the ship management agreements, our ship manager is responsible for all day-to-day ship management, including crewing, purchasing stores, lubricating oils and spare parts, paying wages, pensions and insurance for the crew, and organizing other vessel operating necessities, including the arrangement and management of drydocking. We reimburse the ship manager for costs it incurs on our behalf. Each ship management agreement provides that we have the right to audit the accounts of our ship manager to verify the costs incurred. The ship managers have agreed to maintain our vessels so that they remain in class with valid certification. In addition, they are responsible for our current fleet's compliance with all government and other regulations, and compliance with class certifications.

The ship managers are required to use their best endeavors to provide the services specified in the ship management agreements. Pursuant to the terms of the ship management agreements, we indemnify the manager and its employees, agents and sub-contractors and hold them harmless against all actions, proceedings, claims, demands or liabilities which may be brought against them or incurred by them arising out of or in connection with the performance of the ship management agreements, unless the same is proved to have resulted solely from the negligence, gross negligence or willful default of CMA Ships, its employees, agents and sub-contractors.

The manager is generally not permitted to sub-contract its obligations under the ship management agreements without our consent, which we will not unreasonably withhold. With our consent, CMA Ships has sub-contracted all of its management services under its ship management agreements to its UK subsidiary, CMA Ships UK. Furthermore, with our agreement, manning has been subcontracted to CMA Ships UK's affiliate based in Singapore. The ship management agreements may generally be terminated by either party on two months written notice, often after a specified minimum period of time.

Either party may terminate a ship management agreement in the event of an order being made or a resolution being passed for the winding up, dissolution or bankruptcy of either party, or if a receiver is appointed, or if it suspends payment, ceases to carry on business or makes a special arrangement with its creditors. The ship management agreement will also terminate if the vessel becomes a total loss, is declared as a constructive or compromised or arranged total loss, is requisitioned or sold.

[Table of Contents](#)

Insurance

We arrange for insurance coverage for each of our vessels, including hull and machinery insurance, protection and indemnity insurance and war risk insurance. We are responsible for the payment of all premiums. See “—Risk of Loss and Liability Insurance.”

Global Expense Agreement

Under our ship management agreements with CMA Ships, we have agreed to reimburse CMA Ships for ship operating expenses incurred by it on our behalf in the operation of our vessels. Pursuant to the global expense agreement that we entered into with CMA Ships and CMA CGM, this reimbursement was subject to a quarterly cap, fixed for the first three years that the relevant vessel was managed by CMA Ships. Since all of the relevant vessels have been managed by CMA Ships for at least three years, the fixed cap arrangements have lapsed in accordance with the terms of the global expense agreement.

After the first three years, CMA CGM has agreed to compensate us, for any vessel in our fleet which remains on its initial charter, by the amount (not to exceed \$500 per day per vessel) by which actual operating costs per day (excluding any exceptional repair costs, drydock costs and insurance premiums) are greater than \$500 over a specified amount, which specified amount is reset annually at a predetermined and increasing amount as set out in the global expense agreement, provided more than 50% of such increase is attributable to crew and lubricating oil costs. This arrangement is designed to provide some protection from unexpected and significant increases in operating costs, particularly for crew and lubricating oil costs, which are driven mainly by global markets over which we have no control.

Once our ship management agreements with CMA Ships and the global expense agreement expire or are terminated, we may not be able to negotiate similar terms in replacement agreements.

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, on request, also undertakes 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. In addition, the classification society will make recommendations, including imposing a timetable, for repairs following accidents and check to confirm such repairs have been effected to an acceptable standard.

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.
- *Intermediate Surveys.* Also referred to as extended annual surveys, intermediate surveys are typically conducted two and one-half years after (a) commissioning the vessel and (b) after each class renewal. A drydocking is usually required during the intermediate survey for inspection of underwater parts and for repairs related to inspections. However, by increasing the resilience of the underwater coating and marking the vessel’s hull to accommodate in-water inspection by divers, in-water inspections may be accepted by classification societies in lieu of drydockings at intermediate surveys. If any defects are found, the classification surveyor will issue a “recommendation” that must be rectified by the ship-owner

within prescribed time limits. A drydocking would only be required if the in-water inspection showed urgent repairs that could only be carried out in drydock. In-water inspections are typically less expensive than drydocking inspections and we intend to conduct in-water inspections when that option is available to us.

- *Class Renewal Surveys.* Class renewal surveys, also known as special surveys, are carried out typically every five years on the ship’s hull, machinery, including the electrical plant, and any special equipment classed, at the intervals indicated by the character of classification for the hull. Vessels are normally required to be inspected in a drydock as part of the special survey. However, with the classification society’s approval, the vessel can be subject to an underwater inspection, in lieu of a drydocking. 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. Substantial expense may have to be incurred for steel renewals to pass a special survey if the vessel has experienced excessive wear and tear. As an alternate to carrying out all of the required inspections at the special survey every five years, a ship-owner has the option of arranging with the classification society for the vessel’s hull or machinery to be on a continuous basis, in which every relevant part of the vessel would be surveyed on a five year cycle. A dry-docking or underwater inspection is required at the fifth year anniversary to inspect underwater parts. The process of continuous class renewal spreads out the required inspections and their associated cost, while the vessel is still in service, and reduces the amount of inspection required each fifth year.

As a condition for obtaining insurance coverage, each of our vessels needs to be certified “in class” by a member of the International Association of Classification Societies (“IACS”). Generally, if recommendations are not sufficiently corrected as determined by a member of IACS, then the vessel may not remain “in class.” If a vessel is not “in class,” it may not be covered by insurance, and may not be available for charter.

The following table shows the classification societies for our vessels and lists the month by which they need to have completed their next drydocking, taking into account the drydocking of OOCL Tianjin completed in January 2015:

<u>Vessel Name</u>	<u>Classification Society</u>	<u>Drydocking Month(1)</u>
Ville d’Orion	Bureau Veritas	January 2017
Ville d’Aquarius	Bureau Veritas	December 2016
CMA CGM Matisse	Bureau Veritas	November 2019
CMA CGM Utrillo	Bureau Veritas	December 2019
Delmas Keta	Bureau Veritas	March 2018
Julie Delmas	Bureau Veritas	November 2017
Marie Delmas	Bureau Veritas	January 2017
CMA CGM La Tour	Bureau Veritas	June 2016
CMA CGM Manet	Bureau Veritas	October 2016
Kumasi	Bureau Veritas	March 2017
CMA CGM Alcazar	Bureau Veritas	November 2017
CMA CGM Château d’If	Bureau Veritas	December 2017
CMA CGM Thalassa (2)	Bureau Veritas	December 2017
CMA CGM Jamaica	DNV-GL	September 2016
CMA CGM Sambhar	Lloyd’s Register	July 2016
CMA CGM America	Lloyd’s Register	September 2016
CMA CGM Berlioz	Bureau Veritas	July 2016
OOCL Tianjin	American Bureau of Shipping	March 2020
OOCL Qingdao	American Bureau of Shipping	April 2019

(1) Expected month of drydocking assume that the vessels qualify for in-water inspections at the intermediate survey.

(2) CMA CGM Thalassa underwent its first special survey in November 2013 whilst afloat including an underwater inspection in lieu of a drydocking. As a result, the next required inspection in a drydock has been postponed from December 2013 until December 2017 at the latest. The vessel was drydocked in December 2014, principally to modify the bulbous bow to allow for more efficient fuel consumption at slower speeds. In addition, regular drydock work was undertaken, including repainting the underwater parts, and current regulatory deadline of December 2017 may be extended.

[Table of Contents](#)

The table does not take account of discretionary drydockings which might be planned to effect upgrades, such as the bulbous bow on CMA CGM Thalassa, or in response to proposed or actual regulatory changes such as for ballast water treatment.

Competition

We operate in markets that are highly competitive. We expect to compete for vessel purchases and charters based upon price, customer relationships, operating expertise, professional reputation and size, age and condition of the vessel. We also expect to compete with many other companies, both other owners and operators including CMA CGM and its subsidiaries, to, among other things, purchase newbuildings and secondhand vessels to grow our fleet.

We expect substantial competition in obtaining new containership charters from a number of experienced and substantial companies. Many of these competitors may have greater financial resources than us, and may also operate larger fleets and may be able to offer better charter rates. Due to the recent industry downturn, there have been an increased number of vessels available for charter, including many from owners with strong reputations and experience. Excess supply of vessels in the container shipping market results in a more active short-term charter market and greater price competition for charters. As a result of these factors, we may be unable to purchase additional containerships, expand our relationships or to obtain new charterers on a profitable basis, if at all, which would have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Permits and Authorizations

We are required by various governmental and other 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 commodities transported, the waters in which the vessel operates, the nationality of the vessel's crew and the age of a vessel. Not all of the permits, licenses and certificates currently required to operate the vessels globally have been obtained by us or our ship managers. For example, the Delmas Keta, Julie Delmas, Kumasi and Marie Delmas have not been certified to comply with all U.S., Canadian and Panama Canal regulations, as CMA CGM does not intend to operate them in these waters.

Environmental and Other Regulations

Government regulation significantly affects the ownership and operation of vessels. We are subject to international conventions and codes, and national, state and local laws and regulations in force in the countries in which our vessels may operate or are registered, including those governing the management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, the cleanup of oil spills and other contamination, air emissions, and water discharges, ballast water management and security. Compliance with these laws, regulations and other requirements entails significant expense, including vessel modifications and implementation of certain operating procedures, and are subject to frequent change.

A variety of governmental and private entities subject our vessels to both scheduled and unscheduled inspections. These entities include the local port authorities, U.S. Coast Guard, harbor master or equivalent, classification societies, flag state administrations, country of registry, charterers, and terminal operators. Certain of these entities require us to obtain permits, licenses and certificates for the operation of our vessels. Failure to maintain necessary permits or approvals could require us to incur substantial penalties, costs or temporarily suspend the operation of one or more of our vessels in one or more ports.

We believe that the heightened level of environmental and quality concerns among insurance underwriters, regulators and charterers is leading to greater inspection and safety requirements on all vessels and may accelerate the scrapping of older vessels throughout the shipping industry.

Increasing environmental concerns have created a demand for vessels that conform to the stricter environmental standards. We will be required to maintain operating standards for all of our vessels that emphasize

[Table of Contents](#)

operational safety, quality maintenance, continuous training of our officers and crews and compliance with U.S. and international regulations. Because such laws and regulations are changed frequently and may impose increasingly strict requirements, future environmental regulations may limit our ability to do business, increase our operating costs, force the early retirement of our vessels and/or affect their resale value, all of which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

International Maritime Organization

Our vessels are subject to standards imposed by the International Maritime Organization, (“IMO”), the United Nations agency for maritime safety and the prevention of pollution by ships. The IMO has negotiated various international conventions and implemented regulations that address oil discharges, ballasting and unloading operations, sewage, garbage and air emissions, and impose liability for pollution in international waters and a signatory’s territorial waters.

The IMO’s International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, or MARPOL, imposes environmental standards on the shipping industry relating to oil spills, management of garbage, the handling and disposal of noxious liquids, harmful substances in packaged forms, sewage and air emissions. Annex I specifies requirements for continuous monitoring of oily water discharges and establishes a number of special areas in which more stringent discharge standards are applicable. Carriage of chemicals in bulk is covered by regulations MARPOL Annex II. Annex III of MARPOL regulates the transportation of packaged dangerous goods (marine pollutants) and includes standards on packing, marking, labeling, documentation, stowage, quantity limitations and pollution prevention. These Annex III requirements have been expanded by the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code, which imposes additional standards for all aspects of the transportation of dangerous goods and marine pollutants by sea. Annex IV contains a set of regulations regarding the discharge of sewage into the sea, the configuration and operation of ships’ equipment and systems for the control of sewage discharge, and requirements for survey and certification. Annex V totally prohibits the disposal of plastics anywhere into the sea, and severely restricts discharges of other garbage from ships into coastal waters and special areas. MARPOL’s Annex VI sets limits on sulphur oxide, nitrogen oxide, carbon dioxide and particulate matter emissions from ship exhausts and prohibits deliberate emissions of ozone depleting substances, such as chlorofluorocarbons. Annex VI also includes a global cap on the sulphur content of fuel oil and allows for the creation of Emission Control Areas, or ECAs. Already established ECAs include the Baltic Sea, the North Sea, including the English Channel, the North American area and the U.S. Caribbean Sea area. Additional geographical areas may be designated as ECAs in the future. Annex VI calls for incremental reductions in sulphur in fuel between 2012 and 2020 (or 2015 in the case of ECAs), with the global sulphur cap reduced initially to 3.50% (from 4.50%), effective from January 1, 2012, then progressively to 0.50%, effective from January 1, 2020, subject to a feasibility review to be completed no later than 2018. Annex VI also calls for the use of advanced technology engines designed to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxide, with a “Tier II” emission limit for engines installed on or after January 1, 2011 and a more stringent “Tier III” emission limit for engines installed on or after 2016 operating in nitrogen oxide ECAs.

We have registered the vessels in our fleet in flag states that have ratified Annex VI, which require that we obtain International Air Pollution Prevention Certificates, or IAPP Certificates, for the vessels in our fleet, from those flag states. As of December 31, 2014, all of the vessels in our fleet had IAPP Certificates.

New regulations aimed at improving the energy efficiency of international shipping entered into force on January 1, 2013, following amendments to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) which were adopted in July 2011. These amendments add new Chapter 4 Regulations on energy efficiency for ships to MARPOL Annex VI, to make mandatory an Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI), for new ships built after January 1, 2013 and a Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan (SEEMP) for all ships. Ships in service need to submit a SEEMP and obtain certification of compliance from their classification society by the first annual survey after January 1, 2013.

The EEDI is a non-prescriptive, performance-based mechanism that leaves the choice of technologies to use in a specific ship design to the industry. As long as the required energy-efficiency level is attained, ship designers and builders would be free to use the most cost-efficient solutions for the ship to comply with the regulations.

[Table of Contents](#)

The SEEMP establishes a mechanism for operators to improve the energy efficiency of ships. Owners are required to prepare and vessels are required to keep on board, a ship specific SEEMP. As at December 31, 2014 all of our vessels had prepared and submitted a SEEMP and had been issued with an International Energy Efficiency Certificate (IEEC).

These and similar requirements could require modifications to our vessels to achieve compliance. We are evaluating these requirements and the alternatives for achieving compliance. The costs to comply with these requirements may be material or significant to our operations.

The operation of our vessels is also affected by the requirements set forth in the International Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and Pollution Prevention, or ISM Code, compliance with which is required under the International Convention of Safety of Life at Sea, or SOLAS. The ISM Code requires ship-owners or any other entity such as a manager or a bareboat charterer, who has assumed the responsibility for operating and managing the vessel, to develop and maintain a "Safety Management System," which includes the requirements to assess all identified risks, adopt a safety and environmental protection policy achieving the ISM Code objectives; adopt instructions and procedures to ensure safe operation of ships and protection of the environment pursuant to international and flag state laws and regulations; defined levels of authority and lines of communication between, and among, shore and shipboard personnel; procedures for reporting accidents and non-conformities with the provision of the ISM Code and corrective action; procedures to prepare guidelines and respond to emergency situation; and procedures for regular internal audits and management reviews including evaluating effectiveness. The ISM Code requires that the vessel operator be issued a Document of Compliance and the vessels it operates be issued a Safety Management Certificate, evidencing compliance by the vessel's management with ISM Code requirements for a Safety Management System. The failure of a ship-owner or bareboat charterer to comply with the ISM Code may subject such party to increased liability, may decrease available insurance coverage for the affected vessels and may result in a denial of access to, or detention in, certain ports. As at December 31, 2014, each of the vessels in our fleet, and the entities managing them, were certified pursuant to requirements of ISM Code. There can be no assurance that any certification will be maintained indefinitely. SOLAS itself specifies minimum standards for the construction, equipment and operation of ships, compatible with their safety. Flag states are responsible for ensuring that ships under their jurisdictions comply with these requirements, and require various certificates pursuant to SOLAS as proof of such compliance.

In 2004, the IMO adopted an International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, or BWM Convention. The BWM Convention's implementing regulations call for the installation of ballast water treatment systems on newbuilding vessels for which the keel is laid after January 1, 2012 and for existing vessels prior to their first intermediate or renewal survey after January 1, 2016. However, a 2013 IMO Resolution, provides that for ships constructed before the BWM Convention enters into force, compliance with the ballast water performance standard will not be required until their first renewal survey after entry into force. The BWM Convention will not enter into force, on a retroactive basis, until 12 months after it has been adopted by at least 30 IMO Member States, the combined merchant fleets of which represent not less than 35% of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping. As of March 10, 2015, the BWM Convention has been ratified by 44 states but those states constitute only 32.86% of gross tonnage and therefore the Convention has not yet come into force. See "—Ballast Water Management," below, for a discussion of possible impacts of increased ballast water management regulation.

In 2001, the IMO adopted the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, or the Bunker Convention, which imposes strict liability on ship owners for pollution damage in jurisdictional waters of convention states caused by discharges of "Bunker Oil." The Bunker Convention defines "Bunker Oil" as "any hydrocarbon mineral oil, including lubricating oil, used or intended to be used for the operation or propulsion of the ship, and any residues of such oil." The Bunker Convention also requires registered owners of ships over a certain size to maintain insurance for pollution damage in an amount equal to the limits of liability under the applicable national or international limitation regime (but not exceeding the amount calculated in accordance with the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims of 1976, as amended). The Bunker Convention took effect on November 21, 2008.

On September 17, 2008, the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships, or AFSC, came into force. It prohibits the use of harmful organotins in anti-fouling paints used on ships and

[Table of Contents](#)

will establish a mechanism to prevent the potential future use of other harmful substances in anti-fouling systems. Our vessels are required to obtain certification of compliance. As at December 31, 2014 each of our vessels was in possession of a Statement of Compliance issued by the Classification Society.

Increasingly, independent agencies representing various nations and regions are adopting additional unilateral requirements on the operation of vessels in their territorial waters. These regulations, as described below, apply to our vessels when they are in their waters and can add to the costs of operating and maintaining those vessels as well as increasing the potential liabilities that apply to spills or releases of oil or other materials or violations of the applicable requirements.

International Labour Organization

The Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC 2006) came into force on August 20, 2013 following ratification by 30 nations representing 33% of the world's shipping gross tonnage. MLC 2006 establishes minimum requirements for seafarer's employment conditions such as hours of work and rest, training/certification, health protection, medical care/certification, welfare and social security protection, as well as, for new ships, accommodation and recreational facilities. Each ship is required to obtain proof of compliance in the form of a Maritime Labour Certificate from the flag state and by preparing a Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance, which should minimize compliance inspections. Each of our vessels is compliant.

United States

The United States Oil Pollution Act of 1990

The United States Oil Pollution Act of 1990, or OPA, establishes an extensive regulatory and liability regime for the protection and cleanup of the environment from oil spills. OPA applies to discharges of any oil from a vessel, including discharges of fuel and lubricants and affects all owners and operators whose vessels trade to the U.S., including its territories and possessions, or whose vessels operate in U.S. waters, which includes the U.S. territorial sea and its two hundred nautical mile exclusive economic zone. Although OPA is primarily directed at oil tankers (which are not owned or operated by us), it also applies to non-tank ships, including containerships, with respect to the fuel oil, or bunkers, used to power such ships.

Under OPA, vessel owners, operators and bareboat charterers are "responsible parties" and 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) for all containment and clean-up costs and other damages arising from discharges or threatened discharges of oil from their vessels. OPA defines these other damages broadly to include:

- natural resources damage and the costs of assessment thereof;
- real and personal property damage;
- net loss of taxes, royalties, rents, fees and other lost revenues;
- lost profits or impairment of earning capacity due to property or natural resources damage; and
- net cost of public services necessitated by a spill response, such as protection from fire, safety or health hazards, and loss of subsistence use of natural resources.

On July 1, 2009 the U.S. Coast Guard (the "Coast Guard") by Interim Rule increased the limits of the liability of responsible parties with effect from July 31, 2009. For any non-tank vessel, the new limits on liability are the greater of \$1,000 per gross ton or \$854,400. These limits of liability do not apply if an incident was directly caused by violation of applicable U.S. federal safety, construction or operating regulations or by a responsible party's gross negligence or willful misconduct, or if the responsible party fails or refuses to report the incident or to cooperate and assist in connection with oil removal activities. Additionally, OPA specifically permits individual states to impose their own liability regimes with regard to oil pollution incidents occurring within their boundaries, and some states have enacted legislation providing for unlimited liability for oil spills. We intend to comply with all applicable state regulations in the ports where our vessels call.

[Table of Contents](#)

We intend to maintain pollution liability coverage insurance in the amount of \$1.0 billion per incident for each of our vessels. If the damages from a catastrophic spill were to exceed our insurance coverage, it could have an adverse effect on our business and results of operation.

OPA requires owners and operators of vessels to obtain a certificate of financial responsibility by establishing and maintaining with the Coast Guard evidence of financial responsibility sufficient to meet their potential liabilities under the OPA; an owner or operator of a fleet of vessels is required only to demonstrate evidence of financial responsibility in an amount sufficient to cover the vessels in the fleet having the greatest maximum liability under OPA. An owner or operator may evidence its financial responsibility by showing proof of insurance, surety bond, self-insurance or guaranty. Under the self-insurance provisions, the ship-owner or operator must have a net worth and working capital, measured in assets located in the U.S. against liabilities located anywhere in the world, that exceeds the applicable amount of financial responsibility. For our vessels that are likely to enter U.S. waters, we intend to comply with the U.S. Coast Guard regulations by providing a certificate of responsibility from third party entities that are acceptable to the U.S. Coast Guard evidencing sufficient insurance.

The U.S. Coast Guard's regulations concerning certificates of financial responsibility provide, in accordance with OPA, that claimants may bring suit directly against an insurer or guarantor that furnishes certificates of financial responsibility. In the event that such insurer or guarantor is sued directly, it is prohibited from asserting any contractual defense that it may have had against the responsible party and is limited to asserting those defenses available to the responsible party and the defense that the incident was caused by the willful misconduct of the responsible party. Certain organizations, which had typically provided certificates of financial responsibility under pre-OPA laws, including the major protection and indemnity organizations, have declined to furnish evidence of insurance for vessel owners and operators if they are subject to direct actions or required to waive insurance policy defenses. This requirement may have the effect of limiting the availability of the type of coverage required by the Coast Guard and could increase costs of obtaining this insurance for us and our competitors.

In addition, Title VII of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004, or CGMTA, amended OPA to require the U.S. Coast Guard to issue regulations to require the owner or operator of any non-tank vessel of 400 gross tons or more that carries oil of any kind as a fuel for main propulsion, to prepare and submit a response plan for each vessel. The U.S. Coast Guard issued a Nontank Vessel Response Plan Final Rule on September, 30, 2013 effective October 30, 2013 and implemented on January 30, 2014 under which vessel owners or operators must submit a new oil spill Vessel Response Plan to meet the new requirements of Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (Part 155, subpart J) to replace the present Vessel Response Plans given changes in the regulations. The Vessel Response Plans include detailed information on actions to be taken by vessel personnel to prevent or mitigate any discharge or threat of discharge of oil from the vessel due to operational activities or casualties. Regulations issued under CGMTA that require Government-Initiated Unannounced Exercises (GIUE) to test the response plans were extended to non-tank vessels. GIUE are paid for by the ship owner. We comply with the requirements of the CGMTA and OPA. Our vessels that call at U.S. ports have appropriate vessel response plans filed with the U.S. Coast Guard and copies are available onboard.

Following the "Deepwater Horizon" incident a number of legislative proposals have been made in the U.S. Senate that may repeal the Limitation of Liability Act of 1851, remove or increase the cap on liability provided by OPA 90 and provide for non-pecuniary loss and punitive damages by amending the Death on the High Seas Act and Jones Act. We continue to monitor these proposals.

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, or CERCLA, governs spills or releases of hazardous substances other than petroleum or petroleum products. CERCLA imposes joint and several liability, without regard to fault, on the owner or operator of a ship, vehicle or facility from which there has been a release, along with other specified responsible parties. Costs recoverable under CERCLA include cleanup and removal costs, natural resource damages and governmental oversight costs. Liability under CERCLA is

[Table of Contents](#)

generally limited to the greater of \$300 per gross ton or \$0.5 million unless the incident is caused by gross negligence, willful misconduct or a violation of certain regulations, in which case liability is unlimited. These liability amounts are included in the total financial responsibility amounts required to obtain a Coast Guard certificate of financial responsibility, as described above.

Ballast Water Management

The National Invasive Species Act, or 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. Under NISA, the Coast Guard required mandatory ballast water management practices for all vessels equipped with ballast water tanks bound for U.S. ports or entering U.S. waters and requires vessels to maintain a ballast water management plan that is specific for that vessel and assigns responsibility to the master or appropriate official to understand and execute the ballast water management strategy for that vessel.

The US Coast Guard Final Rule, Standard for Living Organisms in Ships' Ballast Water Discharged in US Waters (superseding the previous) came into effect on June 21, 2012 and sets out allowable organism concentrations consistent with the IMO BWM Convention. The Final Rule also set out general non-indigenous species reduction practices including hull, tank and pipe cleaning. The Final Rule introduces a requirement for a Ballast Water Management System (BWMS) for vessels with a ballast water capacity between 1500 and 5000 cubic meters by the first scheduled drydocking after January 1, 2014 and for those with smaller or larger capacity by the first such drydocking after January 1, 2016. All of our vessels have ballast water capacities in excess of 5,000 cubic meters. Before then as alternatives, ballast water may be exchanged 200 nautical miles from any shore or an Alternative Management System may be installed that is approved by a foreign administration under the BWM Convention, meets a minimum effective determination by the Coast Guard and receives full approval within five years of the compliance date for the vessel. The BWMS must meet stringent maximum allowable organism concentrations depending on their size and hazard to health, as well as other design criteria. BWM records must be retained on board for two years and information notified at least 24 hours prior to arrival. The Coast Guard has by Policy letter advised it will consider individual requests for extensions in case of real difficulty in implementing BWM discharge standards due to availability of appropriate BWMS, though it has also issued an updated list of approved BWMS.

The Clean Water Act, or CWA, prohibits the discharge of oil or hazardous substances in U.S. navigable waters without a permit and imposes strict liability in the form of penalties for any unauthorized discharges. Current Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, regulations exempt ships in U.S. navigable waters from the requirement to obtain CWA permits for discharges of ballast water and other substances incidental to the normal operation of vessels. However, a U.S. District Court ruled in 2006 that EPA lacks the authority to exclude discharges of vessel ballast water from permitting requirements under the CWA, invalidating the blanket exemption in EPA regulations for all discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel as at September 30, 2008, and directed EPA to develop a system for regulating all discharges from vessels by that date. EPA's appeal failed and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the District Court's ruling on July 23, 2008. In response, EPA issued a Vessel General Permit, or the VGP, covering the discharges incidental to the operation of vessels greater than 79 feet in length on December 18, 2008. Vessels were required to comply with the VGP by February 6, 2009. The VGP requires the use of Best Management Practices, inspections, and monitoring of the areas of the vessel the permit addresses. States may also add additional conditions. For example, California requires that all vessel discharges in its waters comply with numeric effluent limitations. The new 2013 VGP replaced the 2008 VGP on 19 December 2013 and provides for more stringent numerical ballast water discharge limits for most vessels, more stringent effluent limits for oil to sea interfaces and for exhaust gas scrubber wash water and an annual report in place of the current one-time report.

There remains a patchwork of partly inconsistent ballast water management and hull cleaning regulations across the various U.S. states, some containing requirements more stringent than IMO, such as California, which requires vessels exceeding 300 gross tons operating in its waters to perform, record and report regular hull cleaning and limits the number of living organisms of different categories that may be discharged.

Changes in ballast water management rules and regulations, either in the U.S. or internationally (See “—International Maritime Organization” above), could increase the cost of compliance for ocean carriers, including requiring installation of equipment of ballast water treatment systems on vessels at substantial cost.

Clean Air Act

The Federal Clean Air Act of 1970, as amended by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977 and 1990, or the CAA, requires the 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 when cleaning fuel tanks and conducting other operations in regulated port areas and emissions standards for compression-ignition marine engines operating in U.S. waters. These types of engines are called “Category 3” marine diesel engines and are typically found on large oceangoing vessels. These rules are currently limited to new engines beginning with the 2004 model year. In December 2009, the EPA issued more stringent emission standards for new Category 3 marine engines. The standards are consistent with the amendments to Annex VI of MARPOL discussed above. Certain emission standards took effect early as 2011. We may incur costs to install equipment in these vessels to comply.

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. Where states fail to present approvable SIPs or SIP revisions by certain statutory deadlines, the federal government is required to draft a Federal Implementation Plan. Several SIPs regulate emissions resulting from degassing operations by requiring the installation of vapor control equipment on vessels. There is a risk that new regulations could require significant capital expenditures and otherwise increase our costs.

After a previous attempt to regulate the emissions of auxiliary diesel engines on ocean-going vessels was rejected by the Ninth Circuit, California’s Air Resources Board, or CARB, approved new regulations on July 24, 2008. These regulations apply to ocean-going vessels’ main diesel engines, auxiliary engines, and auxiliary boilers when operating within 24 nautical miles of the California coast and require operators to use low sulphur fuels. The Office of Administrative Law approved the rulemaking and filed it with the Secretary of State on May 29, 2009. The regulation became effective on June 28, 2009. The implementation date for the second phase of the program, which further reduced permissible levels of sulphur in fuel was January 1, 2014, when ocean going vessels would be limited to using distillate fuels containing no more than 0.1% of sulphur, aligning California’s requirements more closely with the Federal standards and allowing vessel operators more flexibility to acquire compliant fuels.

California also approved regulations on December 3, 2008 to reduce emissions from diesel auxiliary engines on certain ocean-going vessels while in California ports, including container ship fleets that make 25 or more annual visits to California ports. The regulations became effective January 2, 2009 and require vessel operators to either (1) turn off auxiliary engines for most of their stay and connect the vessel to some other source of power, most likely a shore-based grid, or (2) use alternative control techniques to achieve equivalent emission reductions. Fleet operators were required to submit or update their plans and reduction of at berth emissions by half on average has been required since January 1, 2014. These requirements may increase operating costs while in California ports.

European Union

In waters of the European Union, or the EU, our vessels are subject to regulation EU-level Directives implemented by the various nations through laws and regulations of these requirements and EU Regulations that have direct effect in EU member states. These laws and regulations prescribe measures to prevent pollution, protect the environment, and support maritime safety and set out criminal penalties which are being progressively incorporated into domestic legislation.

On Port State Control, for instance, the EU has adopted directives (1999/35/EC & 2009/16/EC) that require member states to refuse access to their ports to certain sub-standard vessels, according to vessel type, flag, and number of previous detentions. Member states must inspect at least 25% of vessels using their ports annually and provide increased surveillance of vessels posing a high risk to maritime safety or the marine environment. If deficiencies are found that are clearly hazardous to safety, health or the environment, the state is required to detain the vessel until the deficiencies are addressed. Member states are also required to implement a system of penalties for breaches of these standards.

EU Directive 2009/16/EC introduced a new harmonized and coordinated regime for port state control inspections and from January 1, 2011 a new on-line register to make public both the poorly performing shipping companies (who will attract more intensive and coordinated inspections) and those with good records.

[Table of Contents](#)

Our vessels are also required to be inspected by an appropriate classification society. Classification societies typically establish and maintain standards for the construction and classification of vessels, supervise that construction is according to these standards, and carry out regular surveys of ships in service to ensure compliance with the standards as well as flag state regulations. The EU has adopted directives that provide member states with greater authority and control over classification societies, including the ability to seek to suspend or revoke the authority of classification societies that are negligent in their duties. The EU requires member states to monitor these organizations' compliance with EU inspection requirements and to suspend any organization whose safety and pollution prevention performance of the organization becomes unsatisfactory.

The EU's directive on the sulphur content of fuels restricts the maximum sulphur content of marine fuels used in vessels operating in EU member states' territorial seas, exclusive economic zones and pollution control zones. The directive provides for more stringent rules on maximum sulphur content of marine fuels applicable in specific Sulphur Emission Control Areas, or SECAs, such as the Baltic Sea and the North Sea, including the English Channel. Further sea areas may be designated as SECAs in the future by the IMO in accordance with Annex VI of MARPOL. Under this directive, we may be required to make expenditures to comply with the sulphur fuel content limits in the marine fuel our vessels use in order to avoid delays or other obstructions to their operations, as well as for any enforcement measures which may be imposed by the relevant member states for non-compliance with the provisions of the directive. We also may need to make other expenditures (such as expenditures related to treating exhaust gases) to comply with relevant limitations on sulphur oxide emissions levels. Another more recent, directive of the European Parliament and the European Council has entered into force, which amends the previous directive to bring the above requirements in line with Annex VI of MARPOL. It also makes certain of these requirements more stringent. These and other related requirements may require additional capital expenditures and increase our operating costs.

Another EU directive requires member states to cooperate to detect pollution discharges and impose criminal sanctions for certain pollution discharges committed intentionally, recklessly or by serious negligence and to initiate proceedings against ships at their next port of call following the discharge. Penalties may include fines and civil and criminal penalties.

The EU also authorizes member states to adopt the IMO's Bunker Convention, discussed above, that imposes strict liability on shipowners for pollution damage caused by spills of oil carried as fuel in vessels' bunkers and requires vessels of a certain size to maintain financial security to cover any liability for such damage. Most EU member states have ratified the Bunker Convention.

The EU is currently considering other proposals to further regulate vessel operations. The EU has adopted an Integrated Maritime Policy for the purposes of achieving a more coherent approach to maritime issues. The EU Commission's proposals included, in part, the development of environmentally sound end-of-life ship dismantling requirements, promotion of the use of shore-side electricity by ships at berth in EU ports to reduce air emissions, and consideration of options for EU legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from maritime transport.

In response to the sinking of the MT Prestige and resulting oil spill in 2003, the EU adopted a directive requiring member states to impose criminal sanctions for certain pollution discharges committed intentionally, recklessly, or by serious negligence. Penalties may include fines, imprisonment, permanent or temporary disqualification from engaging in commercial activities, placement under judicial supervision, or exclusion from access to public benefits or aid.

The EU also authorizes member states to adopt the IMO's Bunker Convention, discussed above, that imposes strict liability on ship owners for pollution damage caused by spills of oil carried as fuel in vessels' bunkers and requires vessels of a certain size to maintain financial security to cover any liability for such damage.

The EU is currently considering other proposals to further regulate vessel operations. In October 2007, the EU adopted a new Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union that included, in part, the development of environmentally sound end-of-life ship dismantling requirements. The European Commission is particularly interested in a solution to ensure sound ship dismantling in non-OECD countries. It is thought that any new regulations would incorporate elements of the Hong Kong International Convention on the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, appropriate for the global approach to ship dismantling and elements of

[Table of Contents](#)

the Basel Convention to the in situ treatment of materials from dismantling. On November 15, 2013 an EU Regulation on Ship Recycling was adopted requiring vessels to carry an inventory of hazardous materials within seven years for existing ships. Further regulations are expected to promote the use of shore-side electricity by ships at berth in EU ports to reduce air emissions, and other options for EU legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from maritime transport.

Individual countries in the EU may also have additional environmental and safety requirements. It is impossible to predict what additional legislation or regulations, if any, may be promulgated by the European Union or any other country or authority. The trend, however, is towards increasing regulation and our expectation is that requirements will become more extensive and more stringent. Were more stringent future requirements to be put in effect in the future, they may require, individually or in the aggregate, significant expenditures and could increase our operating costs, potentially affecting financial performance.

Ballast Water Management in Europe

From October 1, 2012, a voluntary ballast water management regime has been operating in the Mediterranean Sea, NE Atlantic & Baltic, and in-between. The regime, which effectively urges ships to undertake ballast water exchange before entering those areas, is to remain in place until the BWM Convention comes into force.

Other Regions

The environmental protection regimes in other relatively high-income countries, such as Canada, resemble those of the U.S.. The People's Republic of China introduced its own regime along similar lines in 2010 which, in some instances requires ship operators to re-contract with an approved Chinese Ship Pollution Response organization. To the extent our vessels operate in the territorial waters of such countries or enter their ports, the relevant vessels would typically be subject to the requirements and liabilities imposed in such countries. Other regions of the world also have the ability to adopt requirements or regulations that may impose additional obligations on our vessels and may entail significant expenditures on our part and may increase our costs to operate our fleet. These requirements, however, would apply to the industry as a whole and would also affect our competitors.

Greenhouse Gas Legislation

In February 2005, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), or the Kyoto Protocol, entered into force. Pursuant to the Kyoto Protocol, adopting countries are required to implement national programs to reduce emissions of certain gases, generally referred to as greenhouse gases, which are suspected of contributing to global warming. The recent UN Climate change Conference resulted in the creation of a second Kyoto protocol commitment period from 2013 and a decision by governments to negotiate a new agreement with legal force including commitments from energy economies for implementation in 2020. Greenhouse gas emissions from international shipping are not expressly excluded from the Kyoto Protocol though are not included in the Annex 1 country's national targets. The Protocol directs those countries to pursue limitation and reduction measures through the IMO. The reports of the subsequent UNFCCC conferences in Copenhagen and Cancun have not mentioned shipping, though the industry may have to contribute to the Green Climate Fund agreed at the latter as it has been recognized by the UN and G20 that shipping is a potential major source of funds. The G20 has suggested a contribution as high as US\$25 billion per year.

In the U.S., the California Attorney General and a coalition of environmental groups petitioned the EPA in October 2007 to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from ocean-going ships under the Clean Air Act. Legislation has been introduced into the U.S. Congress to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S.. In addition, EPA's December 2009 "endangerment finding" regarding greenhouse gases allows the EPA to begin regulating greenhouse gas emissions under existing provisions of the federal Clean Air Act. To date, rules proposed by EPA pursuant to this authority have not involved ocean-going vessels.

[Table of Contents](#)

In July 2011, parties to MARPOL Annex VI adopted mandatory measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from international shipping. The amendments will make the Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI) mandatory for new ships and the Ship Energy

Efficiency Management Plan (SEEMP) mandatory for all ships. With regard to greenhouse gas emissions, there have been discussions in the IMO for the adoption of a market-based mechanism for the reduction of carbon emissions from vessels, such as an emissions trading system or an international greenhouse gas contribution fund, with contributions being based on bunker fuel purchases.

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 Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002, or MTSA, came into effect. To implement certain portions of the MTSA, the U.S. Coast Guard in July 2003 issued regulations requiring the implementation of certain security requirements aboard vessels operating in waters subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S.. Similarly, in December 2002, amendments to SOLAS created a new chapter of the convention dealing specifically with maritime security. The new chapter came into effect in July 2004 and imposes various detailed security obligations on vessels and port authorities, most of which are contained in the newly created International Ship and Port Facilities Security Code, or ISPS Code. Among the various requirements are:

- on-board installation of automatic information systems to enhance vessel-to-vessel and vessel-to-shore communications;
- on-board installation of ship security alert systems;
- the development of vessel security plans; and
- compliance with flag state security certification requirements.

U.S. Coast Guard regulations are intended to align with international maritime security standards and they exempt non-U.S. vessels from MTSA vessel security measures provided such vessels have on board a valid International Ship Security Certificate that attests to the vessel's compliance with SOLAS security requirements and the ISPS Code. We have implemented various security measures addressed by SOLAS and the ISPS Code for the vessels in our fleet.

The cost of vessel security measures has also been affected by the escalation in recent years in the frequency and seriousness of acts of piracy against ships, notably off the coast of Somalia, including the Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea area. Attacks of this kind have commonly resulted in vessels and their crews being detained for several months, and being released only on payment of large ransoms. Substantial loss of revenue and other costs may be incurred as a result of such detention. The risk remains of uninsured losses which could significantly affect our business. Costs are incurred in taking additional security measures in accordance with Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy, notably those contained in the BMP4 industry standard.

Anti-Corruption Laws

Our business entails numerous interactions with government authorities, including port authorities, health, safety, and environment authorities, labor and tax authorities and customs and immigration authorities. Furthermore, at our charterer's direction, our vessels call at ports throughout the world, including in some countries where corruption is endemic. Although we have strict and adequate procedures prohibiting our employees or persons associated with us from making unlawful payments to government officials, we cannot guarantee that such payments may not be made despite our procedures and without our approval. In such case, such payments may be deemed to have violated anti-corruption laws potentially applicable to us, including the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (the "FCPA"), the UK Bribery Act 2010 (the "Bribery Act"), and the anti-corruption laws of any jurisdiction applicable to us.

[Table of Contents](#)

The FCPA, passed in 1977, prohibits providing, offering, promising, or authorizing the offer, promise or payment, directly or indirectly, anything of value to government officials, political parties, or political candidates for the purposes of obtaining or retaining business. The Bribery Act 2010, which came into force in July 2011, created four main offenses of (i) making bribes, (ii) receiving bribes, (iii) bribing foreign public officials, and (iv) failing as a commercial organization to prevent bribery when an 'associated person' bribes another on its behalf absent adequate procedures to prevent. The Bribery Act extends beyond bribery of government officials and applies to both offenses committed in the United Kingdom and overseas where the offense is committed by a person with a close connection to the United Kingdom, and fines are potentially unlimited. In addition, the U.K. Serious Fraud Office has identified the shipping industry as one of the most high risk industries likely to be affected by the Bribery Act.

Risk of Loss and Liability Insurance

General

The operation of any container 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 an inherent possibility of marine disaster, including oil spills and other environmental damages, other spills or releases, and the liabilities arising from owning and operating vessels in international trade. OPA, which imposes, in certain circumstances, virtually unlimited liability upon owners, operators and demise charterers of vessels trading in the United States exclusive economic zone for certain oil pollution accidents in the U.S., has made liability insurance more expensive for ship owners and operators trading in the U.S. market.

We maintain marine hull and machinery insurance, war risks insurance, protection and indemnity cover, increased value insurance and freight, demurrage and defense cover for all our vessels in amounts that we believe to be prudent to cover normal risks in our operations, but we may not be able to maintain these levels of coverage throughout our vessels' useful lives. Furthermore, while we believe that our insurance coverage will be 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 & Machinery, Loss of Hire and War Risks Insurance

We maintain marine hull and machinery and war risks insurances, which cover the risk of actual or constructive total loss, for all of our vessels. Our vessels are each covered up to at least fair market value, which we expect to assess at least annually, with certain deductibles per vessel per incident. We also maintain increased value coverage for each of our vessels under which in the event of total loss or constructive total loss of a vessel, we will be entitled to recover amounts otherwise not recoverable under our basic hull and machinery or war policies due to under-insurance. As required by the terms of our revolving credit facility and the notes, we have assigned certain of our insurance policies to our lenders under the revolving credit facility and the holders of the notes and will be subject to restrictions on our use of any proceeds therefrom.

We have not so far obtained loss-of-hire insurance covering the loss of revenue during extended off-hire periods. We evaluate obtaining such coverage on an ongoing basis, taking into account insurance market conditions and the employment of our vessels.

Protection and Indemnity Insurance

Protection and indemnity insurance is mutual indemnity insurance provided by mutual protection and indemnity associations, or P&I Associations, which insure third-party and crew liabilities in connection with shipping activities. This includes third-party liability, crew liability and other related expenses resulting from the injury or death of crew, passengers and other third parties, the 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. Its coverage, except for pollution, is unlimited; coverage for pollution is capped at \$1.0 billion per vessel per incident. As required by the terms of our revolving credit facility and the notes, we have assigned certain of our insurance policies to our lenders under the revolving credit facility and the holders of the notes and will be subject to restrictions on our use of any proceeds therefrom.

[Table of Contents](#)

13 P&I Associations comprise The International Group, which insures approximately 90% of the world's commercial blue-water tonnage and has entered into a pooling agreement with each of its members to reinsure each association's liabilities. We intend to remain members of P&I Associations that are members of the International Group, and as such, we will be subject to calls payable to the International Group based on other P&I Associations claim records as well as the claim records of all other members of our own P&I Associations.

C. Organizational Structure

Our holding company, Global Ship Lease, Inc., is a Marshall Islands corporation. Each vessel is owned by a directly held separate wholly owned subsidiary. Sixteen vessels are owned by companies incorporated in Cyprus, two by companies incorporated in Hong Kong and one is held by a further Marshall Islands company. In addition, Global Ship Lease Services Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales and which is directly wholly owned by the holding company, provides administrative services to the group.

D. Property, Plants and Equipment

Our only material properties are the vessels in our fleet, which are described in Item 4.B. "Information on the Company—Business Overview". We do not own any real property.

Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects

A. Results of Operations

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

The following discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and the related notes and the financial and other information included elsewhere in this Annual Report. The term consolidated financial statements refers to the consolidated financial statements of Global Ship Lease, Inc. and its subsidiaries. This discussion contains forward-looking statements based on assumptions about our future business. Our actual results will likely differ materially from those contained in the forward-looking statements. See Part I. "Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements."

Overview

We are a containership charter owner, incorporated in the Marshall Islands. We commenced operations in December 2007 with a business of owning and chartering out containerships under long-term, fixed rate charters to container liner companies.

At December 31, 2014 we owned 18 vessels with a total capacity of 74,412 TEU with an average age, weighted by TEU capacity, of 10.7 years. All of the vessels are fixed on charters, mainly long term, with an average remaining term of 5.5 years, or 6.4 years on a weighted by capacity basis, excluding two vessels which are fixed in the short term charter market.

10,737,004 common shares held by Marathon's initial stockholders were registered for sale under Form F-3 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 28, 2014. The registration and availability of such a significant number of securities for trading in the public market may have an adverse effect on the market price of our Class A common shares.

On October 28, 2014 we purchased OOCL Tianjin from OOCL and immediately chartered the vessel back to OOCL for a period of 36 to 39 months, at charterer's option with 60 days' notice of re-delivery.

[Table of Contents](#)

On March 11, 2015 we purchased OOCL Qingdao from OOCL and immediately chartered the vessel back to OOCL for a period of 36 to 39 months, at charterer's option with 60 days' notice of re-delivery.

We have entered into ship management agreements with third party ship managers for the day-to-day technical management of our current fleet of vessels. See Item 4.B. "Information on the Company—Business Overview—Ship Management Agreements" for a more detailed description of our ship management agreements.

Our financial results are largely driven by the following factors:

- the continued performance of the charter agreements;
- the number of vessels in our fleet and their charter rates;
- the terms under which we will recharter our vessels once the existing time charters have expired, including the two vessels whose existing charters can expire on 30 days' notice;
- the number of days that our vessels are utilized and not subject to drydocking, special surveys or otherwise are off-hire;
- our ability to control our costs, including ship operating costs, ship management fees, insurance costs, drydock costs, general, administrative and other expenses and interest and financing costs. Ship operating costs may vary from month to month depending on a number of factors, including the timing of purchases of spares and stores and of crew changes;
- changes in the market value of any interest rate derivatives;
- impairment of our vessels and other non-current assets; and
- access to, and the pricing and other terms of, our revolving credit facility.

We have entered into mainly long-term fixed rate time charters for all of our vessels. We expect that our base revenue will be largely fixed until (a) any of our charters expire or otherwise terminate when we will need to seek a renewal or recharter, at possibly a significantly different rate depending on market conditions at the time, or (b) we acquire additional vessels. Our time charter agreements on two vessels are on 30 days' notice and expire at the latest by June 3, 2015 and July 17, 2015. The charter rate that we would be able to achieve on renewal will be affected by market conditions at that time. As discussed further below, operational matters such as off-hire days for planned maintenance or for unexpected accidents and incidents affect the actual amount of revenues we receive.

CMA CGM is our main customer and charter payments from CMA CGM are our principal source of operating cash flow. At any given time in the future, the cash resources of CMA CGM may be diminished or exhausted, and we cannot assure you that CMA CGM will be able to make charter payments to us. The container shipping industry suffered a cyclical downturn in 2011 and many container shipping companies reported substantial losses. Financial performance of container shipping companies improved in 2012 however, the industry remains under pressure due to oversupply of container ship capacity. Whilst charter payments have been received on a timely basis in the past few months, we have experienced, from time to time, delays in receiving charterhire payments from CMA CGM. For example, in the year ended December 31, 2013, between one and three instalments were outstanding at any one time, which under the charter contracts are due to be paid on the 1st and 16th of each month, in advance. As at December 31, 2014, charterhire was up-to-date. If CMA CGM is unable to make charter payments to us, our results of operations and financial condition will be materially adversely affected. If our existing charters with CMA CGM were terminated and we were required to recharter at lower rates or if we were unable to find new charters due to market conditions, our results of operations and financial condition would be materially adversely affected.

[Table of Contents](#)

Recent Developments

On March 11, 2015 we purchased OOCL Qingdao from OOCL and immediately chartered the vessel back to OOCL for a period of 36 to 39 months, at charterer's option with 60 days' notice of re-delivery.

Merger

On March 21, 2008, Global Ship Lease entered into a merger agreement with Marathon, GSL Holdings and CMA CGM and thereafter entered into amendments to the merger agreement pursuant to which Marathon merged with and into GSL Holdings, its newly-formed, wholly owned Marshall Islands subsidiary, and then Global Ship Lease merged with and into GSL Holdings, with GSL Holdings (now renamed Global Ship Lease, Inc.) continuing as the surviving company incorporated in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The Merger was consummated on August 14, 2008. Pursuant to the Merger, holders of shares of Marathon common stock (other than Marathon Founders, LLC and the other initial stockholders of Marathon) received one Class A common share of Global Ship Lease for each share of Marathon common stock issued and outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the Merger. In respect of the aggregate 9,375,000 shares of Marathon common stock held by them, Marathon Founders, LLC and the other initial stockholders of Marathon received in the Merger an aggregate of 2,846,906 Class A common shares of Global Ship Lease, 3,471,906 Class B common shares and warrants to acquire an aggregate of 3,056,188 Class A common shares at an exercise price of \$9.25 which expired in September 2013. CMA CGM received consideration consisting of 6,778,650 Class A common shares, 3,934,050 Class B common shares, 12,375,000 Class C common shares (which converted into Class A common shares in accordance with their terms on January 1, 2009), 1,000 Series A preferred shares with \$48,000,000 of aggregate liquidation preference, warrants to acquire 3,131,900 Class A common shares at an exercise price of \$9.25 which expired in September 2013, and \$18,570,135 in cash.

Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP, which requires us to make estimates in the application of certain accounting policies based on our best assumptions, judgments and opinions. We base these estimates on the information available to us at the time and on various other assumptions we believe are reasonable under the circumstances. The following is a discussion of our principal accounting policies, some of which involve a high degree of judgment, and the methods of their application.

For a further description of our material accounting policies, please see note 3 to the consolidated financial statements included at Item 18. "Financial Statements".

Revenue Recognition

Our revenue is generated from long-term time charters for each vessel. The charters are regarded as operating leases and provide for a per vessel fixed daily charter rate. Revenue is recorded as earned. Assuming our vessels are not off-hire, our charter revenues are fixed for the period of the current charters and, accordingly, little judgment is required to be applied to the amount of revenue recognition.

Accounting for lease and similar transactions

Our charter hire agreements are classified as operating leases based on the facts and circumstances at their inception. In accordance with ASC Topic 840 "Leases," an operating lease is a lease agreement that does not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to the ownership to the lessee. We pay particular attention in evaluating and applying the proper accounting treatment to lease transactions.

Vessels

Vessels represent our most significant tangible assets. Up to the date of the Merger, vessels were recorded in the financial statements at their purchase price, with an amount allocated to a drydock component and less accumulated depreciation. Vessels owned at the date of the Merger were subsequently recorded at their fair value at

[Table of Contents](#)

the date of the Merger, with an amount allocated to a drydock component, less a proportion of the negative goodwill arising at the time of the Merger allocated to these vessels and less accumulated depreciation. Vessels purchased subsequent to the Merger are stated at purchase price, which consists of the contract price and any material expenses incurred upon acquisition (including initial repairs, improvements and delivery expenses, interest and on-site supervision costs incurred during the construction periods and drydock component, where relevant). Expenditures for conversions and major improvements are also capitalized when they appreciably extend the life, increase the earning capacity or improve the efficiency or safety of the vessels.

We depreciate our vessels based on a straight line basis over the expected useful life of each vessel, which are reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure they reflect current technology, service potential and vessel structure. The useful lives are estimated to be 30 years from first delivery from the shipyard which we believe is within industry standards for containership owners and represents the most reasonable useful life for each of our vessels. Depreciation is based on the cost (or fair value, where relevant) of the vessel less its estimated residual value. Subsequent expenditures for major improvements and upgrading are capitalized, provided they appreciably extend the life, increase the earning capacity or improve the efficiency or safety of the vessels.

Borrowing costs incurred during the construction of vessels or as part of the prefinancing of the acquisition of vessels are capitalized. Other borrowing costs are expensed as incurred.

Prepayments and costs directly related to the future acquisition of vessels are presented in the consolidated balance sheet as vessel deposits.

Drydocking

Our vessels are drydocked approximately every five years for their special survey and for major repairs and maintenance that cannot be performed while the vessels are operating. Costs associated with the drydocks are capitalized as a component of the cost of the relevant vessel as they occur and are amortized on a straight line basis over the period to the next anticipated drydock, which are typically at five year intervals. Other expenditures relating to maintenance and repairs are expensed when incurred.

Upon initial purchase, an element of the purchase price is allocated to the drydock component and is amortized on a straight line basis to the next anticipated drydocking.

Costs capitalized as part of the drydock include costs directly associated with the special survey of the ship, its hull and its machinery and for the defouling and repainting of the hull. Any cost of repair to hull or machinery that extends useful life is capitalized. Other repair costs are expensed. Two drydockings were completed for regulatory reasons in 2014. In addition, CMA CGM Thalassa was drydocked in December 2014, principally to modify the bulbous bow to allow for more efficient fuel consumption at lower speeds. Regular drydocking work was also undertaken, including repainting the underwater parts. The total cost of these three drydockings, excluding the effect of offhire and the work to modify the bulbous bow, was \$4.1 million. There were two drydockings in 2013 for a total cost of \$2.1 million, six dry dockings in 2012 for a total cost of \$7.1 million, six in 2011 for a total cost of \$7.9 million and none in 2010.

Impairment of Long-lived Assets

In accordance with ASC Topic 360, "Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets" our long-lived assets are regularly reviewed for impairment. We perform the impairment test at the individual vessel level pursuant to paragraph 10 of ASC Topic 360 when events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying amounts may not be recoverable.

Vessels are reviewed individually for impairment. An impairment charge is recognized when the sum of the expected undiscounted future cash flows from the asset over its estimated remaining useful life is less than its carrying amount. An impairment charge is recorded equal to the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its fair value. Fair value is the present value of future cash flows discounted by an appropriate discount rate.

[Table of Contents](#)

Due to continuing poor industry conditions, impairment tests have been carried out on a vessel by vessel basis a number of times in recent years. No impairment was identified. A further impairment test on a vessel by vessel basis was performed as at December 31, 2014. No impairment was identified.

The assumptions used involve a considerable degree of estimation on the part of our management. Actual conditions may differ significantly from the assumptions and thus actual cash flows may be significantly different to those expected with a material effect on the recoverability of each vessel's carrying amount. The most significant assumptions made for the determination of expected cash flows are:

- charter rates on expiry of existing charters, which are based on a reversion to the historical mean for each category of vessel, adjusted to reflect current and expected market conditions
- off-hire days, which are based on actual off-hire statistics for our fleet
- operating costs, based on current levels escalated over time based on long term trends
- dry docking frequency, duration and cost and
- estimated useful life which is assessed as a total of 30 years from first delivery from the shipyard.

In the case of an indication of impairment, the results of a recoverability test would also be sensitive to the discount rate applied.

These assumptions are based on historical trends as well as future expectations. Although management believes that the assumptions used to evaluate potential impairment are reasonable and appropriate, such assumptions are highly subjective.

Whenever the sum of the undiscounted future cash flows for each vessel less operating expenses plus its expected residual value is above its book value, we consider that there is no indication of impairment. Whenever the sum of the undiscounted future cash flows resulting from the charter of each vessel less operating expenses plus its expected residual value is below its book value, we consider that there is a potential impairment and perform a recoverability test, similar to the above but based on discounted cash flows. An impairment loss will be recognized if the book value of the vessel exceeds the sum of the discounted cash flows expected to result from the use and eventual disposition of the vessel.

Based on the assumptions made, the expected undiscounted future cash flows exceeded each of the vessel's carrying amounts at each of the test dates disclosed above and accordingly no impairment has been recognized.

Although we currently intend to continue to hold and operate all of our vessels, the following table presents information with respect to the carrying value of our vessels and indicates whether their estimated market values based on charter attached valuations as at April 10, 2015 prepared by an independent ship broking firm are below their carrying values as at December 31, 2014. The carrying value of each of the vessels does not necessarily represent its fair market value or the amount that could be obtained if the vessel were sold. We would not record an impairment for any of the vessels for which the market value based on charter attached valuations is below its carrying value unless and until we either determine to sell the vessel for a loss or determine that the vessel's carrying amount is not recoverable. We believe that the undiscounted cash flows over the estimated remaining useful lives for those vessels that show estimated market values below their carrying values, exceed such vessels' carrying values as at December 31, 2014, and accordingly have not recorded an impairment charge.

In addition, vessel values are highly volatile; as such, the estimated market values may not be indicative of the current or future market value of our vessels or prices that we could achieve if we were to sell them, with or without charters attached.

[Table of Contents](#)

Vessel Name	Capacity in TEU	Year Built	Purchase Price(1) (in millions of U.S. dollars)	Carrying Value(2) (in millions of U.S. dollars)
Ville d'Orion*	4,113	1997	\$ 46.0	\$ 28.8
Ville d'Aquarius*	4,113	1996	45.0	28.4
CMA CGM Matisse(G)*	2,262	1999	34.0	19.6
CMA CGM Utrillo(G)*	2,262	1999	34.0	20.3
Delmas Keta(G)*	2,207	2003	38.0	26.0
Julie Delmas(G*)	2,207	2002	38.0	24.6
Kumasi(G)*	2,207	2002	38.0	25.3
Marie Delmas(G)*	2,207	2002	38.0	25.4
CMA CGM La Tour(G)*	2,272	2001	37.0	27.6
CMA CGM Manet(G)*	2,272	2001	37.0	28.1
CMA CGM Alcazar*	5,089	2007	94.0	72.1
CMA CGM Château d'If*	5,089	2007	94.0	72.3
CMA CGM Thalassa*	11,040	2008	154.0	127.9
CMA CGM Jamaica*	4,298	2006	67.0	62.9
CMA CGM Sambhar*	4,045	2006	67.0	61.4
CMA CGM America*	4,045	2006	67.0	61.3
CMA CGM Berlioz*	6,621	2001	82.0	69.6
OOCL Tianjin	8,083	2005	55.0	54.9
Total			\$ 1,065.0	\$ 836.5

(1) Purchase price includes an element allocated to a drydock component

(2) As at December 31, 2014, including unamortized drydocking costs

(G) Indicates geared vessel

* Indicates vessels for which we believe the market value based on charter attached valuations was lower than the vessel's carrying value as at December 31, 2014. We believe that the aggregate carrying value of these vessels at December 31, 2014 exceeded their aggregate market value based on charter attached valuations as at April 10, 2015 by approximately \$145.5 million.

Purchase price consists of the contract price and any material expenses incurred upon acquisition, initial repairs, improvements and delivery expenses, interest and on-site supervision costs incurred during the construction periods, where relevant. An element of the purchase price is allocated to a drydock component.

Derivative Instruments

In connection with our Previous Credit Facility and as part of overall risk management, we entered into interest rate swap agreements to reduce our exposure to cash flow risks from floating interest rates. The swaps were not accounted for as hedging instruments as they had not been designated as such and were not effective in mitigating the risks of changes in interest rates under U.S. GAAP. As such swaps were not accounted for as hedging instruments, we recognized them on our balance sheet at fair value with the non-cash changes in the fair value of these derivative instruments (mark to market adjustment) recognized in the statement of income. The swap agreements were terminated as part of the repayment of the Previous Credit Facility on March 19, 2014. We will not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for trading or other speculative purposes.

Share Based Compensation

We have awarded restricted stock units to certain of our employees which vest, based on service conditions only, over a period of time up to three years from the award date. In addition, a portion of the base compensation paid to the directors up to 2013 was in the form of restricted stock units which vested, based on service conditions only, annually in arrears. The fair value of restricted stock unit grants is determined by reference to the quoted stock price on the date of grant, as adjusted for estimated dividends forgone until the restricted stock units vest. Compensation expense is recognized based on a graded expense model over the expected vesting period.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

Management does not believe that there are recently issued, but not yet effective accounting pronouncements, which if currently adopted, would have a material impact on our consolidated financial statements.

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued an accounting standards update in respect of revenue from contracts with customers (Topic 606). The update is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2016 and early application is not permitted. We are currently assessing the impact of adopting this update on our financial statements.

In June 2014, FASB issued an update in respect of Stock Compensation (Topic 718). The amendment requires that a performance target that affects vesting and that could be achieved after the requisite service period be treated as a performance condition. The performance condition should not be reflected in estimating the grant-date fair value of the award and the compensation cost should be recognized in the period in which it becomes probable that the performance target will be achieved and should represent the compensation cost attributable to the periods for which the requisite service has already been rendered. The amendment is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2015 and early adoption is permitted. The adoption of this amendment is not expected to lead to any changes to our financial statements.

Results of Operations*Year ended December 31, 2014 Compared to Year ended December 31, 2013*

	<u>Year ended December 31,</u>	
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
	(in millions of U.S. dollars)	
Operating Revenues		
Time charter revenue	\$ 138.6	\$ 143.2
Operating Expenses		
Vessel operating expenses	\$ 48.8	\$ 46.0
Depreciation	41.1	40.4
General and administrative	7.0	6.0
Other operating (income)	(0.5)	(0.4)
Total operating expenses	96.3	92.1
Operating Income	<u>42.3</u>	<u>51.2</u>
Non-Operating Income (Expense)		
Interest income	\$ 0.1	\$ —
Interest expense	(43.9)	(18.8)
Gain on redemption of Series A preferred shares	8.6	—
Realized (loss) on interest rate derivatives	(2.8)	(14.0)
Unrealized gain on interest rate derivatives	1.9	14.3
Income taxes	(0.1)	(0.1)
Net Income	<u>\$ 6.1</u>	<u>\$ 32.5</u>
Earnings allocated to Series B preferred shares	(1.1)	—
Net Income available to Common Shareholders	<u>\$ 5.0</u>	<u>\$ 32.5</u>

Total Operating Revenue

Operating revenue reflects income under fixed rate time charters in effect and was \$138.6 million in the year ended December 31, 2014, down \$4.6 million on revenue of \$143.2 million for 2013. The decrease in revenue is due to lower daily rates on four vessels following the extension of their charters by three years effective February 1, 2014, a total of 64 days idle time for the two 4,113 TEU vessels pending re-deployment on new charters, a reduced daily rate on Julie Delmas for 155 days during a period of reduced capability due to a damaged crane and increased offhire, offset by the contribution from OOCL Tianjin from October 28, 2014. There were 6,270 ownership days in the year ended December 31, 2014 with 60 days offhire (including 48 days for drydockings) and 64 idle days giving utilization of 98.0%. In 2013, there were 6,205 ownership days, 28 days offhire (including 21 days for drydockings) representing utilization of 99.5%.

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses totaled \$96.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 (or 69% of operating revenue) compared to \$92.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 (or 64% of operating revenue).

Operating expenses can be analyzed as follows:

- *Vessel expenses:* Vessel expenses, which relate to the operation of the vessels themselves, were \$48.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 (or 35% of operating revenue) compared to \$46.0 million for 2013 (or 32% of operating revenue). The average cost per ownership day was \$7,778, up \$357 or 4.8% from \$7,421 for 2013. A large portion of the increase is for the cost of bunkers consumed when the two 4,113 TEU vessels were idle, between charters, and for repositioning for the commencement of the new charters.

[Table of Contents](#)

- *Depreciation:* Depreciation was \$41.1 million (or 30% of operating revenue) for the year ended December 31, 2014, up slightly from \$40.4 million (or 28% of operating revenue) in 2013 in part for the additional of OOCL Tianjin on October 28, 2014.
- *General and Administrative:* General and administrative costs incurred were \$7.0 million (or 5% of operating revenue) in the year ended December 31, 2014, compared to \$6.0 million (or 4% of operating revenue) for 2013. The increase is mainly for additional professional fees associated with increased activity levels.
- *Other operating (income) expense:* Other operating income represents miscellaneous revenue mainly from carrying passengers and sundry recharges under the time charters. In the year ended December 31, 2014 it was \$0.5 million, compared to \$0.4 million in 2013.

Operating Income

As a consequence of all preceding items, operating income was \$42.3 million (or 31% of operating revenue) for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to \$51.2 million (or 36% of operating revenue) in 2013.

Interest Income

Interest income on cash held by us for the year ended December 31, 2014 was \$64,000 compared to \$44,000 for 2013.

Interest Expense

Interest expense, excluding the effect of interest rate derivatives which do not qualify for hedge accounting, for the year ended December 31, 2014 was \$43.9 million (or 32% of operating revenue). Total average borrowings during the year, including the Previous Credit Facility until it was repaid on March 19, 2014, the notes from their date of issuance on March 19, 2014 and the Series A preferred shares until their redemption on August 22, 2014, was \$437.4 million. Interest expense for 2013 was \$18.8 million (or 13% of operating revenue) on average borrowings, including the Series A preferred shares, of \$450.1 million. The increase in interest cost in 2014 is due mainly to a higher rate of interest of 10.0% on the notes compared to approximately 4.0% on the Previous Credit Facility and the Series A Preferred Shares.

Gain on Redemption of Series A Preferred Shares

The Series A preferred shares, which had a liquidation value at maturity of \$45.0 million, were redeemed at a discount pursuant to a Share Repurchase Agreement for \$36.4 million on August 22, 2014, using the proceeds received from the issuance of the Series B preferred shares, the balance of the restricted cash and cash on hand. The transaction resulted in a non-cash gain of \$8.6 million.

Realized and Unrealized Gain on Derivatives

A total of \$277.0 million of interest rate derivatives at a weighted average rate of 3.82% was outstanding from January 1, 2014 to March 19, 2014, when they were terminated concurrently with the repayment and termination of the Previous Credit Facility. The derivative hedging instruments gave a realized loss of \$2.8 million (or 2% of operating revenue) in the year ended December 31, 2014 for settlements in the period, as current USD LIBOR rates were lower than the average fixed rate. This compares to a realized loss of \$14.0 million (or 10% of operating revenue) in the year ended December 31, 2013. These interest rate derivatives did not qualify for hedge accounting under U.S. GAAP, and were marked to market at each period end with any change in the fair value being booked to the income and expenditure account. There was a \$1.9 million unrealized gain in the year ended December 31, 2014 for revaluation of the balance sheet position given current USD LIBOR and movements in the forward curve for interest rates. This compares to an unrealized gain of \$14.3 million in the comparative period.

[Table of Contents](#)

Unrealized mark-to-market adjustments had no impact on operating performance or cash generation in the period reported.

Taxation

Taxation for the year ended December 31, 2014 and the year ended December 31, 2013 was not material as the vessel owning subsidiaries were subject to taxation based on tonnage rather than accounting profits.

Net Income

Net income for the year ended December 31, 2014 was \$6.1 million including the \$8.6 million gain on redemption of the Series A preferred shares and \$1.9 million non-cash interest rate derivative mark-to-market gain. For the year ended December 31, 2013 net income was \$32.5 million, including \$14.3 million non-cash interest rate derivative mark-to-market gain. The decline in net income is due mainly to lower revenue as a result of the extensions to the four charters and idle time for the two 4,113 TEU vessels together with lower unrealized gains on interest rate derivatives, partly offset by the gain on redemption of the Series A preferred shares and lower realized losses on interest rate derivatives.

Earnings Allocated to Series B Preferred Shares

The dividends payable on the \$35.0 million Series B preferred shares issued on August 20, 2014 of \$1.1 million are presented as a reduction of Net Income, as and when declared by the Board of Directors.

Net Income Available to Common Shareholders

Net income available to common shareholders was \$5.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 compared to \$32.5 million for 2013.

Year ended December 31, 2013 Compared to Year ended December 31, 2012

	<u>Year ended December 31,</u>	
	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
	<u>(unaudited)</u>	
	<u>(in millions of U.S. dollars)</u>	
Operating Revenues		
Time charter revenue	\$ 143.2	\$ 153.2
Operating Expenses		
Vessel operating expenses	\$ 46.0	\$ 45.6
Depreciation	40.4	40.3
General and administrative	6.0	5.8
Other operating (income)	(0.4)	(0.3)
Total operating expenses	92.1	91.4
Operating Income	51.2	61.8
Non-Operating Income (Expense)		
Interest income	\$ —	\$ 0.1
Interest expense	(18.8)	(21.2)
Realized (loss) on interest rate derivatives	(14.0)	(18.4)
Unrealized gain on interest rate derivatives	14.3	9.7
Net Income	<u>\$ 32.5</u>	<u>\$ 31.9</u>

Total Operating Revenue

Operating revenue reflects income under fixed rate time charters in effect and was \$143.2 million in the year ended December 31, 2013, down \$10.0 million on revenue of \$153.2 million for the comparative period in 2012. The decrease in revenue is due to reduced revenue from two charters which were renewed in September 2012 and May 2013 at successively lower rates and an aggregate of 17 fewer ownership days as 2012 was a leap year,

[Table of Contents](#)

offset by lower offhire. There were 6,205 ownership days in the year ended December 31, 2013 with 28 days offhire (including 21 days for planned drydockings) giving utilization of 99.5%. In the comparative period of 2012, there were 98 days offhire (including 82 days for planned drydockings) representing utilization of 98.4%.

Operating Expenses

Operating expenses totaled \$92.1 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 (or 64% of operating revenue) compared to \$91.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2012 (or 60% of operating revenue).

Operating expenses can be analyzed as follows:

- *Vessel expenses:* Vessel expenses, which relate to the operation of the vessels themselves, were \$46.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 (or 32% of operating revenue) compared to \$45.6 million for the comparative period in 2012 (or 30% of operating revenue). The average cost per ownership day was \$7,421, up \$94 or 1.2% from \$7,327 for the comparative period in 2012.
- *Depreciation:* Depreciation was \$40.4 million (or 28% of operating revenue) for the year ended December 31, 2013, slightly up from \$40.3 million in the comparative period (or 26% of operating revenue) in 2012.
- *General and Administrative:* General and administrative costs incurred were \$6.0 million (or 4% of operating revenue) in the year ended December 31, 2013, compared to \$5.8 million (or 4% of operating revenue) in the comparative period in 2012.
- *Other operating (income) expense:* Other operating income represents miscellaneous revenue mainly from carrying passengers and sundry recharges under the time charters. In the year ended December 31, 2013 it was \$0.4 million, compared to \$0.3 million in the comparative period.

Operating Income

As a consequence of all preceding items, operating income was \$51.2 million (or 36% of operating revenue) for the year ended December 31, 2013 compared to \$61.8 million (or 40% of operating revenue) in the comparative period.

Interest Income

Interest income on cash held by us for the year ended December 31, 2014 was \$44,000 compared to \$79,000 for the previous year.

Interest Expense

Interest expense, excluding the effect of interest rate derivatives which do not qualify for hedge accounting, for the year ended December 31, 2013 was \$18.8 million (or 13% of operating revenue). Total average borrowings, including the Series A preferred shares, through the year ended December 31, 2013 was \$450.1 million. Interest expense in the comparative period in 2012 was \$21.2 million (or 14% of operating revenue) on average borrowings, including the preferred shares, of \$509.6 million.

Realized and Unrealized Gain on Derivatives

A total of \$580.0 million of interest rate derivatives at a weighted average rate of 3.59% was outstanding from January 1, 2013 to March 17, 2013, when \$253.0 million of interest rate derivatives expired. The remaining \$327 million of interest rate derivatives were at a weighted average rate of 3.74%. A further \$50 million of interest rate derivatives expired on November 29, 2013. The remaining \$277 million of interest rate derivatives were at an average rate of 3.82%. Our interest rate derivatives were terminated as part of the repayment of the Previous Credit Facility on March 19, 2014.

[Table of Contents](#)

The derivative hedging instruments gave a realized loss of \$14.0 million (or 10% of operating revenue) in the year ended December 31, 2013 for settlements in the period, as current USD LIBOR rates were lower than the average fixed rate. This compares to a realized loss of \$18.4 million (or 12% of operating revenue) in the year ended December 31, 2012. The reduction in realized loss is due mainly to the expiration of \$253.0 million of cover in March 2013. These interest rate derivatives did not qualify for hedge accounting under U.S. GAAP, and were marked to market at each period end with any change in the fair value being booked to the income and expenditure account. There was a \$14.3 million unrealized gain in the year ended December 31, 2013 for revaluation of the balance sheet position given current USD LIBOR and movements in the forward curve for interest rates. This compares to an unrealized gain of \$9.7 million in the comparative period.

Unrealized mark-to-market adjustments had no impact on operating performance or cash generation in the period reported.

Taxation

Taxation for the year ended December 31, 2013 and the year ended December 31, 2012 was not material.

Net Income

Net income for the year ended December 31, 2013 was \$32.5 million including \$14.3 million non-cash interest rate derivative mark-to-market gain. For the year ended December 31, 2012 net income was \$31.9 million, including \$9.7 million non-cash interest rate derivative mark-to-market gain. Reduced interest charges in 2013 on lower average outstanding debt, together with lower realized losses on interest rate derivatives as the outstanding cover was reduced and increased unrealized gains on interest rate derivatives largely offset reduced revenue from revised charter arrangements on two vessels.

B. Liquidity and Capital Resources

Liquidity, working capital and dividends

Overview

Our net cash flow from operating activities derives from revenue received under our charter contracts, which varies directly with the number of vessels under charter, days on-hire and charter rates, less operating expenses including crew costs, lubricating oil costs, costs of repairs and maintenance, insurance premiums, general and administrative expenses, interest and other financing costs including where appropriate the settlement of interest rate derivatives. In addition, each of our vessels is subject to a drydock every five years. The average cost of the 18 drydockings completed between April 2011 and January 2015 was \$1.3 million with an average loss of revenue of \$0.3 million whilst the relevant vessel was offhire. Two vessels completed their scheduled drydockings in 2014. In addition, CMA CGM Thalassa was dry-docked on a discretionary basis mainly to modify the bulbous bow to improve fuel efficiency at slow speeds. The OOCL Tianjin was dry-docked in January 2015; no further regulatory drydockings are scheduled in 2015. We have included a schedule of the next anticipated drydocking date for each of our vessels in “Business—Inspection by Classification Societies.”

The main factor affecting operating cashflow in a period is the timing of the receipt of charterhire, which is due to be paid in advance, on the 1st and 16th of each month for vessels on charter to CMA CGM and every two weeks based on the start date of the charter in the case of our other charterers. From January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013, all of our cash in excess of \$20 million measured at the end of the month prior to each quarter end, was been swept at the quarter end to repay drawings under the Previous Credit Facility. As a consequence, cash and cash equivalents on hand at the end of each quarter up to that date did not vary significantly. After that date the main factors affecting quarter end cash are the timing of the payment of interest on the notes, which is due to be paid semi-annually on April 1 and October 1 each year, commencing October 1, 2014 and the result of the Excess Cash Flow offer, up to a maximum of \$20 million per annum commencing in 2015, which we are required to make within 120 days of the year end. Beginning on March 11, 2015, we are required to make interest payments under the revolving credit facility. Assuming LIBOR to be 0.5%, quarterly interest on the fully drawn revolving

[Table of Contents](#)

credit facility of \$40.0 million would amount to approximately \$0.4 million. In addition, we intend to declare and make quarterly dividend payments amounting to approximately \$0.8 million per quarter on our Series B preferred shares.

Other than costs for drydocking, there were no other material current commitments for capital expenditures or other known and reasonably likely material cash requirements other than in respect of our growth strategy. Changes to the regulatory environment may lead to additional capital expenditure. For example, compliance with environmental regulations regarding ballast water management may require us to fit ballast water management systems to our vessels, although not before the first scheduled drydocking after January 1, 2016. See Item 4.B. “Information on the Company—Business Overview—Environmental and Other Regulations—Ballast Water Management.”

We have policies in place to control treasury activities within the group. For example, all new funding must be approved by our Board of Directors and cash deposits can only be made with institutions meeting certain credit metrics.

Our Previous Credit Facility required us to hedge at least 50% of our floating rate debt. This was achieved by entering into interest rate derivatives. The \$277.0 million of swaps outstanding were terminated on March 19, 2014 when the Previous Credit Facility itself was repaid and terminated. We do not enter into derivatives for speculative purposes.

Our only floating rate debt was \$45.0 million of Series A preferred shares until they were redeemed on August 20, 2014. At December 31, 2014 there were no drawings under our floating rate \$40.0 million revolving credit facility. The revolving credit facility was fully drawn to partly finance the purchase of OOCL Qingdao on March 11, 2015. We may enter into hedging instruments, including new interest rate swap agreements, in future to hedge our cash flows.

All our revenues are denominated in U.S. dollars and a portion of our expenses are denominated in currencies other than U.S. dollars. Our cash and cash equivalents are mainly held in U.S. dollars, with relatively small amounts of UK pounds sterling and Euros.

Our liquidity and sources of cash changed significantly as a result of the issuance of the notes, repayment of the Previous Credit Facility and termination of the associated interest rate derivatives all in March 2014, the issue of the Series B preferred shares in August 2014 and the redemption of the Series A preferred shares, mainly from the net proceeds therefrom.

The table below shows our consolidated cash flows for each of the three years ended December 31, 2014.

	Year ended December 31, 2014	Year ended December 31, 2013	Year ended December 31, 2012
	(in millions of U.S. dollars)		
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Net Income	\$ 6.1	\$ 32.5	\$ 31.9
Adjustments to Reconcile Net Income to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities			
Depreciation	41.1	40.4	40.3
Amortization of deferred financing costs	5.7	1.4	1.2
Amortization of original issue discount	1.1	—	—
Change in fair value of derivative instruments	(1.9)	(14.3)	(9.7)
Amortization of intangible liability	(2.1)	(2.1)	(2.1)
Settlements of derivative instruments which do not qualify for hedge accounting	2.8	14.0	18.4
Share based compensation	0.2	0.4	0.5
Gain on redemption of Series A preferred shares	(8.6)	—	—
Movement in working capital	16.6	2.1	3.2
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	60.9	74.3	83.7
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Cash paid for vessels	(55.2)	—	—
Settlements and termination of derivative instruments which do not qualify for hedge accounting	(22.1)	(14.0)	(18.4)
Cash paid for drydockings	(2.8)	(2.6)	(5.9)
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities	(80.1)	(16.6)	(24.3)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Repayment of credit facility	(366.4)	(59.3)	(57.9)
Proceeds from issuance of secured notes	413.7	—	—
Deferred financing costs incurred	(15.8)	—	(1.1)
Net proceeds from issuance of Series B preferred shares	33.9	—	—
Variation in restricted cash	—	—	3.0
Redemption of Series A preferred shares	(36.4)	—	(3.0)
Series B preferred shares – dividends paid	(1.1)	—	—
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Financing Activities	27.9	(59.3)	(59.1)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	8.8	(1.6)	0.3
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Start of Year	24.5	26.1	25.8
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	\$ 33.3	\$ 24.5	\$ 26.1

Year ended December 31, 2014 Compared to Year ended December 31, 2013

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$60.9 million for the year ended December 31, 2014 reflecting mainly net income of \$6.1 million, adjusted for depreciation of \$41.1 million, amortization of deferred charges and original issue discount of \$6.8 million, settlement of hedges which do not qualify for hedge accounting of \$2.8 million, share based compensation of \$0.2 million and movements in working capital of \$16.6 million less change in fair value of derivatives of \$1.9 million, amortization of intangible liabilities of \$2.1 million and gain on redemption of Series A preferred shares \$8.6 million.

Net cash provided by operating activities for the year ended December 31, 2014 at \$60.9 million was \$13.4 million lower than in 2013 mainly due to lower operating income, down \$8.9 million, from reduced revenue from the four amended and extended charters and from idle time on the two 4,113 TEU vessels, and increased interest costs following the issuance of the notes on March 19, 2014, partially offset by reduced settlement of interest rate derivatives and improved working capital as charter hire has been paid more promptly.

Cash flows used in investing activities for the year ended December 31, 2014 included \$55.2 million for the purchase of OOCL Tianjin (nil in 2013), \$22.1 million for the settlement and termination of interest rate derivatives (\$14.0 million in 2013) and \$2.8 million on drydocking costs (\$2.6 million in 2013).

Cash flows from financing activities for the year ended December 31, 2014 included \$413.7 million proceeds from the issuance of the notes and \$33.9 million net proceeds from the issuance of the Series B preferred shares less \$366.4 million repayment and termination of the Credit Facility, \$36.4 million redemption of the Series A preferred shares, \$15.8 million costs associated with the issuance of the notes and \$1.1 million dividend paid on the Series B preferred shares. The only cashflow from financing activities in 2013 was \$59.3 million repayment of the Previous Credit Facility.

Overall, there was a net increase in cash and cash equivalents of \$8.8 million in the year ended December 31, 2014, resulting in closing cash of \$33.3 million compared to closing cash of \$24.5 million at December 31, 2013.

[Table of Contents](#)

Year ended December 31, 2013 Compared to Year ended December 31, 2012

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$74.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2013 reflecting mainly net income of \$32.5 million, adjusted for depreciation of \$40.4 million, amortization of deferred charges of \$1.4 million, settlement of hedges which do not qualify for hedge accounting of \$14.0 million, share based compensation of \$0.4 million and movements in working capital of \$2.1 million less change in fair value of derivatives of \$14.3 million and amortization of intangible liabilities of \$2.1 million.

Net cash provided by operating activities for the year ended December 31, 2013 at \$74.3 million was \$9.4 million lower than in 2012 mainly as a result of lower operating income, down \$10.7 million, from reduced revenues as the initial charters on the two 4,113 TEU vessels were renewed late 2012 at lower rates.

Cash flows from investing activities comprised cash settlement of interest rate derivatives \$14.0 million and \$2.6 million expended on drydocking expenses for 2013, in aggregate \$7.7 million lower than for the equivalent items in 2012.

Total debt repayments of \$59.3 million were made in the year ended December 31, 2013.

There was a net reduction in cash and cash equivalents of \$1.6 million in the year ended December 31, 2013, resulting in closing cash of \$24.5 million compared to closing cash of \$26.1 million at December 31, 2012. There was little variability in yearend cash due to the required cash sweep under the Previous Credit Facility as described above.

Indebtedness

The Notes and the Indenture

The notes were issued under an indenture, dated as of March 19, 2014, among the Company, the guarantors party thereto and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee and as security agent.

Interest and Maturity

The notes bear interest at 10.000% per annum and mature on April 1, 2019. Interest is payable semi-annually on April 1 and October 1 of each year, beginning on October 1, 2014, to holders of record at the close of business on March 15 or September 15, as the case may be, immediately preceding each such interest payment date.

Security

The notes are secured by first priority ship mortgages on 18 vessels owned by certain subsidiaries (the "Mortgaged Vessels") including OOCL Qingdao and certain other associated property, contract rights and bank accounts, as well as share pledges over the subsidiaries that own the Mortgaged Vessels (together with the Mortgaged Vessels, the "Initial Collateral"). In addition, the notes are guaranteed by all of the vessel owning subsidiaries. In the future, vessels, shipping containers and container shipping-related assets and certain other associated property and contract rights may be pledged in addition to or in substitution for Initial Collateral. As used herein, "Collateral" refers to the Initial Collateral and any such additional or substitute collateral.

The Collateral also secures on a first priority basis up to \$40.0 million of indebtedness which may be incurred under the revolving credit facility, which is described below.

Guarantees

The notes are fully and unconditionally guaranteed, jointly and severally, on a senior basis, by Global Ship Lease Services Limited ("GSL Limited") and all of our restricted subsidiaries. The notes will be guaranteed by our future restricted subsidiaries in the circumstances provided in the indenture governing the notes.

[Table of Contents](#)

Optional Redemption

We may redeem the notes in whole or in part, at our option, at any time before April 1, 2016, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount plus a make-whole premium as provided in the indenture governing the notes. We may redeem the notes in whole or in part, at our option, at any time on or after April 1, 2016, at the redemption prices (expressed as percentages of principal amount) set forth below plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on the notes redeemed, to the applicable redemption date, if redeemed during the twelve-month period beginning on April 1 of the years indicated below, subject to the rights of holders of notes on the relevant record date to receive interest on the relevant interest payment date:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
2016	105.000%
2017	102.500%
2018	100.000%

In addition, at any time before April 1, 2016, we may redeem up to 35% of the aggregate principal amount of the notes with the net proceeds of an equity offering at 110.000% of the principal amount of the notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, so long as at least 65% of the originally issued aggregate principal amount of the notes remains outstanding after such redemption.

Additional Amounts and Redemption for Changes in Withholding Taxes

Except as required by law, we will make payments on the notes free of withholding or deduction for taxes. If withholding or deduction is required, we will, subject to certain customary exceptions, be required to pay additional amounts so that the net amounts holders of the notes receive will equal the amount holders of the notes would have received if withholding or deduction had not been imposed. If, as a result of a change in law, we are required to pay such additional amounts, we may redeem the notes in whole but not in part, at any time at 100% of their principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, to the redemption date.

Change of Control

Upon the occurrence of certain change of control events, holders of the notes will have the right to require us to repurchase some or all of their notes at 101% of their face amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest to the repurchase date.

Proceeds of Asset Sales and Events of Loss

We will be obligated in certain instances to make offers to purchase outstanding notes with the net proceeds of certain sales or other dispositions of assets or upon the occurrence of an event of loss with respect to Collateral. The purchase price of the notes will be 102% of their principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any.

Excess Cash Flow

If we have at least \$1.0 million of Excess Cash Flow (as defined in the indenture governing the notes) for each fiscal year, commencing in respect of the year ended December 31, 2014, we will be required to make an offer to repurchase a maximum principal amount of notes per annum equal to the lesser of (a) the Excess Cash Flow for such fiscal year and (b) \$20.0 million, at a price equal to 102% of the aggregate principal amount of notes repurchased plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on the notes. For fiscal year 2014, the Excess Cash Flow offer amounts to \$20.0 million.

Certain Covenants

The indenture governing the notes contains covenants that, among other things, limit our ability and the ability of our restricted subsidiaries to:

- incur additional indebtedness or issue certain preferred stock;

Table of Contents

- pay dividends on, redeem or repurchase capital stock or make other restricted payments and investments;
- create certain liens;
- transfer or sell assets;
- enter into certain transactions with affiliates;
- merge, consolidate or sell all or substantially all of our properties and assets;
- create or designate unrestricted subsidiaries; and
- impair the security interests.

These covenants are subject to important exceptions and qualifications, which are provided in the indenture governing the notes.

Revolving Credit Facility

In connection with the private placement of notes, we and GSL Limited, as initial borrowers, and together with each of our 17 subsidiaries that owned Mortgaged Vessels, as initial guarantors, entered into a new credit agreement dated as of March 19, 2014, with Citibank, N.A., London Branch, as original lender, lead arranger and book-runner, Citibank International plc, as facility agent and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as security agent, together with security and other agreements, which provide for our revolving credit facility.

General

The revolving credit facility provides for aggregate commitments of \$40.0 million, which shall be reduced to \$25.0 million if on any testing date, our debt service coverage ratio in respect of the preceding six months is less than 1:1. Debt service coverage will be tested on December 31, 2016, June 30, 2017 and December 31, 2017. Subject to customary conditions precedent, certain of our subsidiaries may borrow under the revolving credit facility to finance (or refinance) the acquisition of vessels and may also borrow amounts not to exceed, at any time, \$5.0 million for general corporate purposes. To the extent that borrowings under the revolving credit facility are applied towards all or part of the acquisition cost (or the refinancing thereof) of a vessel, we will be required to pledge, on a first-priority basis, such vessel, together with certain other associated property, contract rights and bank accounts, and the capital stock of the applicable vessel-owning subsidiary, as additional Collateral securing the obligations under the revolving credit facility and the notes and the vessel owning company will become a joint and several guarantor under the notes and the revolving credit facility. The revolving credit facility was fully drawn to finance the purchase of OOCL Qingdao on March 11, 2015.

Interest Rate, Fees and Maturity

Borrowings under the revolving credit facility bear interest at LIBOR plus a margin of 3.25% per annum, payable at least quarterly in arrears or at the end of certain other interest payment periods.

In addition to paying interest on outstanding principal under the revolving credit facility, we are required to pay a quarterly commitment fee of 1.30% per annum to the lenders under the revolving credit facility in respect of the unutilized commitments thereunder. We also pay certain other customary fees.

The final maturity date of the revolving credit facility is October 1, 2018.

[Table of Contents](#)

Mandatory Prepayments

The revolving credit facility will require us to prepay outstanding loans, subject to certain exceptions, with the net cash proceeds of certain sales or other dispositions of Collateral or upon the occurrence of an event of loss with respect to Collateral and upon a change of control.

Voluntary Prepayments

We will be able to voluntarily prepay outstanding loans under the revolving credit facility at any time, subject to certain notice requirements.

Guarantees and Security

Guarantees will be jointly and severally provided by us and the same subsidiaries guaranteeing the notes. In addition, any subsidiaries who become borrowers under the revolving credit facility will also provide a guarantee. Our obligations under the revolving credit facility will be secured by first-priority security interests (subject to certain permitted liens) over the Collateral that will rank equal with the security interest of the notes, subject to the right of the finance parties under the revolving credit facility to receive the net proceeds of any foreclosure on the Collateral before the holders of the notes.

Certain Covenants and Events of Default

We will be required to maintain minimum cash and cash equivalents in an amount ranging from \$15.0 million to \$20.0 million, as provided in the credit agreement governing our revolving credit facility.

In addition, the revolving credit facility contains negative covenants that, among other things and subject to certain significant exceptions, limit our ability and the ability of our restricted subsidiaries to:

- incur additional indebtedness or issue certain preferred stock;
- pay dividends on, redeem or repurchase capital stock or make other restricted payments and investments;
- create certain liens;
- transfer or sell assets;
- enter into certain transactions with affiliates;
- merge, consolidate or sell all or substantially all of our properties and assets;
- create or designate unrestricted subsidiaries; and
- impair the security interests.

The credit agreement governing our revolving credit facility also contains certain customary representations and warranties, affirmative covenants and events of default. If an event of default occurs, the lenders under the revolving credit facility will be entitled to take various actions, including the acceleration of amounts due under the revolving credit facility and actions customarily permitted to be taken by a secured creditor. Amendments and waivers of the covenants described above or any other provisions which affect solely the revolving credit facility will require the consent of lenders holding all or the majority of the commitments and loans under the revolving credit facility.

[Table of Contents](#)

Previous Credit Facility

Our Previous Credit Facility with ABN AMRO Bank N.V. (also the “Agent”) and the other parties thereto from time to time was entered into in 2007 and was originally an \$800.0 million revolving facility, non-amortizing for five years and with a term of eight years. All of our then vessel owning subsidiaries and GSL Limited were borrowers and guarantors jointly and severally guaranteeing our obligations under the Previous Credit Facility. As described above, we used a portion of the net proceeds of the private placement of notes to repay all outstanding borrowings under, and terminate, our Previous Credit Facility on March 19, 2014.

Leverage

As at December 31, 2014, we had \$420.0 million of secured indebtedness under the notes and availability of \$40.0 million under our revolving credit facility. The revolving credit facility was fully drawn in March 2015 to finance the purchase of the OOCL Qingdao.

Our liquidity requirements are significant, primarily due to debt service requirements. Based on the \$420.0 million principal amount of the notes and based on their fixed interest rate our cash interest expense in a year is \$42.0 million. In addition, we have an obligation to make an Excess Cash Flow tender offer of up to \$20 million annually. Further, the dividend on the \$35.0 million Series B preferred shares amounts to \$3.1 million each year. Finally, the revolving credit facility of \$40.0 million was drawn in full to partly fund the purchase of OOCL Qingdao on March 11, 2015. Assuming a LIBOR of 0.5%, the annual interest cost associated with the revolving credit facility would be \$1.5 million.

We believe that funds generated by the business and retained, will be sufficient to meet our operating needs for the next twelve months, including working capital requirements, debt repayment obligations and to purchase additional vessels.

As market conditions warrant, we may from time to time, depending upon market conditions, seek to repurchase debt securities that we have issued or loans that we have borrowed, including the notes and borrowings under our revolving credit facility, in privately negotiated or open market transactions, by tender offer or otherwise.

Working capital and dividends

Our net cash flows from operating activities corresponds directly with the number of vessels under charter, days on-hire, vessel charter rates, operating expenses, drydock costs, interest and other financing costs and general and administrative expenses. Pursuant to our ship management agreements, we have agreed to pay our ship managers an annual management fee per vessel and to reimburse it for operating costs it incurs on our behalf (up to a cap pursuant to the global expense agreement for vessels managed by CMA Ships). Charterhire is payable by our charterers 15 days in advance and estimated ship management costs are payable monthly in advance. Although we can provide no assurances (see Item 3.D. “Key Information—Risk Factors—Risks Related to our Business—We are highly dependent on charter payments from CMA CGM”), we expect that our cash flow from our chartering arrangements will be sufficient to cover our ship management costs and fees, interest payments under the notes and our revolving credit facility, other financing costs under our revolving credit facility, insurance premiums, vessel taxes, general and administrative expenses, dividends on our Series B preferred shares and other costs and any other working capital requirements for the short and medium term and planned drydocking expenses.

We estimate that the average cost of the 18 drydockings completed between April 2011 and January 2015 was approximately \$1.3 million, with an average loss of revenue of \$0.3 million from offhire. We have included a schedule of the next anticipated drydocking date for each of our vessels in the section of this Annual Report entitled Item 4.B. “Information on the Company—Business Overview—Inspection by Classification Societies.”

Our other liquidity requirements include an annual Excess Cash Flow offer of up to \$20.0 million on our notes and repaying the remaining principal balance of the notes at the stated maturity date on April 1, 2019, if they have not been repaid earlier. Further, the maturity date of the revolving credit facility is October 1, 2018. In addition to funds generated by the business, we may require new borrowings, issuances of equity or other securities, or a combination of the former and the latter to purchase additional vessels and will likely require such further funding to meet all of our repayment obligations under the notes.

C. Research and Development

Not applicable.

D. Trend Information

Container shipping is a cyclical industry, with the demand for container shipping services and therefore the demand for container ships, driven by global trade. Between 1997 and 2007 containerized trade exhibited compound annual growth of approximately 10%, with a period of super-cyclical growth from 2002 to mid-2008 fuelled partly by exports from China. The global financial crisis, from late 2008, contributed to a contraction of demand for the first time in the history of containerization, with 2009 volumes falling by 9%. In 2010 demand rebounded, with volume growth of almost 13%. During 2011, macroeconomic sentiment softened and containerized trade growth slowed to approximately 7.0%. In 2012, 2013 and 2014 containerized trade is estimated to have grown, year-on-year, by 3.0%, 4.9% and 6.0%, respectively.

The period of super-cyclical growth, combined with operators seeking economies of scale achievable with ever larger vessels, led to a significant orderbook of new containerships. In December, 2008 the orderbook was estimated to represent over 60% of existing global capacity measured in TEU. This inflated orderbook has largely been absorbed into the global containership fleet. The global financial crisis and poor industry conditions have led to a much reduced level of ordering of new vessels and as at April, 2015, the orderbook-to-fleet ratio stood at just over 19%. Furthermore, scrapping activity accelerated, reaching record levels of over 450,000 TEU (more than 200 ships) in 2013. Scrapings in 2014 continued at high levels – just under 400,000 TEU.

Vessel newbuilding prices, second hand values and charter rates have tended to be closely correlated and are all strongly influenced by the dynamics of supply and demand. From 2005 through 2014, the average newbuilding price for a theoretical 3,500 – 3,600 TEU containership was around \$49 million, with average prices ranging between \$36 million (2009) and \$67 million (2008). During the same period, secondhand values for a 10 year old vessel of similar size averaged \$29 million and ranged between \$10 million (2014) and \$52 million (2005). Meantime, spot market charter rates for such tonnage averaged about \$17,800 per day and ranged between \$5,500 (2009) and \$44,000 (2005). As at April, 2015 prevailing spot market charter rates were around \$10,250 per day, with newbuilding prices at approximately \$41 million and second hand values at about \$11.5 million.

Liner operator companies' results are also highly sensitive to the dynamics of supply and demand. Results were adversely affected in 2009, recovered significantly in 2010 and declined again in 2011. Commencing March, 2012 operators successfully implemented a series of General Rate Increases ("GRI"s) in a number of trades in order to improve financial performance. GRI initiatives continued to be implemented through 2013 and 2014 to positive, but generally short-lived, effect. Freight rates have remained volatile on most tradelanes.

The comparatively modest orderbook-to-fleet ratio, low idle containership fleet capacity (1.5% as at April, 2015), and firming trade growth suggest that industry fundamentals may be beginning to improve. However, the macroeconomic backdrop remains fragile and uncertain.

E. Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

Except as described under "—Contractual Obligations" and Item 11. "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure About Market Risk", we do not have any other transactions, obligations or relationships that could be considered material off-balance sheet arrangements.

F. Contractual Obligations

The contractual obligations presented below represent our estimates of future payments under fixed contractual obligations and commitments as at December 31, 2014. These amounts do not include dividends on the Series B preferred shares or amounts in relation to the revolving credit facility which was fully drawn in connection with the purchase of OOCL Qingdao on March 11, 2015. Changes in our business needs or in interest rates, as well as actions by third parties and other factors, may cause these estimates to change. These estimates are necessarily subjective and our actual payments in future periods are likely to vary from those presented in the table.

Table of Contents

	Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	More than 5 years	Total
	(in millions of U.S. dollars)				
Long term debt obligations, excluding interest ⁽¹⁾	—	—	420.0	—	\$420.0
Interest on long term debt ⁽²⁾	42.5	85.0	52.9	—	180.5
Ship management agreements ⁽³⁾	0.4	—	—	—	0.4
Total	<u>\$ 43.0</u>	<u>\$ 85.0</u>	<u>\$ 472.9</u>	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$600.9</u>

- (1) Consists of \$420.0 million aggregate principal amount of the notes. Does not reflect borrowings under our revolving credit facility, under which we borrowed \$40.0 million to purchase OOCL Qingdao on March 11, 2015.
- (2) Represents aggregate interest payments on the \$420.0 million aggregate principal amount of the notes, as well as commitment fees at 130 basis points for our revolving credit facility to its latest final maturity date of October 1, 2018. It does not reflect interest payments in respect of borrowings under that revolving credit facility. Assuming the borrowing of all amounts available under our revolving credit facility (based on an assumed USD LIBOR rate of 0.5% for the periods presented), our annual interest expense would increase by \$1.0 million.
- (3) Reflects the management fee payable for two month notice period required in connection with termination of the ship management contracts with CMA Ships based on the annual management fee of \$123,000 per vessel and the minimum term of one year, thereafter a three month notice period, required in connection with the ship management contracts for the OOCL Tianjin, based on the annual management fee of \$131,000. These obligations do not include any amount for the reimbursement of daily operating costs incurred by the ship managers on our behalf.

Item 6. Directors, Senior Management and Employees

A. Directors and Senior Management

Our directors and executive officers as of the date of this Annual Report and their ages as of December 31, 2014 are listed below:

Name	Age	Position
Michael S. Gross	53	Chairman of the Board
Howard Boyd	70	Director
Angus R. Frew	56	Director
Guy Morel	65	Director
Alain Wils	71	Director
John van de Merwe	62	Director
Ian J. Webber	57	Chief Executive Officer
Susan J. Cook	58	Chief Financial Officer
Thomas A. Lister	45	Chief Commercial Officer
Vivek Puri	57	Chief Technical Officer

Michael S. Gross. Mr. Gross has been a director since inception and was appointed Chairman in September 2008. Since December 2010, Mr., Gross has been the Chairman of the board of directors, Chief Executive Officer and President of Solar Senior Capital Ltd. Since December 2007, Mr. Gross has served as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Solar Capital Ltd, a finance company focusing on debt and equity investments in leveraged companies. From July 2006 through approximately the first quarter 2009, Mr. Gross was a partner in Magnetar Capital Partners LP, the holding company for Magnetar Financial LLC. Mr. Gross was the Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, and Secretary of Marathon Acquisition Corp. from April 2006 to August 2008. Between February 2004 and February 2006, Mr. Gross was the President and Chief Executive Officer of Apollo Investment Corporation (“AIC”), a publicly traded business development company, and was the managing partner of Apollo Investment Management, L.P. (“AIM”), a leading private equity firm which he founded in 1990 and the investment adviser to AIC. From 1990 to February 2006, Mr. Gross was a senior partner at AIM. Mr. Gross currently serves on the board of directors of Jarden Corporation.

Howard Boyd. Mr. Boyd has been a director since August 2008. In 1996, Mr. Boyd was named chief executive officer of Safmarine, a container liner operator based in Antwerp, which was purchased by AP Moller-Maersk in 1999. Mr. Boyd took a leading role in the takeover and continued as chief executive officer of the separate Safmarine entity until his retirement in 2004. His career with Safmarine began in 1970 when he joined as a tanker accountant. Mr. Boyd held a variety of positions with Safmarine, including financial controller, USA trade

[Table of Contents](#)

executive, chief operating officer of the bulk division and bulk director. He became a member of the Safmarine board of directors in 1988. Mr. Boyd was appointed a consultant to AP Moller-Maersk, continuing as a director of Safmarine, from 2004 to 2008. During this period, he served on the Audit and Remuneration Committees. Mr. Boyd has a Bachelor of Commerce from University of Cape Town and qualified as a South African Chartered Accountant.

Angus R. Frew. Mr. Frew has been a director since August 2008. He was appointed Secretary General of BIMCO in October 2013. Previously, Mr. Frew was chief executive of the UK Chamber of Shipping since July 2009. Mr. Frew was president and chief executive officer from 2003 until 2008 of GE SeaCo SRL, a joint venture between GE Capital and Sea Containers Ltd and one of the largest global container leasing companies. Mr. Frew was a director of the Institute of International Container Lessors from 2003 until 2008, serving as chairman in 2004, and a director of the Container Owners' Association from 2007 to early 2008. Mr. Frew was an officer of Sea Containers Ltd from 2003 to 2005 and senior vice president of its container division. From 1990 to 2002, Mr. Frew held senior management positions in the beverages industry with Grand Metropolitan Plc, Diageo Plc and The Seagram Company Ltd. After qualifying as a British Chartered Accountant in 1983, Mr. Frew held senior financial positions in a number of small entrepreneurial businesses in the IT consultancy, design and retail industries. Mr. Frew has an honors degree in chemistry from the University of Durham.

Guy Morel. Mr. Morel has been a director since August 2008. Mr. Morel was the general secretary of InterManager, the International Association of Shipmanagers from 2007 to 2010. From 2005 to 2007, he was a professor of corporate finance and director of development at the International University of Monaco. From 1993 to 2004, he was the president, director and chief operating officer of MC Shipping Inc., a company quoted on the American Stock Exchange, and involved in the ownership and time chartering of containerhips and LPG carriers. Between 1979 and 1993, Mr. Morel was one of the founders, a director and a shareholder of V.Ships Inc., a leading ship management group, where he was senior vice president in charge of strategic planning and marketing. Prior to 1979, he was a consultant with Data Resources Inc., an American consulting group involved in econometric modeling and economic forecasting. Mr. Morel holds a Bachelor's Degree in civil engineering from Ecole Centrale de Paris and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

Alain Wils. Mr. Wils was appointed as a director by the board of directors on May 8, 2014. He is a consultant in the shipping and logistics industries, after more than 40 years of experience in the sector. Mr. Wils joined the CMA CGM group in 1996 as managing director of the previously state owned shipping company, CGM, on its acquisition by CMA. He was appointed an executive board member of CMA CGM in 2001 on the merger of CMA and CGM, until his retirement in 2008. From 1992 to 1996, he was chairman and CEO of Sceta International, later renamed Geodis International, a leading European logistics and freight forwarding company. He was the managing director of the shipping group Delmas Vieljeux, which he joined in 1971, from 1982 to 1992. Mr. Wils, who is a graduate of HEC Paris and of Paris University, was appointed Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur in 1995 and chaired the French Shipowners' Association from 1998 to 2000.

John J. van de Merwe. Mr. van de Merwe was appointed a director by the board of directors on May 8, 2014. With over 40 years of experience in operations, sales, pricing, marketing, geographic management, logistics, general and executive management in the international transportation industry, he is currently an independent consultant based in the Netherlands, providing services on maritime, transportation and logistics related topics, an activity he started in 2006. Mr. van de Merwe joined CMA CGM in 2000 to become President, later President/ CEO of their high growth North American entity, based in Secaucus, New Jersey and later Marseille. He retired in 2006. He started his career in Rotterdam, the Netherlands where he joined Sea-Land Service Inc. ("Sea-Land") in 1972 in operations. He subsequently spent 28 years with Sea-Land. He held a number of management positions in sales, operations, pricing, becoming General Manager for North Europe in 1988. In 1990 he assumed responsibility for 29 countries, 23 ports and over 1,000 staff as Vice President/General Manager Europe which role included business development in the former Soviet Union. In 1990, Mr. van de Merwe became the first non-American Officer of Sea-Land and in 1997, he was appointed Division Head for the new Asia/Middle East/ Europe Division. He also served on the Senior Management Board and pioneered the concept of a shared service center for Sea-Land in Mumbai. Mr. van de Merwe holds an International Marketing Degree from Netherlands Institute for Marketing.

Ian J. Webber. Upon the completion of the Merger, Mr. Webber became our Chief Executive Officer. From 1979 to 1996, Mr. Webber worked for PriceWaterhouse, the last five years of which he was a partner. From 1996 to 2006, Mr. Webber served as the Chief Financial Officer and a director of CP Ships Limited, a subsidiary of Canadian Pacific Limited until 2001 and thereafter a public company listed on the New York and Toronto stock exchanges until its acquisition by TUI A.G. in 2005. Mr. Webber is a graduate of Cambridge University.

[Table of Contents](#)

Susan J. Cook. Upon the completion of the Merger, Ms. Cook became our Chief Financial Officer. From 1986 to 2006, Ms. Cook worked for The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company and served as Group Head of Specialized Finance from 2003 to 2006, Head of Structured Finance from 1999 to 2003, Deputy Group Treasurer from 1994 to 1999 and Treasury Manager from 1989 to 1993. She is a Chartered Management Accountant and a member of the Association of Corporate Treasurers. Ms. Cook graduated from Brunel University and received a Master of Science from Oxford University.

Thomas A. Lister. Upon the completion of the Merger, Mr. Lister became our Chief Commercial Officer. From 2005 until 2007, Mr. Lister was Senior Vice President at DVB Group Merchant Bank (Asia) Ltd, responsible for developing DVB's Singapore ship fund and leasing project. Before that, from 2004 to 2005, he worked for the German KG financier and ship owning group Nordcapital as Director of Business Development. From 1991 to 2002, Mr. Lister worked for a number of shipping companies in both South America and the U.S. Mr. Lister graduated from Durham University and holds an MBA from INSEAD.

Vivek Puri. In November 2008 Mr. Puri was appointed as our Chief Technical Officer. Prior to joining us, Mr. Puri was Senior Vice President and Chief Technical Officer for British Marine PLC UK. Before that he was Chief Technical Officer at Synergy Marine Cyprus, where he was responsible for the technical and commercial operations of a rapidly growing fleet of containerships. Mr. Puri spent 26 years with the Wallem Group, a global ship management company, where he held several positions including Managing Director of Wallem Ltd UK. Mr. Puri graduated from the Marine Engineering College India in 1978. He is a Chartered engineer, a Chartered marine engineer and a Fellow of the Institute of Marine Engineers and Scientists.

B. Compensation

Employment Agreements and Executive Compensation

Global Ship Lease Services Limited, our wholly owned subsidiary, has entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Webber and, pursuant to the terms of an inter-company agreement between us and Global Ship Lease Services Limited, Mr. Webber serves as our Chief Executive Officer. Pursuant to his employment agreement, Mr. Webber receives an annual salary of £304,668 and is eligible to receive a bonus payment up to an annual maximum of 60% of his salary at the discretion of Global Ship Lease Services Limited.

The agreement is terminable by Mr. Webber if he provides not less than six months advance written notice to Global Ship Lease Services Limited, or by Global Ship Lease Services Limited if it provides not less than 12 months advance written notice to him (subject to exceptions in the case of summary termination). Global Ship Lease Services Limited has the right to terminate Mr. Webber at any time and in its absolute discretion by paying Mr. Webber a sum equal to his salary and contractual benefits for the relevant period of notice. If Mr. Webber terminates his employment agreement for "good reason" following a "change of control" (each as defined in the employment agreement) he will be entitled to receive payment in lieu of salary and contractual benefits for the 12 month notice period, together with any accrued but unpaid bonus.

The agreement also provides that, during his employment or for a period of one year thereafter, Mr. Webber will not, among other actions, solicit or attempt to solicit certain employees or certain customers of ours (or one of our group companies) or be involved in any relevant business in competition with us (or one of our group companies).

Global Ship Lease Services Limited has entered into an employment agreement with Ms. Cook and, pursuant to the inter-company agreement, Ms. Cook serves as our Chief Financial Officer. Pursuant to her employment agreement, Ms. Cook receives an annual salary of £173,400 and is eligible to receive a bonus payment up to an annual maximum of 40% of her salary at the discretion of Global Ship Lease Services Limited.

[Table of Contents](#)

The agreement is terminable by Ms. Cook if she provides not less than six months advance written notice to Global Ship Lease Services Limited, or by Global Ship Lease Services Limited if it provides not less than nine months advance written notice to her (subject to exceptions in the case of summary termination). Pursuant to the terms of her employment agreement, Global Ship Lease Services Limited has the right to terminate Ms. Cook at any time and in its absolute discretion by paying Ms. Cook a sum equal to her salary and contractual benefits for the relevant period of notice. If Ms. Cook terminates her employment agreement for “good reason” following a “change of control” (each as defined in the employment agreement) she will be entitled to receive payment in lieu of salary and contractual benefits for the nine-month notice period, together with any accrued but unpaid bonus.

The agreement also provides that, during her employment or for a period of one year thereafter, Ms. Cook, will not, among other actions, solicit or attempt to solicit certain employees or certain customers of ours (or one of our group companies) or be involved in any relevant business in competition with us (or one of our group companies).

Global Ship Lease Services Limited has entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Lister and, pursuant to the inter-company agreement, Mr. Lister serves as our Chief Commercial Officer. Pursuant to his employment agreement, Mr. Lister receives an annual salary of £183,852 and is eligible to receive a bonus payment up to an annual maximum of 40% of his salary at the discretion of Global Ship Lease Services Limited.

The agreement is terminable by Mr. Lister if he provides not less than three months advance written notice to Global Ship Lease Services Limited, or by Global Ship Lease Services Limited if it provides not less than six months advance written notice to him (subject to exceptions in the case of summary termination). Pursuant to the terms of his employment agreement, Global Ship Lease Services Limited will have the right to terminate Mr. Lister at any time and in its absolute discretion by paying him a sum equal to his salary and contractual benefits for the relevant period of notice. If Mr. Lister terminates his employment agreement for “good reason” following a “change of control” (each as defined in the employment agreement) he will be entitled to receive payment in lieu of salary and contractual benefits for the six-month notice period, together with any accrued but unpaid bonus.

The agreement also provides that, during his employment or for a period of six months thereafter, Mr. Lister, will not, among other actions, solicit or attempt to solicit certain employees or certain customers of ours (or one of our group companies) or be involved in any relevant business in competition with us (or one of our group companies).

Global Ship Lease Services Limited has entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Puri and, pursuant to the inter-company agreement, Mr. Puri serves as our Chief Technical Officer. Pursuant to his employment agreement, Mr. Puri receives an annual salary of £136,680 and is eligible to receive a bonus payment up to an annual maximum of 40% of his salary at the discretion of Global Ship Lease Services Limited.

The agreement is terminable by Mr. Puri if he provides not less than three months advance written notice to Global Ship Lease Services Limited, or by Global Ship Lease Services Limited if it provides not less than six months advance written notice to him (subject to exceptions in the case of summary termination). Pursuant to the terms of his employment agreement, Global Ship Lease Services Limited will have the right to terminate Mr. Puri at any time and in its absolute discretion by paying him a sum equal to his salary and contractual benefits for the relevant period of notice. If Mr. Puri terminates his employment agreement for “good reason” following a “change of control” (each as defined in the employment agreement) he will be entitled to receive payment in lieu of salary and contractual benefits for the six-month notice period, together with any accrued but unpaid bonus.

The agreement also provides that, during his employment or for a period of 12 months thereafter, Mr. Puri, will not, among other actions, solicit or attempt to solicit certain employees or certain customers of ours (or one of our group companies) or be involved in any relevant business in competition with us (or one of our group companies).

[Table of Contents](#)

Compensation of Directors

The Chairman of our board of directors receives an annual fee of \$157,500. Our other directors receive an annual fee of \$105,000. The Chairman of the audit committee receives an additional fee of \$15,000 and each member of the audit committee an additional \$7,500. The Chairmen of the governance and nominating committee and the compensation committee each receive an additional \$5,000 and each member receives an additional \$2,500. In addition, each director is reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses in connection with attending meetings of the board of directors or committees.

2008 Equity Incentive Plan

We adopted the 2008 Equity Incentive Plan (the "Plan"), which entitles our and our subsidiaries' employees, consultants and directors to receive options, stock appreciation rights, stock grants, stock units and dividend equivalents. The following description of the Plan is a summary of the material terms of the Plan.

The Plan is administered by our board of directors or a committee of the board of directors. Subject to adjustment as provided below, the maximum aggregate number of Class A common shares that may be delivered pursuant to awards granted under the Plan during the 10-year term of the Plan is 1,500,000. A total of 1,498,123 Class A common shares have been awarded under the Plan. The maximum number of Class A common shares with respect to which awards may be granted to any participant in the Plan in any fiscal year is 500,000 per participant. If an award granted under the Plan is forfeited, or otherwise expires, terminates or is canceled without the delivery of shares, then the shares covered by such award will again be available to be delivered pursuant to other awards under the Plan.

In the event that we are subject to a change of control, the Plan administrator in its discretion may make such adjustments and other substitutions to the Plan and outstanding awards under the Plan as it deems equitable or desirable in its sole discretion.

The exercise price for options cannot be less than 100% of the fair market value on the date of grant. The maximum term of each stock option agreement shall not exceed 10 years from the date of the grant.

Stock appreciation rights, or SARs, may provide for a maximum limit on the amount of any payout notwithstanding the fair market value on the date of exercise of the SAR. The exercise price of a SAR shall not be less than 100% of the fair market value on the date of grant. The SAR Agreement shall also specify the maximum term of the SAR which shall not exceed 10 years from the date of grant.

Stock grants may be issued with or without cash consideration under the Plan. The holder of a stock grant awarded under the Plan shall have the same voting, dividend and other rights as other Class A common shareholders. The Plan administrator may provide a participant who holds stock grants with dividends or dividend equivalents payable in cash, Class A common shares or other property.

Settlement of vested stock units may be in the form of cash, shares or any combination of both, as determined by the Plan administrator at the time of the grant of the stock units. Methods of converting stock units into cash may include (without limitation) a method based on the average fair market value of shares over a series of trading days. The holders of stock units shall have no voting rights.

Subject to the provisions of the Plan, awards granted under the Plan may include dividend equivalents. The Plan administrator may determine the amounts, terms and conditions of any such awards provided that they comply with applicable laws.

The Plan became effective as of the closing of the Merger. No award may be granted under the Plan after the tenth anniversary of the date of shareholder approval of the Plan.

In August 2008, our board of directors granted 375,000 restricted shares to Mr. Webber, 202,500 restricted shares to Ms. Cook and 202,500 restricted shares to Mr. Lister under the Plan, which were expected to vest over a

[Table of Contents](#)

three-year period. One third of the award vested over 20 business days commencing mid-September 2009, one third vested over 20 business days commencing mid-September 2010 and one third vested over 20 business days commencing mid-September 2011. In November 2008, Mr. Puri was granted 80,000 restricted shares, half of which vested over 20 business days commencing mid-September 2009 and half vested over 20 business days commencing mid-September 2010. In March 2011, Mr. Puri was granted 15,000 restricted shares which vested over 20 business days commencing mid-September 2011. In September 2011, Mr. Webber was granted 55,000 restricted shares, Ms. Cook 34,000 restricted shares, Mr. Lister 34,000 restricted shares and Mr. Puri 27,000 restricted shares, which were expected to vest over a two-year period. One half of the award was expected to vest over 20 business days commencing mid-September 2012, and one half over 20 business days commencing mid-September 2013. In March 2012, the grants made in September 2011 were amended and restated to provide that vesting would occur only when the individual leaves employment, for whatever reason, provided that this is after September 30, 2012 in respect of half of the grant and September 30, 2013 for the other half of the grant. In March 2012, Mr. Webber was granted 27,500 restricted shares, Ms. Cook 17,000 restricted shares, Mr. Lister 17,000 restricted shares and Mr. Puri 13,500 restricted shares, which are expected to vest when the individual leaves employment provided that this is after September 30, 2014 and is not as a result of resignation or termination for cause. In March 2013, Mr. Webber was granted 27,500 restricted shares, Ms. Cook 17,000 restricted shares, Mr. Lister 17,000 restricted shares and Mr. Puri 13,500 restricted shares, which are expected to vest when the individual leaves employment provided that this is after September 30, 2015 and is not as a result of resignation or termination for cause. Other than the annual awards of restricted stock units as part of the compensation of our board of directors, no other awards have been made.

C. Board Practices

Our board of directors is divided into three classes with one class of directors being elected in each year and each class serving a three-year term. The current term of office of the first class of directors consisting of Mr. Morel and Mr. Wils, from his appointment as a director by the board of directors on May 8, 2014 expires at the annual meeting of stockholders to be held in 2015.

The current term of office of the second class of directors, consisting of Mr. Boyd and Mr. Frew, expires at the annual meeting of stockholders to be held in July 2016. The term of office of the third class of directors, consisting of Mr. Gross and Mr. van de Merwe, from his appointment as a director by the board of directors on May 8, 2014, expires at the annual meeting of stockholders to be held in 2017. None of our directors have service contracts with us or any of our subsidiaries providing for benefits upon the termination of their employment.

Director Independence

Our board of directors has determined that all directors are “independent directors” as such term is defined in Rule 10A-3 of the Exchange Act and the rules of the NYSE.

Board Committees

Our board of directors has formed an audit committee, a compensation committee, and a governance and nominating committee.

Audit Committee

We have established an Audit Committee, comprised of three members of our board of directors, who, as directed by our written Audit Committee Charter, are responsible for developing and maintaining our systems of internal accounting and financial controls, preparing our financial statements, recommending to the board of directors the engagement of our independent auditors, and pre-approving audit and audit-related services and fees. Our audit committee consists of Messrs. Boyd, Frew and Morel, each of whom is “independent” as defined in Rule 10A-3 of the Exchange Act and the rules of the NYSE. In addition, our board of directors has determined that Mr. Frew is an “audit committee financial expert” as that term is defined under Item 401 of Regulation S-K of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

[Table of Contents](#)

Financial Experts on Audit Committee

The audit committee will at all times be composed exclusively of “independent directors” who, as required by the NYSE listing standards, are able to read and understand fundamental financial statements, including a company’s balance sheet, income statement and cash flow statement.

In addition, we have certified to the NYSE that the committee has, and will continue to have, at least one member who has past employment experience in finance or accounting, requisite professional certification in accounting, or other comparable experience or background that results in the individual’s financial sophistication. The board of directors has determined that Mr. Frew satisfies the NYSE’s definition of financial sophistication and also qualifies as an “audit committee financial expert,” as defined under rules and regulations of the SEC.

Compensation Committee

U.S. issuers are required to have a compensation committee that is comprised entirely of independent directors. Although as a foreign private issuer this rule does not apply to us, we have a compensation committee. Our compensation committee consists of Messrs. Boyd, Frew and Gross. The compensation committee is responsible for and reports to the board of directors on the evaluation and compensation of executives, oversees the administration of compensation plans, reviews and determines director compensation and prepares any report on executive compensation required by the rules and regulations of the SEC.

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

Our nominating and corporate governance committee consists of Messrs. Boyd, Gross and Morel. The nominating and corporate governance committee reports to the board of directors on and is responsible for succession planning and the appointment, development and performance evaluation of the members of our board and senior executives. It also assesses the adequacy and effectiveness of our corporate governance guidelines, reviewing and recommending changes to the board whenever necessary.

Code of Business Conduct and Ethics

We have adopted a code of business conduct and ethics (“Code of Ethics”) that applies to our officers, employees and directors. More information on the Code of Ethics and board committee charters is available on our website (www.globalshiplease.com) and in print to any investor upon request.

Exemptions from NYSE Corporate Governance Rules

As a foreign private issuer, we are exempted from certain corporate governance rules that apply to domestic companies under NYSE listing standards. The following are the significant ways in which our corporate governance practices differ from those followed by domestic companies:

- we hold annual meetings of shareholders under the Business Corporations Act of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, similar to NYSE requirements; and
- in lieu of obtaining shareholder approval prior to the adoption of equity compensation plans, the full board of directors approves such adoption.

D. Employees

At December 31, 2014, we had eight employees.

E. Share Ownership

See Item 7.A. “Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions—Major Shareholders” for information regarding beneficial ownership by our directors and executive officers.

Item 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions

A. Major Shareholders

The following table sets forth information regarding the beneficial ownership of our common shares as of March 31, 2015 by:

- each person known by us to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of our outstanding common shares;
- each of our officers and directors; and
- all of our officers and directors as a group.

Except as otherwise indicated, each person or entity named in the table has sole voting and investment power with respect to all of our common shares shown as beneficially owned, subject to applicable community property laws. As of March 31, 2015, an aggregate of 54,947,440 Class A and Class B common shares were issued and outstanding.

The Class A common shares and the Class B common shares each have one vote and vote together as a single class except that any amendment to the articles of incorporation, including those made pursuant to the terms of any merger, consolidation or similar transaction, that would increase or decrease the aggregate number of authorized common shares of a class, increase or decrease the par value of common shares of a class, or alter or change the powers, preferences or rights of the class of common shares so as to affect them adversely, must be approved by the holders of not less than a majority of the votes entitled to be cast by the holders of such class of common shares then outstanding, voting separately as a class.

<u>Name and Address of Beneficial Owner (1)</u>	<u>Amount of Beneficial Ownership</u>	<u>Approximate Percentage of Outstanding Common Shares</u>
Michael S. Gross ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	10,737,004	19.54%
Howard Boyd ⁽³⁾	59,862	0.11%
Angus R. Frew ⁽³⁾	59,862	0.11%
Guy Morel ⁽³⁾	59,862	0.11%
Ian J. Webber ⁽⁴⁾	204,800	0.37%
Susan J. Cook ⁽⁵⁾	103,600	0.19%
Thomas Lister ⁽⁶⁾	103,600	0.19%
Vivek Puri ⁽⁷⁾	49,400	0.09%
All directors and executive officers as a group (8 individuals)	11,377,990	20.71%
CMA CGM S.A. ⁽⁸⁾	24,412,700	44.43%
DePrince, Race & Zollo, Inc. ⁽⁹⁾	6,366,069	11.59%

- (1) Unless otherwise noted, the business address of each of the individuals is c/o Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5RS, United Kingdom.
- (2) Marathon Founders, LLC is the record holder of 6,217,712 Class A and Class B common shares. Marathon Founders, LLC is owned and controlled by Mr. Gross. As a result, Mr. Gross may be deemed to beneficially own the shares held by Marathon Founders, LLC. The business address of Mr. Gross is c/o Marathon Founders, LLC, 500 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10022.
- (3) Each of these individuals is a director.
- (4) Mr. Webber serves as our Chief Executive Officer. At March 31, 2015, Mr. Webber held 110,000 restricted stock units scheduled to vest after August 30, 2015 which are not included in the table above.
- (5) Ms. Cook serves as our Chief Financial Officer and Secretary. At March 31, 2015, Ms. Cook held 68,000 restricted stock units scheduled to vest after August 30, 2015 which are not included in the table above.
- (6) Mr. Lister serves as our Chief Commercial Officer. At March 31, 2015, Mr. Lister held 68,000 restricted stock units scheduled to vest after August 30, 2015 which are not included in the table above.
- (7) Mr. Puri serves as our Chief Technical Officer. At March 31, 2015, Mr. Puri held 54,000 restricted stock units scheduled to vest after August 30, 2015 which are not included in the table above.
- (8) CMA CGM S.A. is the record holder of 24,412,700 Class A and Class B common shares. The business address of CMA CGM S.A. is 4, quai d'Arenc, 13235 Marseille Cedex 02, France.
- (9) This information is based on the Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on February 6, 2015

[Table of Contents](#)

As of March 31, 2015, we had 14 shareholders of record, six of which were located in the United States and held an aggregate of 31,231,757 of our Class A and Class B common shares, representing 56.8% of our outstanding common shares. However, one of the U.S. shareholders of record is CEDE & CO., a nominee of The Depository Trust Company, which held 24,818,607 of our common shares as of March 31, 2015. We believe that the shares held by CEDE & CO. include common shares beneficially owned by both holders in the United States and non-U.S. beneficial owners. We are not aware of any arrangements the operation of which may at a subsequent date result in our change of control.

B. Related Party Transactions

See Item 4.B. "Information on the Company—Business Overview" for a discussion of our commercial transactions and agreements with CMA CGM.

Registration Rights Agreement

At the time of the Merger, we entered into a registration rights agreement with CMA CGM, Marathon Investors, LLC, Marathon Founders, LLC and the other initial stockholders of Marathon common stock (including Michael Gross), pursuant to which we agreed to register for resale on a registration statement under the Securities Act and applicable state securities laws, the common shares issued to such shareholders pursuant to the Merger or upon exercise of warrants. CMA CGM has the right to demand up to three registrations and the Marathon initial stockholders have the right to demand up to two registrations. These shareholders also have the right to request that we file a shelf registration statement with respect to their common shares as soon as the applicable transfer restrictions under the stockholders agreement expire. In addition, these shareholders also have piggyback registration rights allowing them to participate in offerings by us and in demand registrations of the other shareholders. We are obligated to pay all expenses incidental to the registration, excluding underwriter discounts and commissions. An amendment to the registration rights agreement was agreed on February 11, 2013 in the context of CMA CGM desiring to pledge their holdings of our Class A common shares and Class B common shares as security for a new facility agreement. The amendment provides that if we have received a notice of pledge in respect of these shares, then we may not file a registration statement in respect of them, essentially unless the pledgors agree. We received a notice of pledge on February 11, 2013. 10,737,004 common shares held by Marathon's initial stockholders were registered for sale under Form F-3 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 28, 2014.

Item 8. Financial Information

A. Financial Statements and Other Financial Information

Please see Item 18. "Financial Statements" below.

Legal Proceedings

We have not been involved in any legal proceedings that may have, or have had a significant effect on our business, financial position, results of operations or liquidity, and we are not aware of any proceedings that are pending or threatened that may have a material effect on our business, financial position, results of operations or liquidity. From time to time, we may be subject to legal proceedings and claims in the ordinary course of business, principally personal injury and property casualty claims associated with operating containerships. We expect that these claims would be covered by insurance, subject to customary deductibles. Claims, even if lacking merit, could result in the expenditure of significant financial and managerial resources.

Dividend Policy

Dividends, if any, would be based on available cash flow, rather than net income, after all relevant cash expenditures, including cash interest expense on borrowings that finance operating assets, cash income taxes and after an allowance for the cash cost of future drydockings but not including deductions for non-cash items including depreciation and amortization and changes in the fair values of financial instruments, if any.

[Table of Contents](#)

In addition to the 47,541,484 Class A common shares outstanding at December 31, 2014, there were 7,405,956 subordinated Class B common shares held by Marathon's initial stockholders and CMA CGM. During the subordination period, no dividends can be paid on the Class B common shares unless dividends at the rate of \$0.23 per share have been paid on all Class A common shares for all quarters. In general, during the subordination period, we can pay quarterly dividends on our Class A common shares and subordinated Class B common shares from our operating surplus (as defined in the amended and restated articles of incorporation) in the following manner:

first, 100% to all Class A common shares, pro rata, until each outstanding common share has been paid an amount equal to the applicable dividend for that quarter;

second, 100% to all Class A common shares, pro rata, until they have received any unpaid arrearages in the dividend for prior quarters during the subordination period;

third, 100% to all subordinated Class B common shares, pro rata, until each outstanding Class B common share has been paid an amount equal to the applicable dividend for that quarter;

after that, 100% to all Class A and Class B common shares, pro rata, as if they were a single class.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the dividend rights of the holders of Class B common shares continue to be subordinated to those of holders of Class A common shares absent a prior change in control of us.

The declaration and payment of any dividend is subject at all times to the discretion of our board of directors which reviews our dividend policy quarterly, taking into consideration capital structure, growth opportunities, industry fundamentals, asset value trends and financial performance including cash flow, restrictions under our revolving credit facility and the indenture that governs our notes, the provisions of Marshall Islands law affecting the payment of distributions to shareholders, required capital and drydocking expenditures, reserves established by our board of directors, increased or unanticipated expenses, additional borrowings or future issuances of securities and other factors, many of which will be beyond our control.

We are not currently paying a dividend on our common shares. There were 1,400,000 depositary shares outstanding at December 31, 2014, each of which represents 1/100th of one share of our Series B preferred shares. Dividends on the Series B preferred shares are payable at 8.75% per annum in arrears on a quarterly basis, when and if declared by the Board of Directors. Following the issuance of the Series B preferred shares of the Company, no dividend may be declared or paid or set apart for payment on our common shares and other junior securities, unless full cumulative dividends have been or contemporaneously are being paid or declared and set aside for payment on all outstanding Series B preferred shares, subject to certain exceptions. See Item 10.B. "Additional Information—Memorandum and Articles of Association." A dividend was declared with respect to our Series B preferred shares on September 22, 2014 and on December 10, 2014.

Our ability to pay dividends may be subject to constraints under our revolving credit facility or the indenture governing our notes and limited by the amount of cash we can generate from operations following the payment of fees and expenses and the establishment of any reserves as well as additional factors unrelated to our profitability. We are a holding company, and we will depend on the ability of our subsidiaries to distribute funds to us in order to satisfy our financial obligations and to pay dividend payments. Further, our board of directors may elect to not distribute any dividends or may significantly reduce the dividends. As a result, the amount of dividends actually paid, if any, may vary from the amount previously paid and such variations may be material. See Item 3.D. "Key Information—Risk Factors" for a discussion of the risks associated with our ability to pay dividends.

Marshall Islands law generally prohibits the payment of dividends other than from surplus (retained earnings and the excess of consideration received for the sale of shares above the par value of the shares) or while a company is insolvent or would be rendered insolvent by the payment of such a dividend.

[Table of Contents](#)

We believe that, under current U.S. federal income tax law, some portion of the distributions you receive from us will constitute dividends and, if you are an individual that is a citizen or resident of the U.S. and that meets certain holding period and other requirements, such dividends will be treated as “qualified dividend income” subject to tax at preferential rates. See Item. 10.E. “Additional Information—Taxation—Tax Consequences of Holding Class A Common Shares—Taxation of dividends paid on Class A common shares” for information regarding the eligibility requirements for “qualified dividend income” and for a discussion of proposed legislation that, if enacted, would prevent dividends paid by us from constituting qualified dividend income.

B. Significant Changes

Not applicable.

Item 9. The Offer and Listing.

On August 15, 2008, our Class A common shares began trading on the NYSE under the symbol “GSL”. On August 20, 2014, our Series B preferred shares began trading on the NYSE under the symbol “GSL-B”.

The following sets forth the high and low closing sales price of our Class A common shares and our Series B preferred shares as reported on the NYSE for the periods shown:

<u>Year Ended</u>	<u>Class A Common</u>		<u>Series B Preferred</u>	
	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
December 31, 2010	\$5.35	\$1.45	—	—
December 31, 2011	\$7.43	\$1.65	—	—
December 31, 2012	\$3.90	\$1.60	—	—
December 31, 2013	\$6.34	\$4.61	—	—
December 31, 2014	\$5.85	\$3.12	—	—
<u>Quarter Ended</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
March 31, 2013	\$3.06	\$4.61	—	—
June 30, 2013	\$4.68	\$3.90	—	—
September 30, 2013	\$5.18	\$3.96	—	—
December 31, 2013	\$6.34	\$4.91	—	—
March 31, 2014	\$5.85	\$4.12	—	—
June 30, 2014	\$4.44	\$3.72	—	—
September 30, 2014 (Series B preferred from August 20, 2014)	\$4.40	\$3.63	\$24.70	\$22.00
December 31, 2014	\$4.50	\$3.12	\$23.20	\$17.44
March 31, 2015	\$5.64	\$4.63	\$23.30	\$18.19
<u>Month Ended</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
October 31, 2014	\$4.04	\$3.12	\$23.20	\$20.87
November 30, 2014	\$3.99	\$3.61	\$21.28	\$19.50
December 31, 2014	\$4.50	\$3.74	\$19.65	\$17.44
January 31, 2015	\$5.07	\$4.63	\$21.75	\$18.19
February 28, 2015	\$5.41	\$4.65	\$22.95	\$19.94
March 31, 2015	\$5.64	\$4.99	\$23.30	\$22.40

Item 10. Additional Information

A. Share Capital

Not applicable.

B. Memorandum and Articles of Association

Our Articles of Incorporation have previously been filed as Exhibit C to Exhibit 2.1 of Marathon Acquisition Corp.'s Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32983), filed with the SEC on July 8, 2008 and are hereby incorporated by reference into this Annual Report. Our Bylaws have previously been filed as Exhibit 3.2 to Form F-4 (File No. 333-150309) filed with the SEC on April 18, 2008 and are hereby incorporated by reference into this Annual Report.

The necessary actions required to change the rights of shareholders and the conditions governing the manner in which annual general meetings and special meetings of shareholders are convoked are described in our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and are hereby incorporated by reference into this Annual Report.

The rights, preferences and restrictions attaching to each class of our capital stock are described in the section "Description of Securities" of our Form F-1 (File No. 333-153448), filed with the SEC on September 12, 2008 and hereby incorporated by reference into this Annual Report and there have been no changes since that date, other than the issuance of the Series B preferred shares in August 2014.

On August 20, 2014, we issued 1,400,000 Depositary Shares, each of which represents 1/100th of one share of our Series B preferred shares. In the event of any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs, holders of the Series B preferred shares will have the right to receive the liquidation preference of \$2,500.00 per share of Series B preferred shares (equivalent to \$25.00 per depositary share or \$35.0 million in the aggregate) plus an amount equal to all accumulated and unpaid dividends thereon to the date of payment, whether or not declared. Dividends are payable at 8.75% per annum in arrears on a quarterly basis, when and if declared by the Board of Directors. Following the issuance of the Series B preferred shares of the Company, no dividend may be declared or paid or set apart for payment on our common stock and each other class or series of capital stock established after the original issue date of the Series B preferred shares that is not expressly made senior to or on parity with the Series B preferred shares as to the payment of dividends and amounts payable upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, whether voluntary or involuntary ("Junior Securities") (other than a dividend payable solely in Junior Securities), unless full cumulative dividends have been or contemporaneously are being paid or declared and set aside for payment on all outstanding Series B preferred shares and any securities that rank *pari passu* with the Series B preferred shares through the most recent respective dividend payment dates. Holders of the Series B preferred shares generally have no voting rights, except in limited circumstances. At any time after August 20, 2019 (or within 180 days after the occurrence of a fundamental change), the Series B preferred shares may be redeemed, at the discretion of the Company, in whole or in part, at a redemption price of \$2,500.00 per share (equivalent to \$25.00 per depositary share). The rights, preferences and restrictions attaching to the Series B preferred shares are described in the section "Description of Series B Preferred Shares and Depositary Shares" of our prospectus supplement dated August 13, 2014 filed with the SEC on August 15, 2014 and hereby incorporated by reference into this Annual Report and there have been no changes since that date. The rights, preferences and restrictions attaching to the Series B preferred shares are further qualified by (i) the Certificate of Designations of Global Ship Lease, Inc., filed with the Registrar or Deputy Registrar of Corporations of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and effective August 19, 2014, and (ii) the Deposit Agreement, dated as of August 20, 2014, by and among Global Ship Lease, Inc., Computershare Inc. and Computershare Trust Company, N.A., as applicable, as depositary, registrar and transfer agent, and the holders from time to time of the depositary receipts described therein (each of (i) and (ii) being incorporated by reference to Exhibits 3.1 and 4.1, respectively, of Global Ship Lease, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 6-K (File No. 001-34153) filed on August 20, 2014), each of which is hereby incorporated by reference into this Annual Report and there have been no changes since that date.

There are no limitations on the rights to own securities, including the rights of non-resident or foreign shareholders to hold or exercise voting rights on the securities imposed by the laws of the Republic of the Marshall Islands or by our Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws.

C. Material Contracts

Reference is made to Item 4.B. "Information on the Company—Business Overview" for a description of the time charters, the ship management agreements and the global expense agreement, which are incorporated herein by reference. Reference is made to Item 5.B. "Operating and Financial Review and Prospects—Liquidity and Capital Resources—Liquidity, working capital and dividends—Indebtedness" for a description of the credit agreement governing our revolving credit facility and the indenture governing our notes, which are incorporated

[Table of Contents](#)

herein by reference. Reference is made to Item 6.B. “Directors, Senior Management and Employees—Compensation” for a description of employment agreements, which is incorporated herein by reference. Reference is made to Item 7.B. “Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions—Related Party Transactions” for a description of the registration rights agreement, which is incorporated herein by reference.

D. Exchange Controls

We are not aware of any governmental laws, decrees or regulations in the Republic of The Marshall Islands that restrict the export or import of capital, including foreign exchange controls, or that affect the remittance of dividends, interest or other payments to non-resident holders of our securities.

We are not aware of any limitations on the right of non-resident or foreign owners to hold or vote our securities imposed by the laws of the Republic of the Marshall Islands or our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

E. Taxation

The following represents the material U.S. federal income tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of our Class A common shares.

This section is based on current provisions of the Code current and proposed Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder, and administrative and judicial decisions as of the date hereof, all of which are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis.

This section does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all of the tax considerations that may be relevant to us or each investor. This section does not address all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be relevant to any particular investor based on such investor’s individual circumstances. In particular, this section considers only investors that will own Class A common shares as capital assets and does not address the potential application of the alternative minimum tax or the U.S. federal income tax consequences to investors that are subject to special treatment, including:

- broker-dealers;
- insurance companies;
- taxpayers who have elected mark-to-market accounting;
- tax-exempt organizations;
- regulated investment companies;
- real estate investment trusts;
- financial institutions or “financial services entities”;
- taxpayers who hold Class A common shares as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion transaction or other integrated transaction;
- certain expatriates or former long-term residents of the U.S.; and
- U.S. holders (as defined herein) whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar.

No ruling has been or will be requested from the IRS regarding any matter affecting us or our shareholders. The statements made herein may be challenged by the IRS and, if so challenged, may not be sustained upon review in a court.

[Table of Contents](#)

The following does not address any aspect of U.S. federal gift or estate tax laws, or state, local or non-U.S. tax laws. Additionally, the section does not consider the tax treatment of partnerships or other pass-through entities or persons who hold our Class A common shares through such entities. Prospective investors should consult their tax advisors regarding the specific tax consequences to them of the acquisition, holding or disposition of our Class A common shares, in light of their particular circumstances.

Taxation of Global Ship Lease

Taxation of operating income

Unless exempt from U.S. federal income taxation under the rules described below in “The Section 883 exemption,” a foreign corporation that earns only transportation income is generally subject to U.S. federal income taxation under one of two alternative tax regimes: (1) the 4% gross basis tax or (2) the net basis tax and branch profits tax.

The 4% gross basis tax

For foreign corporations not engaged in a U.S. trade or business, the U.S. imposes a 4% U.S. federal income tax (without allowance of any deductions) on the corporation’s U.S. source gross transportation income. For this purpose, transportation income includes income from the use, hiring or leasing of a vessel, or the performance of services directly related to the use of a vessel (and thus includes time charter and bareboat charter income). The U.S. source portion of transportation income includes 50% of the income attributable to voyages that begin or end (but not both) in the U.S.. Generally, no amount of the income from voyages that begin and end outside the U.S. is treated as U.S. source, and consequently none of the transportation income attributable to such voyages is subject to this 4% tax. Although the entire amount of transportation income from voyages that begin and end in the U.S. would be U.S. source, we do not expect to have any transportation income from voyages that begin and end in the U.S.

The net basis tax and branch profits tax

We do not expect to engage in any activities in the U.S. or otherwise have a fixed place of business in the U.S. Nonetheless, if this situation were to change or we were to be treated as engaged in a U.S. trade or business, all or a portion of our taxable income, including gain from the sale of vessels, could be treated as effectively connected with the conduct of this U.S. trade or business, or effectively connected income. Any effectively connected income would be subject to U.S. federal corporate income tax (with the highest statutory rate currently being 35%). In addition, an additional 30% branch profits tax would be imposed on us at such time as our after-tax effectively connected income is viewed as having been repatriated to our offshore office. The 4% gross basis tax described above is inapplicable to income that is treated as effectively connected income.

The Section 883 exemption

Both the 4% gross basis tax and the net basis and branch profits taxes described above are inapplicable to U.S. source transportation income that qualifies for exemption under Section 883 of the Code. To qualify for the Section 883 exemption a foreign corporation must, among other things:

- be organized in a jurisdiction outside the U.S. that grants an equivalent exemption from tax to corporations organized in the U.S., which we call an Equivalent Exemption;
- satisfy one of the following three ownership tests (discussed in more detail below): (1) the more than 50% ownership test, or 50% Ownership Test, (2) the controlled foreign corporation test, or CFC Test or (3) the “Publicly Traded Test”; and
- meet certain substantiation, reporting and other requirements (which include the filing of U.S. income tax returns).

[Table of Contents](#)

We are organized under the laws of the Marshall Islands. Each of the vessels in the fleet is owned by a separate wholly owned subsidiary organized either in the Marshall Islands, Cyprus or Hong Kong. The U.S. Treasury Department recognizes the Marshall Islands, Cyprus and Hong Kong as jurisdictions that grant an Equivalent Exemption; therefore, we should meet the first requirement for the Section 883 exemption. Additionally, we intend to comply with the substantiation, reporting and other requirements that are applicable under Section 883 of the Code. As a result, qualification for the Section 883 exemption will turn primarily on our ability to satisfy the second requirement enumerated above.

(1) The 50% Ownership Test

In order to satisfy the 50% Ownership Test, a non-U.S. corporation must be able to substantiate that more than 50% of the value of its stock is owned, directly or indirectly, by “qualified shareholders.” For this purpose, qualified shareholders are: (1) individuals who are residents (as defined in the regulations promulgated under Section 883 of the Code, or Section 883 Regulations) of countries, other than the U.S., that grant an Equivalent Exemption, (2) non-U.S. corporations that meet the Publicly Traded Test of the Section 883 Regulations and are organized in countries that grant an Equivalent Exemption, or (3) certain foreign governments, non-profit organizations, and certain beneficiaries of foreign pension funds. A corporation claiming the Section 883 exemption based on the 50%

Ownership Test must obtain all the facts necessary to satisfy the IRS that the 50% Ownership Test has been satisfied (as detailed in the Section 883 Regulations). We believe that we satisfied the 50% Ownership Test up to and including 2008 due to being a wholly owned subsidiary of CMA CGM until the merger on August 14, 2008 but believe that we may not currently be able to satisfy the 50% Ownership Test due to our lack of knowledge of the direct and indirect owners of entities which own our Class A common shares.

(2) The CFC Test

The CFC Test requires that the non-U.S. corporation be treated as a controlled foreign corporation, or CFC, for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As discussed below at “—Tax Consequences of Holding Class A Common Shares—U.S. holders—Possible treatment as a controlled foreign corporation,” we cannot predict at this time whether we will be a CFC.

(3) The Publicly Traded Test

The Publicly Traded Test requires that one or more classes of equity representing more than 50% of the voting power and value in a non-U.S. corporation be “primarily and regularly traded” on an established securities market either in the U.S. or in a foreign country that grants an Equivalent Exemption.

The Section 883 Regulations provide, in pertinent part, that stock of a non-U.S. corporation will be considered to be “primarily traded” on an established securities market in a given country if the number of shares of each class of stock that are traded during any taxable year on all established securities markets in that country exceeds the number of shares in each such class that are traded during that year on established securities markets in any other single country. Our Class A common shares are listed on the NYSE and are not listed on any other securities exchange. Therefore, our Class A common shares should be treated as primarily traded on an established securities market in the U.S. Moreover, the Class A common shares represent more than 50% of both the voting power and value of all classes of our shares.

The Section 883 Regulations also generally provide that stock will be considered to be “regularly traded” on an established securities market if one or more classes of stock in the corporation representing in the aggregate more than 50% of the total combined voting power and value of all classes of stock of the corporation are listed on an established securities market during the taxable year. However, even if a class of shares is so listed, it is not treated as regularly traded under the Section 883 Regulations unless (1) trades are made in the common shares on the established securities market, other than in minimal quantities, on at least 60 days during the taxable year (or 1 / 6 of the days in a short taxable year); and (2) the aggregate number of common shares traded on the established securities market during the taxable year is at least 10% of the average number of outstanding common shares

[Table of Contents](#)

during that year (as appropriately adjusted in the case of a short taxable year). Even if these trading frequency and trading volume tests are not satisfied with respect to the Class A common shares, however, the Section 883 Regulations provide that such tests will be deemed satisfied if the Class A common shares are regularly quoted by dealers making a market in such Class A common shares. While we anticipate that these trading frequency and trading volume tests will be satisfied each year, satisfaction of these requirements is outside of our control and, hence, no assurances can be provided that we will satisfy the Publicly Traded Test each year.

In addition, even if the “primarily and regularly traded” tests described above are satisfied, a class of stock will not be treated as primarily and regularly traded on an established securities market if, during more than half the number of days during the taxable year, one or more shareholders holding, directly or indirectly, at least 5% of the vote and value of that class of stock, or 5% Shareholders, own, in the aggregate, 50% or more of the vote and value of that class of stock. This is referred to as the 5% Override Rule. In performing the analysis, we are entitled to rely on current Schedule 13D and 13G filings with the SEC to identify our 5% Shareholders, without having to make any independent investigation to determine the identity of the 5% Shareholder. In the event the 5% Override Rule is triggered, the Section 883 Regulations provide that the 5% Override Rule will nevertheless not apply if the company can establish that among the closely-held group of 5% Shareholders, sufficient shares are owned by 5% Shareholders that are considered to be “qualified shareholders”, as defined above, to preclude non-qualified 5% Shareholders in the closely-held group from owning 50% or more of the total value of the relevant class of stock held by 5% Shareholders for more than half the number of days during the taxable year.

Based on information that we have as to our shareholders and other matters, we believed that we qualified for the Section 883 exemption for 2014 under the Publicly Traded Test, and expect to so qualify for 2015. However, it is possible that our ownership may change such that qualified shareholders will not own, in the aggregate, a sufficient amount of our stock for more than half the days during the taxable year to preclude the non-qualifying 5% shareholders from owning 50% or more of the total value of our stock held by the 5% Shareholders group, causing the 5% Override Rule to apply. If the 5% Override Rule applies, we would fail the Publicly Traded Test, and may fail to qualify for the Section 883 exemption.

Such an ownership change, and certain other requirements for our stock to be treated as primarily and regularly traded on an established securities market, are outside of our control and, as a result, no assurances can be provided that our stock will be so treated for any year. Moreover, since the availability of the Section 883 exemption depends on other matters over which we have no control, we can give no assurances that we will, or will continue to, qualify for the Section 883 exemption.

If we were not to qualify for the Section 883 exemption in any year, the U.S. income taxes that become payable could have a negative effect on our business, and could result in decreased earnings available for distribution to our shareholders. However, under the charter agreements, CMA CGM has agreed to provide reimbursement for any such taxes.

United States taxation of gain on sale of vessels

If we qualify for the Section 883 exemption, then gain from the sale of any vessel may be exempt from tax under Section 883. Even if such gain is not exempt from tax under Section 883, we will not be subject to U.S. federal income taxation with respect to such gain, assuming that we are not, and have never been, engaged in a U.S. trade or business. Under certain circumstances, if we are so engaged, gain on sale of vessels could be subject to U.S. federal income tax.

Possibility of taxation as a U.S. corporation

Section 7874 of the Code provides that a foreign corporation which acquires substantially all the properties of a U.S. corporation is generally treated as though it were a U.S. corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes if, after the acquisition, (1) at least 80% (by vote or value) of the stock of the foreign corporation is owned by former shareholders of the U.S. corporation by reason of owning stock in the U.S. corporation, and (2) the foreign corporation’s expanded affiliate group does not have substantial business activities in the foreign corporation’s jurisdiction of organization. Although we believe that this rule should not apply to us in the context of the Merger, there is no definitive legal authority applying the principles of Section 7874 of the Code and, therefore, there can be no assurance that the IRS would not seek to challenge such a position, or that such a challenge would not be successful.

[Table of Contents](#)

If we were to be treated as a U.S. corporation, our net income would be subject to U.S. federal corporate income tax with the highest statutory rate currently being 35%. The imposition of this tax would likely have a negative effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Tax Consequences of Holding Class A Common Shares

U.S. holders

For purposes of this discussion, a U.S. holder is a beneficial owner of our Class A common shares that is:

- an individual who is a citizen or resident of the U.S.;
- a corporation (or other entity taxed as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized under the laws of the U.S., any state thereof or the District of Columbia;
- an estate whose income is includible in gross income for U.S. federal income tax purposes regardless of its source; or
- a trust if (i) a court within the U.S. is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust, or (ii) it has in effect a valid election to be treated as a U.S. person.

Taxation of dividends paid on Class A common shares

When we make a distribution with respect to our Class A common shares, subject to the discussions of the passive foreign investment company, or PFIC, and CFC rules below, a U.S. holder will be required to include in gross income as foreign source dividend income the amount of the distribution to the extent paid out of our current or accumulated earnings and profits as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes. Distributions in excess of such earnings and profits will be applied against and will reduce the U.S. holder's tax basis in the Class A common shares and, to the extent in excess of such basis, will be treated as gain from the sale or exchange of the Class A common shares.

Subject to the discussions of the PFIC and CFC rules below, in the case of a U.S. holder that is a corporation, dividends that we pay will generally be taxable at regular corporate rates of up to 35% and generally will not qualify for a dividends-received deduction available for dividends received from U.S. corporations. In the case of certain non-corporate U.S. holders, dividends that we pay generally will be treated as "qualified dividend income" subject to tax at preferential rates, provided that the Class A common shares are listed on an established securities market in the U.S. (such as the NYSE), the U.S. holder meets certain holding period and other requirements and we are not a PFIC in the taxable year in which the dividends are paid or in the immediately preceding taxable year. Special rules may apply to any "extraordinary dividend" paid by us. An extraordinary dividend is, generally, a dividend with respect to a share if the amount of the dividend is equal to or in excess of 10 percent of a shareholder's adjusted basis (or fair market value in certain circumstances) in such share. If we pay an "extraordinary dividend" on our Class A common shares that is treated as "qualified dividend income", then any loss derived by certain non-corporate U.S. holders from the sale or exchange of such shares will be treated as long-term capital loss to the extent of the amount of such dividend.

Taxation of the disposition of Class A common shares

Subject to the discussions of the PFIC and CFC rules below, upon the sale, exchange or other disposition of Class A common shares, a U.S. holder will recognize capital gain or loss in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized on the disposition and such U.S. holder's tax basis in our Class A common shares.

[Table of Contents](#)

Subject to the discussions of the PFIC and CFC rules below, capital gain from the sale, exchange or other disposition of Class A common shares held more than one year is long-term capital gain, and is eligible for a reduced rate of taxation for individuals. Gain recognized by a U.S. holder on a sale, exchange or other disposition of Class A common shares generally will be treated as U.S. source income. A loss recognized by a U.S. holder on the sale, exchange or other disposition of Class A common shares generally will be allocated to U.S. source income. The deductibility of a capital loss recognized on the sale, exchange or other disposition of Class A common shares may be subject to limitations, and U.S. holders may want to consult their own tax advisors regarding their ability to deduct any such capital loss in light of their particular circumstances.

3.8% tax on net investment income

A U.S. Holder that is an individual, estate, or, in certain cases, a trust, will generally be subject to a 3.8% tax on the lesser of (1) the U.S. Holder's net investment income (or undistributed net investment income in the case of an estate or trust) for the taxable year and (2) the excess of the U.S. Holder's modified adjusted gross income for the taxable year over a certain threshold (which in the case of individuals is between \$125,000 and \$250,000). A U.S. Holder's net investment income will generally include distributions made by us which constitute dividends and gain upon a sale, exchange or other disposition of our Class A common shares. This tax is in addition to any income taxes due on such investment income.

If you are a U.S. Holder that is an individual, estate or trust, you are encouraged to consult your tax advisors regarding the applicability of the 3.8% tax on net investment income to the ownership of our Class A common shares.

Consequences of possible passive foreign investment company classification

A non-U.S. entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes will be a PFIC in any taxable year in which, after taking into account the income and assets of the corporation and certain subsidiaries pursuant to a "look through" rule, either: (1) 75% or more of its gross income is "passive" income or (2) 50% or more of the average value of its assets is attributable to assets that produce passive income or are held for the production of passive income. The determination of whether a corporation is a PFIC is made annually. If a corporation is a PFIC in any taxable year that a person holds stock in the corporation (and was not a qualified electing fund with respect to such year, as discussed below), the stock held by such person will be treated as stock in a PFIC for all future years (absent an election which, if made, may require the electing person to pay taxes in the year of the election).

Based on the projected composition of our income and valuation of our assets, we do not expect that we will constitute a PFIC with respect to the current or any future taxable year, although there can be no assurance in this regard. Our expectation is based principally on the position that, for purposes of determining whether we are a PFIC, the majority, if not all, of the gross income we derive from our chartering activities should constitute services income rather than rental income.

In this regard, we have been advised by our tax advisor that the income from our chartering activities is, more likely than not, services income. There is, however, no direct legal authority under the PFIC rules addressing our current and projected future operations or supporting our position. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that the IRS will not assert that we are a PFIC with respect to any taxable year, nor that a court would not uphold any such assertion and we have not obtained advice from our tax advisor on whether we are a PFIC.

Further, in a case not concerning PFICs, *Tidewater Inc. v. U.S.*, 2009-1 USTC ¶ 50,337, the Fifth Circuit held that a vessel time charter at issue generated rental, rather than services, income. However, the court's ruling was contrary to the position of the IRS that the time charter income should be treated as services income. Subsequently, the IRS has stated that it disagrees with and will not acquiesce to the rental versus services distinction in the *Tidewater* decision, and in its discussion stated that the time charters at issue in *Tidewater* would be treated as producing services income for PFIC purposes. The IRS's statement with respect to *Tidewater* cannot be relied upon or otherwise cited as precedent by taxpayers. Further, the facts in *Tidewater* are not directly analogous to our facts. Consequently, no assurance can be given that the IRS or a court of law would accept our position, and there is a risk that the IRS or a court of law could determine that the company is a PFIC.

[Table of Contents](#)

If we were to be classified as a PFIC in any year, each U.S. holder of our Class A common shares will be subject (in that year and all subsequent years) to special rules with respect to: (1) any “excess distribution” (generally defined as any distribution received by a U.S. holder in a taxable year that is greater than 125% of the average annual distributions received by the U.S. holder in the three preceding taxable years or, if shorter, the U.S. holder’s holding period for the Class A common shares), and (2) any gain realized upon the sale or other disposition of the Class A common shares. Under these rules:

- the excess distribution or gain will be allocated ratably over the U.S. holder’s holding period for our Class A common shares;
- the amount allocated to the current taxable year and any year prior to the first year in which we were a PFIC will be taxed as ordinary income in the current year; and
- the amount allocated to each of the other taxable years in the U.S. holder’s holding period for our Class A common shares will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at the highest rate in effect for the applicable class of taxpayer for that year, and an interest charge will be added as though the amount of the taxes computed with respect to these other taxable years were overdue.

In addition, each U.S. holder of our Class A common shares will be required to file an IRS Form 8621 if such U.S. holder holds its shares in any year in which we were classified as a PFIC.

In order to avoid the application of the PFIC rules, U.S. holders of our Class A common shares may make a qualified electing fund, or a QEF, election provided in Section 1295 of the Code. In lieu of the PFIC rules discussed above, a U.S. holder that makes a valid QEF election will, in very general terms, be required to include its pro rata share of our ordinary income and net capital gains, unreduced by any prior year losses, in income for each taxable year (as ordinary income and long-term capital gain, respectively) and to pay tax thereon, even if the amount of that income is not the same as the distributions paid on the Class A common shares during the year. If we later distribute the income or gain on which the U.S. holder has already paid taxes under the QEF rules, the amounts so distributed will not again be subject to tax in the hands of the U.S. holder. A U.S. holder’s tax basis in any Class A common shares as to which a QEF election has been validly made will be increased by the amount included in such U.S. holder’s income as a result of the QEF election and decreased by the amount of nontaxable distributions received by the U.S. holder. On the disposition of a common share, a U.S. holder making the QEF election generally will recognize capital gain or loss equal to the difference, if any, between the amount realized upon such disposition and its adjusted tax basis in the common share. In general, a QEF election should be made on or before the due date for filing a U.S. holder’s federal income tax return for the first taxable year for which we are a PFIC or, if later, the first taxable year for which the U.S. holder held common stock. In this regard, a QEF election is effective only if certain required information is made available by the PFIC. Subsequent to the date that we first determine that we are a PFIC, we will use commercially reasonable efforts to provide any U.S. holder of Class A common shares, upon request, with the information necessary for such U.S. holder to make the QEF election. If we do not believe that we are a PFIC for a particular year but it is ultimately determined that we were a PFIC, it may not be possible for a holder to make a QEF election for such year.

In addition to the QEF election, Section 1296 of the Code permits U.S. persons to make a “mark-to-market” election with respect to marketable stock in a PFIC. If a U.S. holder of our Class A common shares makes a mark-to-market election, such U.S. holder generally would, in each taxable year: (1) include as ordinary income the excess, if any, of the fair market value of the Class A common shares at the end of the taxable year over such U.S. holder’s adjusted tax basis in the Class A common shares, and (2) be permitted an ordinary loss in respect of the excess, if any, of such U.S. holder’s adjusted tax basis in the Class A common shares over their fair market value at the end of the taxable year, but only to the extent of the net amount previously included in income as a result of the mark-to-market election (with the U.S. holder’s basis in the Class A common shares being increased and decreased, respectively, by the amount of such ordinary income or ordinary loss). If a U.S. holder makes an effective mark-to-market election, any gain such U.S. holder recognizes upon the sale or other disposition of our Class A common shares will be treated as ordinary income and any loss will be treated as ordinary loss, but only to the extent of the net amount previously included in income as a result of the mark-to-market election. The consequences of this election are generally less favorable than those of a QEF election for U.S. holders that are sensitive to the distinction

Table of Contents

between ordinary income and capital gain, although this is not necessarily the case. U.S. holders should consult their tax advisors as to the consequences to them of making a mark-to-market or QEF election, as well as other U.S. federal income tax consequences of holding stock in a PFIC in light of their particular circumstances.

As previously indicated, if we were to be classified as a PFIC for a taxable year in which we pay a dividend or the immediately preceding taxable year, dividends paid by us would not constitute “qualified dividend income” and, hence, would not be eligible for the preferential rates of U.S. federal income tax.

Possible treatment as a controlled foreign corporation

If more than 50% of the voting power or value of our shares is owned by U.S. persons (within the meaning of the Code) who each own (directly or through application of certain rules of attribution) 10% or more of the voting power of the shares, or U.S. 10% Holders, we will be a controlled foreign corporation, or a CFC. If we were so treated, there will be additional tax consequences to U.S. 10% Holders. In particular, in each year we are a CFC, such U.S. 10% Holders who directly or indirectly own our shares on the last day of the year will be required to include in ordinary income their pro rata share of our “Subpart F income,” even if no distributions are made, for each such year. Such inclusions will not be eligible for the preferential rates of tax on qualified dividends received by non-corporate taxpayers. In general, Subpart F income will include dividends, interest, royalties and other passive income of ours, but will not include active business income. We believe, and intend to take the position, that the charters we have entered into should not generate passive income, and thus the income generated by our charters should not be treated as Subpart F income to our U.S. 10% Holders, although no assurance can be provided that the IRS will not successfully challenge such position.

Additionally, if we are treated as a CFC, gains realized by a U.S. 10% Holder on the sale or other disposition of Class A common shares may be treated as dividend income to the extent of our certain accumulated earnings and profits. Moreover, for taxable years of a U.S. 10% Holder in which we are a CFC, and our taxable years that end with or within such taxable years of such U.S. 10% Holders, we generally will not be treated as a PFIC with respect to Class A common shares held by such U.S. 10% Holder (but may be treated as a PFIC with respect to other U.S. holders).

We believe that we are not a CFC but cannot predict whether we will become a CFC, and satisfaction of the CFC definitional test is outside of our control. U.S. holders may want to consult their own tax advisors concerning the application of the controlled foreign corporation rules to them in light of their particular circumstances.

Non-U.S. holders

For purposes of this discussion, a non-U.S. holder is a beneficial owner of our Class A common shares that is neither a U.S. holder nor a partnership (or any other entity taxed as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes).

A non-U.S. holder will generally not be subject to U.S. federal income tax on dividends paid in respect of the Class A common shares or on gains recognized in connection with the sale or other disposition of the Class A common shares, provided, in each case, that the non-U.S. holder makes certain tax representations regarding the identity of the beneficial owner of the Class A common shares, and that such dividends or gains are not effectively connected with the non-U.S. holder’s conduct of a U.S. trade or business.

Dividends or gains that are effectively connected with a non-U.S. holder’s conduct of a U.S. trade or business (and, if required by an applicable income tax treaty, are attributable to a U.S. permanent establishment) are subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis in the same manner as if the non-U.S. holder were a U.S. holder, and may be subject to an additional “branch profits tax” at a 30% rate or such lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty.

If we are treated as a U.S. corporation pursuant to Section 7874 of the Code, non-U.S. holders generally will be subject to withholding tax at a rate of 30% on all dividends paid by us, unless a reduced rate of tax is available under a tax treaty.

Tax Consequences of Holding 8.75% Series B Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares

Our Series B preferred shares are treated as equity rather than debt for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Information Reporting and Back-up Withholding

U.S. holders generally are subject to information reporting requirements with respect to dividends paid on Class A common shares, and on the proceeds from the sale, exchange or disposition of Class A common shares. In addition, a holder may be subject to back-up withholding (currently at 28%) on dividends paid on Class A common shares, and on the proceeds from the sale, exchange or other disposition of Class A common shares, unless the holder provides certain identifying information, such as a duly executed IRS Form W-9 or W-8BEN, or otherwise establishes an exemption. Back-up withholding is not an additional tax and the amount of any back-up withholding will be allowable as a credit against a holder's U.S. federal income tax liability and may entitle such holder to a refund, provided that certain required information is timely furnished to the IRS.

Marshall Islands Taxation

Because we do not (and do not expect in the future) that we will conduct business or operations in the Republic of The Marshall Islands, we are not subject to income, capital gains, profits or other taxation under current Marshall Islands law.

Other Taxation

We are subject to taxation in certain non-U.S. jurisdictions because we are either organized, or conduct business or operations, in such jurisdictions. We intend that our business and the business of our subsidiaries will be conducted and operated in a manner that minimizes taxes imposed upon us and our subsidiaries. However, we cannot assure this result as tax laws in these or other jurisdictions may change or we may enter into new business transactions relating to such jurisdictions, which could affect our tax liability.

F. Dividends and Paying Agents

Not applicable.

G. Statements by Experts

Not applicable.

H. Documents on Display

Documents concerning us that are referred to herein may be inspected at the offices of our subsidiary, Global Ship Lease Services Limited, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5RS, United Kingdom. Those documents electronically filed via the Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis, and Retrieval (or EDGAR) system may also be obtained from the SEC's website at www.sec.gov or from the SEC public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. Further information on the operation of the public reference rooms may be obtained by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. Copies of documents can be requested from the SEC public reference rooms for a copying fee.

Item 11. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Interest Rate Risk

We are exposed to the impact of interest rate changes primarily through our floating-rate borrowings under our revolving credit facility. Significant increases in interest rates could adversely affect our results of operations and our ability to service our own debt. Details of the expected maturity of our borrowings are presented in Item 5.F. "Operating and Financial Review and Prospects—Contractual Obligations".

[Table of Contents](#)

Sensitivity Analysis

Our analysis of the potential effects of variations in market interest rates is based on a sensitivity analysis, which models the effects of potential market interest rate changes on our financial condition and results of operations. The following sensitivity analysis may have limited use as a benchmark and should not be viewed as a forecast as it does not include a variety of other potential factors that could affect our business as a result of changes in interest rates.

Based on maximum borrowings of \$40.0 million under the revolving credit facility and ignoring cash on deposit, a hypothetical 1% increase in LIBOR would have the impact of reducing our annual net income, before income taxes, by approximately \$0.4 million.

Foreign Currency Exchange Risk

The shipping industry's functional currency is the U.S. dollar. All of our revenues and the majority of our operating costs are in U.S. dollars. In the future, we do not expect to be exposed to any significant extent to the impact of changes in foreign currency exchange rates. Consequently, we do not presently intend to enter into derivative instruments to hedge the foreign currency translation of assets or liabilities or foreign currency transactions or to use financial instruments for trading or other speculative purposes.

Inflation

With the exception of rising costs associated with the employment of international crews for our vessels and the impact of global oil prices on the cost of lubricating oil, we do not believe that inflation has had or is likely, in the foreseeable future, to have a significant impact on vessel operating expenses, drydocking expenses and general and administrative expenses. For the duration of the global expense agreement, under certain predefined circumstances, we will be able to recover a portion of our vessel operating costs above a pre-determined threshold.

Item 12. Description of Securities Other than Equity Securities

Not applicable.

PART II

Item 13. Defaults, Dividend Arrearages and Delinquencies

None.

Item 14. Material Modifications to the Rights of Security Holders and Use of Proceeds

None.

Item 15. Controls and Procedures

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

As required by Rules 13a-15 and 15d-15 under the Exchange Act, management has evaluated, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report. Disclosure controls and procedures refer to controls and other procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in the reports we file or submit under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported, within the time periods specified in the rules and forms of the SEC. Disclosure controls and procedures include, without limitation, controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed by us in our reports that we file or submit under the Exchange Act is accumulated and communicated to management, including our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding our required disclosure. In designing and evaluating our disclosure controls and procedures, management recognizes that any controls and procedures, no

[Table of Contents](#)

matter how well designed and operated, can provide only reasonable assurance of achieving the desired control objectives, and management was required to apply its judgment in evaluating and implementing possible controls and procedures.

Based on the foregoing, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that, as of December 31, 2014, the end of the period covered by this report, our disclosure controls and procedures were effective.

Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

Management acknowledges its responsibility for establishing and maintaining adequate internal controls over financial reporting. Internal control over financial reporting refers to a process designed by, or under the supervision of, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer and effected by our 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 and includes those policies and procedures that:

- relate to the maintenance of records that in reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of our assets;
- provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that our receipts and expenditures are being made only in accordance with authorizations of our management and members of our board of directors; and
- provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of our assets that could have a material effect on our financial statements.

Internal control over financial reporting cannot provide absolute assurance of achieving financial reporting objectives because of its inherent limitations. Internal control over financial reporting is a process that involves human diligence and compliance and is subject to lapses in judgment and breakdowns resulting from human failures. Internal control over financial reporting also can be circumvented by collusion or improper override. Because of such limitations, there is a risk that material misstatements may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis by internal control over financial reporting. However, these inherent limitations are known features of the financial reporting process, and it is possible to design into the process safeguards to reduce, though not eliminate, this risk. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Management evaluated the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014 using the framework established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on the foregoing, management has concluded that internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2014.

The effectiveness of our internal controls over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014 has been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers Audit, France, the independent registered public accounting firm that audited our December 31, 2014 consolidated financial statements, as stated in their report which is included herein.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In accordance with Rule 13a-15(d), management has evaluated, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, whether any changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during our last fiscal year have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

[Table of Contents](#)

During the year ended December 31, 2014 there were no changes with regard to internal control over financial reporting that has materially affected or is reasonably likely to materially affect our internal control over financial reporting.

Item 16.A. Audit Committee Financial Expert

The Board has determined that director and chairman of the Audit Committee, Mr. Frew, qualifies as an audit committee financial expert and is independent under applicable NYSE and SEC standards.

Item 16.B. Code of Ethics

We have adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics for all employees and directors. This document is available in the Corporate Governance section of our website (www.globalshiplease.com). We also intend to disclose any waivers to or amendments of our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics for the benefit of our directors and executive officers on our website. We will provide a hard copy of our Code of Ethics free of charge upon written request of a shareholder.

Item 16.C. Principal Accountant Fees and Services

Our principal accountant for 2014 and 2013 was PricewaterhouseCoopers Audit, France, an independent registered public accounting firm.

Fees Incurred by Global Ship Lease for PricewaterhouseCoopers Audit's Services

In 2014 and 2013 the fees for services rendered by the auditors were as follows:

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Audit Fees	\$311,900	\$318,400
Audit-Related Fees	98,000	70,000
Tax Fees	97,100	116,375
	<u>\$507,000</u>	<u>\$504,775</u>

Audit Fees

Audit fees represent professional services rendered for the audit of our consolidated annual financial statements, the quarterly reviews and services provided by our principal accountant in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements.

Audit-Related Fees

Audit-Related fees consist of assurance and related services rendered by the principal accountant related to the performance of the audit or review of our consolidated financial statements or other filings which have not been reported under Audit Fees above.

Tax Fees

Tax fees for 2014 and 2013 are primarily for tax consultation services.

The Audit Committee has the authority to pre-approve permissible audit-related and non-audit services not prohibited by law to be performed by our independent auditors and associated fees. Engagements for proposed services either may be separately pre-approved by the Audit Committee or entered into pursuant to detailed pre-approval policies and procedures established by the Audit Committee, as long as the Audit Committee is informed on a timely basis of any engagement entered into on that basis. The Audit Committee has pre-approved services, subject to a detailed pre-approval policy and procedure established by them and also subject to a limit for all non-audit fees of \$100,000 per year.

Table of Contents

Item 16.D. Exemptions from the Listing Standards for Audit Committees

Not applicable.

Item 16.E. Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers

Not applicable.

Item 16.F. Change in Registrants' Certifying Accountant

Not applicable.

Item 16.G. Corporate Governance

Not applicable.

The following are the significant ways in which our corporate governance practices differ from those followed by domestic companies:

- we hold annual meetings of shareholders under the Business Corporations Act of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, similar to NYSE requirements; and
- in lieu of obtaining shareholder approval prior to the adoption of equity compensation plans, the full board of directors approves such adoption.

U.S. issuers are required to have a compensation committee that is comprised entirely of independent directors. Although as a foreign private issuer this rule does not apply to us, we have a compensation committee that consists of four directors, all of whom satisfy NYSE standards for independence.

Item 16.H. Mine Safety Disclosures

Not applicable.

PART III

Item 17. Financial Statements

Not applicable.

Item 18. Financial Statements

The following financial statements, together with the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers Audit thereon, are filed as part of this Annual Report:

GLOBAL SHIP LEASE, INC.

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

[Consolidated Balance Sheets as at December 31, 2014 and 2013](#)

[Consolidated Statements of Income for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012](#)

[Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012](#)

[Consolidated Statements of Stockholders' Equity for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012](#)

[Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements](#)

Page

1

2

3

4

5

[Table of Contents](#)

Item 19. Exhibits

The following exhibits are filed as part of this Annual Report:

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.1	Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of GSL Holdings, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit C to Exhibit 2.1 Marathon Acquisition Corp.'s Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32983) filed on July 8, 2008).
1.2	Amended and Restated By-laws of GSL Holdings, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of Global Ship Lease, Inc.'s Registration Statement on Form F-4 (File No. 333-150309) filed on April 18, 2008).
1.3	Certificate of Designations of Global Ship Lease, Inc., filed with the Registrar or Deputy Registrar of Corporations of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and effective August 19, 2014 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of Global Ship Lease, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 6-K (File No. 001-34153) filed on August 20, 2014).
2.1	Specimen Class A common share certificate (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 of Global Ship Lease, Inc.'s Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-153448) filed on September 12, 2008).
2.2	Deposit Agreement, dated as of August 20, 2014, by and among Global Ship Lease, Inc., Computershare Inc. and Computershare Trust Company, N.A., as applicable, as depository, registrar and transfer agent, and the holders from time to time of the depository receipts described therein (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of Global Ship Lease, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 6-K (File No. 001-34153) filed on August 20, 2014).
4.1	Agreement and Plan of Merger by and among Marathon Acquisition Corp., GSL Holdings, Inc., Global Ship Lease, Inc. and CMA CGM S.A., dated as of March 21, 2008 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 of Marathon Acquisition Corp.'s Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32983) filed on March 25, 2008).
4.2	Amendment, dated as of June 2, 2008, to Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of March 21, 2008, among Marathon Acquisition Corp., GSL Holdings, Inc., CMA CGM S.A. and Global Ship Lease, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 of Marathon Acquisition Corp.'s Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32983) filed on June 3, 2008).
4.3	Second Amendment, dated as of July 3, 2008, to Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of March 21, 2008, among Marathon Acquisition Corp., GSL Holdings, Inc., CMA CGM S.A. and Global Ship Lease, Inc., as amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 of Marathon Acquisition Corp.'s Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32983) filed on July 8, 2008).
4.4	Form of Registration Rights Agreement between GSL Holdings, Inc., Marathon Founders, LLC, Marathon Investors, LLC, the insiders listed on the signature page thereto and CMA CGM S.A. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit A-1 to Exhibit 2.1 of Marathon Acquisition Corp.'s Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32983) filed on July 24, 2008).
4.5	First Amendment to Registration Rights Agreement, dated as of February 11, 2013, among Global Ship Lease, Inc. (formerly GSL Holdings, Inc.) and CMA CGM S.A. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 1 of Global Ship Lease, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 6-K (File No. 001-34153) filed on February 28, 2013).

Table of Contents

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
4.6	Form Indemnification Agreement between Marathon Acquisition Corp. and each of its directors and executive officers (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.6 of Amendment No. 2 to Marathon Acquisition Corp.'s Registration Statement on Form S-1 (File No. 333-134078) filed on August 1, 2006).
4.7	Amended and Restated Asset Purchase Agreement, dated as of December 5, 2007, among Global Ship Lease, Inc. and CMA CGM S.A., Delmas S.A.S., Pacific I S.N.C. and Pacific II S.N.C. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.7 of Global Ship Lease, Inc.'s Registration Statement on Form F-4 (File No. 333-150309) filed on April 18, 2008).
4.8	Indenture, dated as of March 19, 2014, among Global Ship Lease, Inc., the guarantors party thereto and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee and as security agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 of Global Ship Lease, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 6-K (File No. 001-34153) filed on March 21, 2014).
4.9	Form of Notes (included in Exhibit 4.8) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 of Global Ship Lease, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 6-K (File No. 001-34153) filed on March 21, 2014).
4.10*	Supplemental Indenture For Additional Guarantor, dated as of December 23, 2014, among Global Ship Lease, Inc., the other guarantors party thereto and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee and as security agent.
4.11*	Supplemental Indenture For Additional Guarantor, dated as of February 23, 2015, among Global Ship Lease, Inc., the other guarantors party thereto and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee and as security agent.
4.12	Form of Second Amended and Restated Asset Purchase Agreement among Global Ship Lease, Inc. and CMA CGM S.A., Delmas S.A.S., Pacific I S.N.C. and Pacific II S.N.C. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit A-2 to Exhibit 2.1 of Marathon Acquisition Corp.'s Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32983) filed on March 25, 2008).
4.13	Credit Agreement, dated as of March 19, 2014, among Global Ship Lease, Inc., Global Ship Lease Services Limited, the guarantors party thereto, Citibank N.A., London Branch, Citibank International plc and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.3 of Global Ship Lease, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 6-K (File No. 001-34153) filed on March 21, 2014).
4.14	Intercreditor Agreement, dated as of March 19, 2014, among Global Ship Lease, Inc., the parties listed on Part A of Schedule 5 thereto, Citibank N.A., London Branch, Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas and the other parties from time to time party thereto (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.4 of Global Ship Lease, Inc.'s Current Report on Form 6-K (File No. 001-34153) filed on March 21, 2014).
4.15	Form of Guarantee made by Global Ship Lease, Inc. in favor of the charterer listed on Schedule I thereto (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.10 of Global Ship Lease, Inc.'s Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-147070) filed on November 1, 2007).
4.16	Form of Guarantee made by the CMA CGM S.A. in favor of Global Ship Lease, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.11 of Global Ship Lease, Inc.'s Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-147070) filed on November 1, 2007).
4.17	Form of Charter Agreement entered into by a subsidiary of Global Ship Lease, Inc. and CMA CGM S.A. or one of its subsidiaries (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 2.1 of Marathon Acquisition Corp.'s Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32983) filed on March 25, 2008).

Table of Contents

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
4.18	Form of Ship Management Agreement entered into by CMA Ships and a Subsidiary of Global Ship Lease, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit A-3 to Exhibit 2.1 of Marathon Acquisition Corp.'s Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-32983) filed on March 25, 2008).
4.19	Form of Guarantee made by Global Ship Lease, Inc. in favor of CMA CGM S.A. and CMA Ships (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.14 of Global Ship Lease, Inc.'s Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-147070) filed on November 1, 2007).
4.20	Form of Guarantee made by CMA CGM S.A. in favor of Global Ship Lease, Inc. and its Subsidiaries (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.15 of Global Ship Lease, Inc.'s Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-147070) filed on November 1, 2007).
4.21	Form of Global Expense Agreement between CMA Ships and Global Ship Lease, Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.16 of Global Ship Lease, Inc.'s Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-147070) filed on November 1, 2007).
4.22	Form of Indemnification Agreement entered into between Global Ship Lease, Inc. and each of its directors and officers (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.17 of Global Ship Lease, Inc.'s Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-147070) filed on November 1, 2007).
4.23	2008 Equity Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.22 of Global Ship Lease, Inc.'s Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-153448) filed on September 12, 2008).
4.24	Form of Employment Agreement of Ian J. Webber (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.23 of Amendment No. 3 to Global Ship Lease, Inc.'s Registration Statement on Form F-4 (File No. 333-150309) filed on July 3, 2008).
4.25	Form of Employment Agreement of Susan J. Cook (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.24 of Amendment No. 3 to Global Ship Lease, Inc.'s Registration Statement on Form F-4 (File No. 333-150309) filed on July 3, 2008).
4.26	Form of Employment Agreement of Thomas A. Lister (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 10.25 of Amendment No. 3 to Global Ship Lease, Inc.'s Registration Statement on Form F-4 (File No. 333-150309) filed on July 3, 2008).
8.1*	List of Subsidiaries of Global Ship Lease, Inc.
11.1	Code of Ethics (incorporated by reference to Exhibit II of Global Ship Lease, Inc.'s Annual Report on Form 20-F (File No. 001-341539) filed on June 25, 2009).
12.1*	Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Global Ship Lease, Inc.'s Chief Executive Officer.
12.2*	Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Global Ship Lease, Inc.'s Chief Financial Officer.
13.1*	Global Ship Lease, Inc. Certification of Ian J. Webber, 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*	Global Ship Lease, Inc. Certification of Susan J. Cook, 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 PricewaterhouseCoopers Audit.

* Filed herewith.

GLOSSARY OF SHIPPING TERMS

Unless otherwise stated, references to the following terms have the following meaning as used in this Annual Report:

Annual survey. The inspection of a ship pursuant to international conventions, by a classification society surveyor, on behalf of the flag state, that takes place every year.

Backhaul. The weaker leg of a round trip voyage with less volume than the stronger headhaul leg or the return movement of a container—often empty—from a destination of unloading to a point of reloading of cargo.

Ballast. Weight in solid or liquid form, such as sea water, taken on a ship to increase draught, to change trim, or to improve stability or a voyage in which a ship is not laden with cargo.

Bareboat charter. A charter of a ship under which the ship-owner is usually paid a fixed amount of charterhire for a certain period of time during which the charterer is responsible for all ship operating expenses, including expenses for crewing, lubricating oil, insurance, maintenance and drydockings, and for all voyage expenses such as bunker fuel. A bareboat charter is also known as a “demise charter” or a “time charter by demise.”

Bunkers. Heavy fuel and diesel oil used to power a ship’s engines and generators.

Capacity. The nominal carrying capacity of the ship, measured in TEU.

Charter. The hire of a ship for a specified period of time or a particular voyage to carry a cargo from a loading port to a discharging port.

Charterer. The party that hires a ship for a period of time or for a voyage.

Charterhire. A sum of money paid to the ship-owner by a charterer for the use of a ship.

Charter owner. A company that owns containerships and charters out its ships to container shipping companies rather than operating the ships for liner services; also known as ship-owner or lessor.

Charter rate. The rate charged by a Charter owner normally as a daily rate for the use of its containerships by a charterer. Charter rates can be on a time charter or bareboat charter basis.

Classification society. An independent organization that certifies that a ship has been built and maintained according to the organization’s rules for that type of ship and complies with the applicable rules and regulations of the country of the ship’s registry and the international conventions of which that country is a member. A ship that receives its certification is referred to as being “in-class.”

Container shipping company. A shipping company operating liner services using owned or chartered ships with fixed port of call schedules. Also known as a carrier, liner company or an operator.

Drydocking. Placing the ship in a drydock in order to check and repair areas and parts below the water line. During drydockings, which are required to be carried out periodically, certain mandatory classification society inspections are carried out and relevant certifications are issued. Under Classification Society rules, drydockings for containerships are generally required once every three to five years or after an accident resulting in under-water damage.

Freight rate. The amount charged by container shipping companies for transporting cargo, normally as a rate per 20-foot or 40-foot container.

Geared containerships. Self-sustained containerships, which are able to load and discharge containers with their own on-board cranes and derricks.

[Table of Contents](#)

Gross tonnage. A unit of measurement of the entire internal cubic capacity of the ship expressed in tons at 100 cubic feet to the ton.

Headhaul. The stronger leg of a round trip voyage with greater volume than the weaker backhaul or the outgoing goods to be delivered from a point of origin.

Hull. The main body of the ship without engines, buildings and cranes.

Liner company or liner. A container shipping company (also referred to as lines or operators).

KG. Kommanditgesellschaft, a closed end fund construct broadly analogous to a limited partnership. It has been employed as an investment vehicle for high net worth individuals (primarily German) in various types of assets, including shipping assets.

IMO. International Maritime Organization, a United Nations agency that issues international standards for shipping.

Intermediate survey. The inspection of a ship by a classification society surveyor that takes place 24 to 36 months after each special survey.

Newbuilding. A ship on order, under construction or just delivered.

Off-hire. The period in which a ship is not available for service under a charter and, accordingly, the charterer generally is not required to pay the hire. Off-hire periods can include days spent on repairs, drydocking and surveys, whether or not scheduled.

Orderbook-to-fleet ratio. The ratio of the orderbook for new vessels yet to be delivered to the existing on-the-water fleet determined on the basis of TEU capacity and expressed as a percentage.

Scrapping. The sale of a ship for conversion into scrap metal.

Ship management. The provision of shore-based ship management services related to crewing, technical and safety management and the compliance with all government, flag state, class certification and international rules and regulations.

Shipper. Someone who prepares goods for shipment or arranges seaborne transportation; essentially a customer of a container shipping company.

Sister ships. Ships of the same class and specification typically built at the same shipyard.

Special survey. The inspection of a ship by a classification society surveyor that takes place every five years, as part of the recertification of the ship by a classification society.

Spot market. The market for immediate chartering of a ship, usually for single voyages or for short periods of time, up to 12 months.

TEU. A 20-foot equivalent unit, the international standard measure for containers and containership capacity.

Time charter. A charter under which the ship-owner hires out a ship for a specified period of time. The ship-owner is responsible for providing the crew and paying vessel operating expenses while the charterer is responsible for paying the voyage expenses such as fuel and additional voyage insurance. The ship-owner is paid charterhire, which accrues on a daily basis.

[Table of Contents](#)

Vessel operating expenses. The costs of operating a ship, primarily consisting of crew wages and associated costs, insurance premiums, ship management fees, costs of lubricants and spare parts, and repair and maintenance costs. Vessel operating expenses exclude bunker costs, port expenses, stevedoring costs, agents' fees, canal dues, extra war risk insurance and commissions, which are included in "voyage expenses."

Voyage expenses. Expenses incurred due to a ship's voyage from a loading port to a discharging port, such as bunkers costs, port expenses, stevedoring costs, agents' fees, canal dues, extra war risk insurance and commissions.

GLOBAL SHIP LEASE, INC.
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

[Table of Contents](#)

Global Ship Lease, Inc.

Index to Consolidated Financial Statements

	Page
Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	2
Consolidated Balance Sheets as at December 31, 2014 and 2013	3
Consolidated Statements of Income for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012	4
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012	5
Consolidated Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012	6
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	7 - 24

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Directors and Stockholders of Global Ship Lease, Inc.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated balance sheets and the related consolidated statements of income, of changes in stockholders' equity and cash flows present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Global Ship Lease, Inc. and its subsidiaries ("the Company") at December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2014 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Also in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2014, based on criteria established in Internal Control—Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). The Company's management is responsible for these financial statements, for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the section entitled "Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting" under Item 15 of Form 20-F. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements and on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our integrated 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 audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement and whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audits of the financial statements included 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, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

As discussed in Note 2 (b) (i) to the consolidated financial statements, the Company has entered into significant contracts with CMA CGM, a related party and the main source of the Company's operating revenue and consequently the Company is highly dependent on the performance by CMA CGM of its obligations under those contracts which will in turn depend partly on CMA CGM's financial situation.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed 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 (i) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (ii) 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 (iii) 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 its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Neuilly-sur-Seine, France
April 20, 2015

PricewaterhouseCoopers Audit
/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers

PricewaterhouseCoopers is represented by PricewaterhouseCoopers Audit, 63 rue de Villiers—92200 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.

Global Ship Lease, Inc.**Consolidated Balance Sheets**

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars except share data)

	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 33,295	\$ 24,536
Restricted cash (note 13)	—	3
Accounts receivable	1,244	7,006
Prepaid expenses (note 7)	609	5,337
Other receivables	996	115
Inventory	553	—
Current portion of deferred financing costs (note 7)	3,148	1,391
Total current assets	<u>39,845</u>	<u>38,388</u>
Vessels in operation (note 4)	836,537	817,875
Other fixed assets	6	7
Intangible assets (note 5)	67	95
Deferred financing costs (note 7)	10,172	1,882
Total non-current assets	<u>846,782</u>	<u>819,859</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 886,627</u>	<u>\$ 858,247</u>
Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity		
Liabilities		
Current portion of long-term debt (note 9)	\$ —	\$ 50,110
Intangible liability – charter agreements (note 8)	2,119	2,119
Deferred revenue	462	—
Accounts payable	2,123	1,289
Accrued expenses	15,278	6,887
Derivative instruments (note 6)	—	8,776
Total current liabilities	<u>19,982</u>	<u>69,181</u>
Long-term debt (note 9)	414,782	316,256
Series A Preferred shares (note 13)	—	44,976
Intangible liability – charter agreements (note 8)	13,693	15,812
Deferred tax liability	34	43
Derivative instruments (note 6)	—	12,513
Total long-term liabilities	<u>428,509</u>	<u>389,600</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 448,491</u>	<u>\$ 458,781</u>
Commitments and contingencies (note 12)	—	—
Stockholders' Equity		
Class A Common stock – authorized 214,000,000 shares with a \$0.01 par value; 47,541,484 shares issued and outstanding (2013 – 47,513,934) (note 13)	\$ 475	\$ 475
Class B Common stock – authorized 20,000,000 shares with a \$0.01 par value; 7,405,956 shares issued and outstanding (2013 – 7,405,956) (note 13)	74	74
Series B Preferred shares – authorized 16,100 shares with a \$0.01 par value; 14,000 shares issued and outstanding (2013 – nil) (note 13)	—	—
Additional paid in capital	386,350	352,676
Retained earnings	51,237	46,241
Total Stockholders' Equity	<u>438,136</u>	<u>399,466</u>
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	<u>\$ 886,627</u>	<u>\$ 858,247</u>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

Global Ship Lease, Inc.**Consolidated Statements of Income**

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars except share data)

	Year ended December 31, 2014	Year ended December 31, 2013	Year ended December 31, 2012
Operating Revenues			
Time charter revenue	\$ 138,615	\$ 143,212	\$ 153,205
Operating Expenses			
Vessel operating expenses	48,770	46,048	45,588
Depreciation	41,059	40,385	40,343
General and administrative	7,022	6,030	5,784
Other operating income (note 10)	(510)	(411)	(342)
Total operating expenses	96,341	92,052	91,373
Operating Income	42,274	51,160	61,832
Non Operating Income (Expense)			
Interest income	64	44	79
Interest expense	(43,872)	(18,846)	(21,178)
Gain on redemption of Series A Preferred Shares (note 13)	8,576	—	—
Realized loss on interest rate derivatives	(2,801)	(14,045)	(18,402)
Unrealized gain (loss) on interest rate derivatives (note 14)	1,944	14,302	9,725
Income before Income Taxes	6,185	32,615	32,056
Income taxes	(75)	(97)	(128)
Net Income	\$ 6,110	\$ 32,518	\$ 31,928
Earnings allocated to Series B Preferred Shares (note 13)	(1,114)	—	—
Net income available to Common Shareholders	\$ 4,996	\$ 32,518	\$ 31,928
Earnings per Share			
Weighted average number of Class A common shares outstanding			
Basic (including RSU's without service conditions) (note 17)	47,710,313	47,607,750	47,500,670
Diluted (note 17)	47,823,736	47,767,266	47,611,657
Net Income per Class A share			
Basic (including RSU's without service conditions) (note 17)	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.67
Diluted (note 17)	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.67
Weighted average number of Class B common shares outstanding			
Basic and diluted (note 17)	7,405,956	7,405,956	7,405,956
Net Income per Class B share			
Basic and diluted (note 17)	\$ nil	\$ nil	\$ nil

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

Global Ship Lease, Inc.
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars)

	Year ended December 31, 2014	Year ended December 31, 2013	Year ended December 31, 2012
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Net Income	\$ 6,110	\$ 32,518	\$ 31,928
Adjustments to Reconcile Net Income to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities			
Depreciation	41,059	40,385	40,343
Amortization of deferred financing costs (note 7)	5,732	1,386	1,250
Amortization of original issue discount (note 9)	1,082	—	—
Change in fair value of derivative instruments (note 14)	(1,944)	(14,302)	(9,725)
Amortization of intangible liability	(2,119)	(2,119)	(2,119)
Settlements of derivative instruments which do not qualify for hedge accounting (note 14)	2,801	14,045	18,402
Share based compensation (note 15)	177	360	460
Gain on redemption of Series A Preferred Shares (note 13)	(8,576)	—	—
Decrease (increase) in accounts receivable and other assets	9,458	3,836	(810)
(Increase) in inventory	(553)	—	—
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and other liabilities	7,225	(1,772)	3,958
Increase in unearned revenue	462	—	—
Unrealized foreign exchange (gain) loss	(11)	7	11
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u>60,903</u>	<u>74,344</u>	<u>83,698</u>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Cash paid for vessels (note 4)	(55,162)	—	—
Settlements and termination of derivative instruments which do not qualify for hedge accounting (note 14)	(22,146)	(14,045)	(18,402)
Cash paid for other assets	(7)	(2)	—
Cash paid for intangible assets	—	(43)	—
Cash paid for drydockings	(2,765)	(2,553)	(5,914)
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities	<u>(80,080)</u>	<u>(16,643)</u>	<u>(24,316)</u>
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Repayment of credit facility (note 9)	(366,366)	(59,310)	(57,936)
Proceeds from issuance of secured notes (note 9)	413,700	—	—
Deferred financing costs incurred (note 7)	(15,779)	—	(1,115)
Net proceeds from issuance of Series B Preferred Shares (note 13)	33,892	—	—
Variation in restricted cash (note 13)	3	—	3,024
Redemption of Series A Preferred Shares (note 13)	(36,400)	—	(3,024)
Series B Preferred Shares – dividends paid (note 13)	(1,114)	—	—
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Financing Activities	<u>27,936</u>	<u>(59,310)</u>	<u>(59,051)</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	8,759	(1,609)	331
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Start of Year	24,536	26,145	25,814
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	<u>\$ 33,295</u>	<u>\$ 24,536</u>	<u>\$ 26,145</u>
Supplemental Information			
Total interest paid	\$ 26,298	\$ 18,782	\$ 20,105
Total income tax paid	<u>\$ 80</u>	<u>\$ 78</u>	<u>\$ 69</u>

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

Global Ship Lease, Inc.**Consolidated Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity**

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars except share data)

	Number of Common Stock at \$0.01 Par value	Number of Series B Preferred Shares at \$0.01 Par value	Common Stock	Series B Preferred Shares	Additional Paid in Capital	Retained Earnings / Accumulated Deficit	Stockholders' Equity
Balance at December 31, 2011	54,869,934	—	\$ 549	\$ —	\$351,856	\$ (18,205)	\$ 334,200
Restricted Stock Units (note 15)	—	—	—	—	460	—	460
Class A Common shares issued (notes 13, 15)	17,886	—	—	—	—	—	—
Net income for the year	—	—	—	—	—	31,928	31,928
Balance at December 31, 2012	54,887,820	—	\$ 549	\$ —	\$352,316	\$ 13,723	\$ 366,588
Restricted Stock Units (note 15)	—	—	—	—	360	—	360
Class A Common shares issued (notes 13, 15)	32,070	—	—	—	—	—	—
Net income for the year	—	—	—	—	—	32,518	32,518
Balance at December 31, 2013	54,919,890	—	\$ 549	\$ —	\$352,676	\$ 46,241	\$ 399,466
Restricted Stock Units (note 15)	—	—	—	—	177	—	177
Class A Common shares issued (notes 13, 15)	27,550	—	—	—	—	—	—
Series B Preferred Shares issued (note 13)	—	14,000	—	—	35,000	—	35,000
Series B Preferred Shares issue expenses (note 13)	—	—	—	—	(1,503)	—	(1,503)
Net income for the year	—	—	—	—	—	6,110	6,110
Series B Preferred Shares dividend (note 13)	—	—	—	—	—	(1,114)	(1,114)
Balance at December 31, 2014	54,947,440	14,000	\$ 549	\$ —	\$386,350	\$ 51,237	\$ 438,136

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

Global Ship Lease, Inc.

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars)

1. General

On August 14, 2008, Global Ship Lease, Inc. (the “Company”) merged indirectly with Marathon Acquisition Corp. (“Marathon”), a company then listed on The American Stock Exchange. Under the merger agreement, Marathon, a U.S. corporation, first merged with its wholly owned Marshall Islands subsidiary, GSL Holdings, Inc. (“Holdings”), with Holdings continuing as the surviving company. Global Ship Lease, Inc., at that time a subsidiary of CMA CGM S.A. (“CMA CGM”), then merged with Holdings, with Holdings again being the surviving company. Holdings was renamed Global Ship Lease, Inc. and became listed on the New York Stock Exchange on August 15, 2008.

2. Nature of Operations and Basis of Preparation

(a) Nature of Operations

The Company owns and charters out containerships. With the exception of three vessels which are on short to medium term time charters to unrelated parties, all vessels are time chartered to CMA CGM S.A. (“CMA CGM”) for remaining terms as at December 31, 2014 ranging from 3.00 to 11.00 years (see note 11).

The following table provides information about the 18 vessels owned as at December 31, 2014:

Vessel Name	Capacity in TEUs (1)	Year Built	Purchase Date by GSL	Charterer	Charter Remaining Duration (years) (2)	Daily Charter Rate
Ville d’Orion	4,113	1997	December 2007	Sea Consortium	0.30	\$ 8,000
Ville d’Aquarius	4,113	1996	December 2007	Sea Consortium	0.30	\$ 8,390
CMA CGM Matisse (3)	2,262	1999	December 2007	CMA CGM	5.00	\$15,300
CMA CGM Utrillo (3)	2,262	1999	December 2007	CMA CGM	5.00	\$15,300
Delmas Keta	2,207	2003	December 2007	CMA CGM	3.00	\$18,465
Julie Delmas (4)	2,207	2002	December 2007	CMA CGM	3.00	\$18,465
Kumasi	2,207	2002	December 2007	CMA CGM	3.00	\$18,465
Marie Delmas	2,207	2002	December 2007	CMA CGM	3.00	\$18,465
CMA CGM La Tour (3)	2,272	2001	December 2007	CMA CGM	5.00	\$15,300
CMA CGM Manet (3)	2,272	2001	December 2007	CMA CGM	5.00	\$15,300
CMA CGM Alcazar	5,089	2007	January 2008	CMA CGM	6.00	\$33,750
CMA CGM Château d’If	5,089	2007	January 2008	CMA CGM	6.00	\$33,750
CMA CGM Thalassa	11,040	2008	December 2008	CMA CGM	11.00	\$47,200
CMA CGM Jamaica	4,298	2006	December 2008	CMA CGM	8.00	\$25,350
CMA CGM Sambhar	4,045	2006	December 2008	CMA CGM	8.00	\$25,350
CMA CGM America	4,045	2006	December 2008	CMA CGM	8.00	\$25,350
CMA CGM Berlioz	6,621	2001	August 2009	CMA CGM	6.75	\$34,000
OOCL Tianjin	8,063	2005	October 2014	OOCL	3.00	\$34,500

(1) Twenty-foot Equivalent Units.

(2) Plus or minus 90 days, other than (i) Ville d’Orion which is between January 17 and July 17, 2015, (ii) Ville d’Aquarius which is between April 3 and June 3, 2015, and (iii) OOCL Tianjin which is between October 28, 2017 and January 28, 2018, all at charterer’s option.

(3) The charters on these four vessels were extended in February 2014 by three years with new expiry dates in December 2019 at an amended daily charter rate of \$15,300 per day with effect from February 1, 2014.

(4) One of the cranes on-board Julie Delmas was found to be damaged in January 2014 and was out of service. The Company agreed with CMA CGM to reduce the daily charter rate pro-rata, from \$18,465 to \$10,000 per day from February 9, 2014, to reflect the diminished performance of the vessel, for as long as the crane was not operational. The crane was repaired with effect from July 14, 2014 when the daily charter rate reverted to \$18,465.

Segment Information

The activity of the Company currently consists solely of the ownership and chartering out of containerships.

Global Ship Lease, Inc.

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars)

2. Nature of Operations and Basis of Preparation (continued)

(b) Basis of Preparation

(i) Counterparty risk

Most of the Company's revenues are derived from charters to CMA CGM. The Company is consequently highly dependent on the performance by CMA CGM of its obligations under these charters. The container shipping industry is volatile and is currently experiencing a sustained cyclical downturn. Many container shipping companies have reported losses.

If CMA CGM ceases doing business or fails to perform its obligations under the charters, the Company's business, financial position and results of operations would be materially adversely affected as it is probable that, even if the Company was able to find replacement charters, such replacement charters would be at significantly lower daily rates and shorter durations. If such events occur, there would be significant uncertainty about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Company has from time to time experienced delays in receiving charterhire from CMA CGM. Under the charter contracts charterhire is due to be paid every 15 days in advance on the 1st and 16th of each month. Up to two instalments were outstanding at times during 2014. As at December 31, 2014, no charterhire was outstanding. As at close of business on April 17, 2015, the latest practicable date prior to the issuance of these consolidated financial statements, no charterhire was outstanding.

These consolidated financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which contemplates the realization of assets and the satisfaction of liabilities in the normal course of business. The consolidated financial statements do not include any adjustments relating to the recoverability and classification of recorded assets, nor to the amounts and classification of liabilities that may be necessary should the Company be unable to continue as a going concern.

Global Ship Lease, Inc.

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars)

3. Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of consolidation

The accompanying consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with United States Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("U.S. GAAP") and include the financial statements of the Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries. All inter-company transactions and accounts have been eliminated on consolidation.

(b) Use of estimates

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(c) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

(d) Restricted cash

Cash and cash equivalents subject to restrictions are excluded from cash and cash equivalents in the consolidated balance sheets and are presented as restricted cash.

(e) Accounts receivable

The Company carries its accounts receivable at cost less, if appropriate, an allowance for doubtful accounts, based on a periodic review of accounts receivable, taking into account past write-offs, collections and current credit conditions. The Company does not generally charge interest on past-due accounts. Allowances for doubtful accounts amount to \$ nil as of December 31, 2014 (2013: \$ nil).

(f) Vessels

Vessels acquired up to the date of the merger described in note 1, were initially recorded at their acquisition cost, less an amount allocated to drydock component, less accumulated depreciation. From the date of the merger, these vessels have been recorded at their fair value at the date of the merger, less a proportion of the negative goodwill arising at the time of the merger allocated to these vessels, less accumulated depreciation and impairment loss, if any.

In connection with the merger, the Company recognised an intangible asset arising from the comparison of the acquisition prices in the asset purchase agreement between the Company as buyer and CMA CGM as seller and the estimated fair values at the merger date of the vessels yet to be purchased. This intangible asset was transferred to the cost of the appropriate vessel on delivery and as all such vessels have now been delivered, no intangible asset remains in respect of these vessels.

Vessels acquired after the merger are stated at acquisition cost, less accumulated depreciation. The cost of the vessel consists of the contract price and expenses incurred in connection with the acquisition.

Subsequent expenditures for major improvements and upgrading are capitalized, provided they appreciably extend the life, increase the earning capacity or improve the efficiency or safety of the vessels.

Borrowing costs incurred during the construction of vessels or as part of the prefinancing of the acquisition of vessels are capitalized. There was no capitalized interest for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012. Other borrowing costs are expensed as incurred.

Global Ship Lease, Inc.

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars)

3. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(f) Vessels (continued)

Vessels are depreciated to their estimated residual value using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives which are reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure they reflect current technology, service potential and vessel structure. The useful lives are estimated to be 30 years from first delivery from the shipyard.

Prepayments and costs directly related to the future acquisition of specific vessels are presented in the Consolidated Balance Sheets as vessel deposits.

(g) Drydocking costs

An element of the purchase price of a vessel is allocated to a drydock component which is amortized on a straight line basis to the anticipated next drydocking date. Vessels are drydocked approximately every five years for major repairs and maintenance that cannot be performed while the vessels are operating. Costs directly associated with a drydocking, including the required regulatory inspection of the vessel, its hull and its machinery and for the defouling and repainting of the hull are capitalized as they are incurred and depreciated on a straight line basis over the period between drydocks. Capitalized drydocking costs are classified within investing activities in the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows.

(h) Intangible assets

Vessel purchase options

Cash consideration for the acquisition of purchase options to acquire vessels at a fixed purchase price are recognized as intangible assets in an amount up to the difference, as at the transaction date, between (i) the amount paid for the options plus the purchase price of the vessels and (ii) the fair value of the vessels plus the fair value of attached charters. The fair value of the vessel is assessed based on independent broker valuations. The fair value of a charter attached to the vessel is assessed based on market rates compared to the contracted attached charter rates for the life of the charter.

Impairment

Intangible assets are reviewed individually for impairment annually or more frequently due to events or changes in circumstances that indicate that the asset might be impaired. If the estimated cash flows from the use of the asset and its eventual disposal are below the asset's net book value, then the asset is deemed to be impaired and written down to its fair value.

(i) Intangible liabilities – charter agreements

In connection with the merger (see note 1), the Company recognised an intangible liability using the market approach whereby the Company's actual charter rates were compared to market rates at the merger date. These intangible liabilities, recognizing the below market rates as at the date of merger, are amortized giving rise to an increase of time charter revenue over the remaining term of the relevant charters.

(j) Long-lived assets

Fixed assets such as vessels are reviewed individually for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying amounts may not be recoverable. An impairment charge is recognized when the sum of the expected undiscounted future cash flows from the asset over its estimated remaining useful life is less than its carrying amount and is recorded equal to the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its fair value. Fair value is the net present value of future cash flows discounted by an appropriate discount rate.

Global Ship Lease, Inc.

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars)

3. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(j) Long-lived assets (continued)

Due to continuing poor industry conditions, impairment tests on a vessel by vessel basis were performed as at December 31, 2013 and again as at December 31, 2014. No impairment was recognised after either of these tests as, based on the assumptions made, the expected undiscounted future cash flows exceeded the vessels' carrying amounts.

The agreement of new charters with effect from May 1, 2013 of two of the Company's vessels at rates below the previous rates was seen as an indicator of potential impairment of their carrying value. Accordingly, an impairment test, based on expected undiscounted cash flows by vessel, was performed for these two vessels as at March 31, 2013. Based on the assumptions made, the expected undiscounted future cash flows exceeded the vessels' carrying amounts as at March 31, 2013 and accordingly no impairment was recognised. The further agreement on new charters of two of the Company's vessels in May and July 2014 (see note 2(a)) was seen as an indicator of potential impairment of their carrying value. Accordingly, an impairment test, based on the expected undiscounted cash flows by vessel, was performed for these two vessels as at June 30, 2014. Based on the assumptions made, the expected undiscounted future cash flows exceeded the vessels' carrying amounts as at June 30, 2014 and accordingly no impairment was recognised.

The assumptions used involve a considerable degree of estimation. Actual conditions may differ significantly from the assumptions and thus actual cash flows may be significantly different to those expected with a material effect on the recoverability of each vessel's carrying amount. The most significant assumptions made for the determination of expected cash flows are (i) charter rates on expiry of existing charters, which are based on a reversion to the historical mean for each category of vessel, adjusted to reflect current and expected market conditions (ii) off-hire days, which are based on actual off-hire statistics for the Company's fleet (iii) operating costs, based on current levels escalated over time based on long term trends (iv) dry docking frequency, duration and cost and (v) estimated useful life which is assessed as a total of 30 years from first delivery from the shipyard. In the case of an indication of impairment, the results of a recoverability test would also be sensitive to the discount rate applied.

(k) Derivative instruments

Interest rate hedges

Interest rate derivatives are initially recognized at fair value on the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently re-measured at their fair value. The method of recognizing the resulting gain or loss depends on whether the derivative is designated and qualifies as a hedging instrument, and if so, the nature of the item being hedged.

The Company's interest rate derivative instruments do not qualify for hedge accounting. Changes in the fair value are recognized immediately in the Consolidated Statements of Income within "Unrealized gain (loss) on interest rate derivatives". Cash settlements of interest rate derivative instruments are recognized immediately in the Consolidated Statements of Income within "Realized loss on interest rate derivatives". Cash flows related to interest rate derivatives (including payments and periodic cash settlements) are included within "Net cash used in investing activities".

Global Ship Lease, Inc.

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars)

3. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(k) Derivative instruments (continued)

The fair value of derivatives is presented on the face of the Consolidated Balance Sheets under the line item "Derivative instruments" and is split into current and non-current portions based on the net cash flows expected within one year.

(l) Deferred financing costs

Costs incurred in connection with obtaining long term debt and in obtaining amendments to existing facilities are recorded as deferred financing costs and are amortized to interest expense using the effective interest method over the estimated duration of the related debt. Such costs include fees paid to the lenders or on the lenders' behalf and associated legal and other professional fees.

(m) Preferred shares

Series A Preferred shares were included within Liabilities in the Consolidated Balance Sheets and preferred share dividends included within interest expense in the Consolidated Statements of Income as their nature was similar to that of a liability rather than equity. Holders of these mandatorily redeemable preferred shares were entitled to receive a dividend equal to 3-month U.S. dollar LIBOR plus 2% on the original issue price and ranked senior to the Class A and Class B common shares with respect to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company.

Series B Preferred shares have been included within Equity in the Consolidated Balance Sheets and preferred share dividends are presented as a reduction of Retained Earnings in the Consolidated Statement of Stockholders' Equity as their nature is similar to that of an equity instrument rather than a liability. Holders of these redeemable perpetual preferred shares, which may only be redeemed at the discretion of the company, are entitled to receive a dividend equal to 8.75% on the original issue price and rank senior to the Class A and Class B common shares with respect to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the Company.

(n) Classification of long term debt

Long term debt is classified within current liabilities unless the Company has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the balance sheet date.

(o) Other comprehensive income (loss)

Other comprehensive income (loss), which is reported in the Consolidated Statement of Stockholders' Equity, consists of net income (loss) and other gains and losses affecting equity that, under U.S. GAAP, are excluded from net income (loss). Under ASU 2011-05, an entity reporting comprehensive income in a single continuous financial statement shall present its components in two sections, net income and other comprehensive income. As the Company does not, to date, have other comprehensive income, the accompanying consolidated financial statements only include Consolidated Statements of Income.

(p) Revenue recognition and related operating expense

The Company charters out its vessels on time charters which involves placing a vessel at a charterer's disposal for a period of time during which the charterer uses the vessel in return for the payment of a specified daily hire rate. Such charters are accounted for as operating leases and therefore revenue is recognized on a straight line basis as the average revenues over the rental periods of such charter agreements, as service is performed. Cash received in excess of earned revenue is recorded as deferred revenue.

Under time charter arrangements the Company, as owner, is responsible for all the operating expenses of the vessels, such as crew costs, insurance, repairs and maintenance, and such costs are expensed as incurred.

Global Ship Lease, Inc.

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars)

3. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(q) Foreign currency transactions

The Company's functional currency is the U.S. dollar as substantially all revenues and a majority of expenditures are denominated in U.S. dollars. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange at the balance sheet dates. Expenses paid in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of exchange at the transaction date. Exchange gains and losses are included in the determination of net income (loss).

(r) Repairs and maintenance

All expenditures relating to routine maintenance and repairs are expensed when incurred.

(s) Insurance

The Company maintains hull and machinery insurance, war risks insurance, protection and indemnity insurance coverage, increased value insurance, and freight, demurrage and defence insurance coverage in amounts considered prudent to cover normal risks in the ordinary course of its operations. Premiums paid in advance to insurance providers are recognized as prepaid expenses and are expensed over the period covered by the insurance contract.

(t) Share based compensation

The Company awards restricted stock units to its management and Directors as part of their compensation.

The fair value of restricted stock unit grants is determined by reference to the quoted stock price on the date of grant, adjusted for estimated dividends forgone until the restricted stock units vest. Compensation expense is recognized based on a graded expense model over the expected vesting period.

(u) Income taxes

The Company and its Marshall Island subsidiaries are exempt from taxation in the Marshall Islands. The Company's vessels are flagged in Bahamas, Cyprus, Hong Kong and Panama and are liable for tax based on the tonnage of the vessel. The cost, which is included within operating expenses, amounted to \$126, \$169 and \$146 for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012, respectively. The Cyprus and Hong Kong subsidiaries are liable for income tax on any interest income earned from non-shipping activity.

The Company has one subsidiary in the United Kingdom, where the principal rate of corporate income tax is 21% (2013: 23%, 2012: 24%). This subsidiary earns management and other fees from fellow group companies.

The Company accounts for deferred income taxes using the liability method which requires the determination of deferred tax assets and liabilities, based upon temporary timing differences that arise between the financial statement and tax bases of recorded assets and liabilities, using enacted tax rates in effect for the year in which differences are expected to reverse. The net deferred tax asset is adjusted by a valuation allowance where appropriate, if, based on the weight of available evidence, it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the net deferred tax asset will not be realized. At December 31, 2014 a deferred tax liability of \$34 (2013: \$43) was recognized relating to stock based compensation costs charged to the Consolidated Statements of Income in respect of unvested shares and timing differences between the carrying amounts of assets for financial reporting purposes and their tax bases.

The Company recognizes uncertain tax positions only if it is more likely than not that the tax position will be sustained on examination by the taxing authorities, based solely on the technical merits of the position.

Global Ship Lease, Inc.**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)**

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars)

3. Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

(v) Inventories

Inventories consist of bunkers and lubricants on board certain of the vessels. Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market value as determined using the first-in, first-out method.

(w) Dividends

Dividends are recorded in the period in which they are declared by the Company's Board of Directors. Dividends to be paid are presented in the Consolidated Balance Sheets in the line item "Dividends payable".

(x) Earnings per share

Basic earnings per common share are based on income available to common shareholders divided by the weighted-average number of common shares outstanding during the period, excluding unvested restricted stock units. Diluted earnings per common share are calculated by applying the treasury stock method. All unvested restricted stock units that have a dilutive effect are included in the calculation. The basic and diluted earnings per share for the period are presented for each category of participating common shares under the two-class method.

(y) Recently issued accounting standards

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued an accounting standards update in respect of revenue from contracts with customers (Topic 606). The update is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2016 and early application is not permitted. The Company is currently assessing the impact of adopting this update on its financial statements.

In June 2014, FASB issued an update in respect of Stock Compensation (Topic 718). The amendment requires that a performance target that affects vesting and that could be achieved after the requisite service period be treated as a performance condition. The performance condition should not be reflected in estimating the grant-date fair value of the award and the compensation cost should be recognized in the period in which it becomes probable that the performance target will be achieved and should represent the compensation cost attributable to the periods for which the requisite service has already been rendered. The amendment is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2015 and early adoption is permitted. The adoption of this amendment is not expected to lead to any changes to the Company's financial statements.

Management do not believe that any other recently issued, but not yet effective accounting pronouncements, if currently adopted, would have a material impact on the consolidated financial statements of the Company.

4. Vessels in Operation, less Accumulated Depreciation

	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013
Cost	\$ 1,070,627	\$ 1,014,473
Accumulated Depreciation	(234,146)	(196,598)
Drydock expenditure – in progress	56	—
Net book value	<u>\$ 836,537</u>	<u>\$ 817,875</u>

On October 28, 2014, the Company acquired an 8,063 TEU containership (OOCL Tianjin) from OOCL for a purchase price of \$55 million.

Global Ship Lease, Inc.**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)**

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars)

4. Vessels in Operation, less Accumulated Depreciation (continued)

Variations in net book value of vessels, including drydocking, are presented below:

	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013
Opening balance	\$ 817,875	\$ 856,394
Additions in the period	59,721	1,866
Depreciation expense	(41,059)	(40,385)
Closing balance	<u>\$ 836,537</u>	<u>\$ 817,875</u>

As of December 31, 2014, 17 of the 18 vessels were pledged as collateral under the 2019 Notes and Revolving Credit Facility (see note 9).

5. Intangible Assets

	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013
Software development:		
Opening balance	\$ 95	\$ 73
Additions	—	43
Depreciation	(28)	(21)
Closing balance	<u>\$ 67</u>	<u>\$ 95</u>

6. Derivative Instruments

The fair value of derivative financial instruments contracted by the Company is as follows:

	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013
Fair value of interest rate swap hedging instruments - current and non current portions	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 21,289</u>

The Company had entered into certain derivative interest rate agreements to fix the interest rate on debt drawn or anticipated to be drawn under its secured credit facility. On March 19, 2014 the secured credit facility was fully repaid and was replaced with the 10.0% First Priority Secured Notes due 2019 (the "2019 Notes"), which have a fixed interest rate (see note 9(b)). The \$277,000 nominal amount of outstanding interest rate swaps which had hedged the Company's interest rate risk as at December 31, 2013, were terminated accordingly. The cost of the termination included an element of unsettled payments due under the swap agreements up to March 19, 2014 amounting to \$307. This amount is included in the Consolidated Statements of Income as a realised loss on derivative instruments.

As at December 31, 2013, none of the Company's derivative instruments qualified for hedge accounting and the maximum length of time over which the Company had hedged its interest rate exposure was approximately three years.

Global Ship Lease, Inc.**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)**

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars)

7. Deferred Financing Costs

Costs amounting to \$4,800 incurred up to December 31, 2013 in connection with the Company's refinancing were recorded within prepaid expenses as at that date. On March 19, 2014, the Company completed this refinancing by the issue of 10.0% First Priority Secured Notes due 2019 disclosed in note 9(b) and by agreeing the Revolving Credit Facility disclosed in note 9(c). On completion of the refinancing, these deferred financing costs were reclassified from prepaid expenses to deferred financing costs, together with additional costs incurred during the first quarter.

	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013
Opening balance	\$ 3,273	\$ 4,659
Reclassification from prepaid expenses	4,800	—
Expenditure in the period	10,979	—
Amortization included within interest expense	(5,732)	(1,386)
Closing balance	<u>\$ 13,320</u>	<u>\$ 3,273</u>

The deferred finance costs are being amortised on an effective interest rate basis over the life of the financings for which they were incurred.

The remaining unamortized balance of deferred financing costs relating to the credit facility which was fully repaid and terminated on March 19, 2014 amounting to \$2,986 was written off and recorded within interest expense within the Consolidated Statements of Income.

8. Intangible Liability – Charter Agreements

	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013
Opening balance	\$ 17,931	\$ 20,050
Amortization in period	(2,119)	(2,119)
Closing balance	<u>\$ 15,812</u>	<u>\$ 17,931</u>

Intangible liabilities relate to management's estimate of the fair value of below-market charters on August 14, 2008, the date of the merger (see note 1). The intangible liabilities are being amortized for each vessel over the remaining life of the associated charter. The fair value was estimated by management based on its experience with regard to availability of similar vessels, costs to build new vessels and current market demand. The contracted lease rates were compared to the estimated market lease rates for similar vessels. The intangible liabilities were determined by discounting the difference in the projected lease cash flows using a discount rate of 8.0% and the remaining length of the charter as the relevant time period.

Amortization of the intangible liabilities for the 12 initial vessels began on the date following the merger and for the remaining five vessels delivered to the Company after the merger, amortization commenced upon delivery. These intangible liabilities are amortized as an increase of time charter revenue over the remaining term of the relevant charter.

9. Long Term Debt**a) Credit Facility**

From December 2007 the Company was financed by a senior secured credit facility with a final maturity date of August 2016. This credit facility was fully repaid and terminated on March 19, 2014 using the proceeds of the issue of the 2019 Notes (see note 9(b)).

Amounts borrowed under the credit facility bore interest at USD LIBOR plus a margin of between 2.50% and 3.75% depending on the Leverage Ratio (being the ratio of the balance outstanding on the credit facility to the aggregate charter free market value of the secured vessels).

Global Ship Lease, Inc.**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)**

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars)

9. Long Term Debt (continued)**a) Credit Facility (continued)**

Due to the downturn after April 2011 in charter free market values of containerships, the Company obtained waivers from its lenders of the requirement to perform the Leverage Ratio test, the last of which had extended the waiver to April 30, 2015. Under the terms of the waivers, the Company paid a margin of 3.75% over USD LIBOR and made quarterly repayments of the credit facility in an amount equal to cash in excess of \$20,000 determined as at the previous month end, subject to a minimum of \$40,000 repayment a year on a rolling 12 month trailing basis. Additionally the Company was unable to make dividend payments to common shareholders.

	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013
Secured credit facility, at USD LIBOR + 3.75%	\$ —	\$ 366,366
Less current instalments	—	(50,110)
	<u>\$ —</u>	<u>\$ 316,256</u>

b) 10.0% First Priority Secured Notes Due 2019

On March 19, 2014 the Company completed the sale of \$420,000 of 10.0% First Priority Secured Notes (the "2019 Notes") which mature on April 1, 2019. Proceeds after the deduction of the original issue discount, but before expenses, amounted to \$413,700.

Interest on the 2019 Notes is payable semi-annually on April 1 and October 1 of each year, commencing on October 1, 2014. The 2019 Notes are secured by first priority ship mortgages on 17 of the Company's 18 vessels (the "Mortgaged Vessels") and by assignments of earnings and insurances, a pledge over certain bank accounts, as well as share pledges over each subsidiary owning a Mortgaged Vessel. The 2019 Notes are fully and unconditionally guaranteed, jointly and severally, by the Company's 18 vessel owning subsidiaries and Global Ship Lease Services Limited.

	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013
2019 Notes	\$ 420,000	\$ —
Less original issue discount	(6,300)	—
Amortization of original issue discount	1,082	—
Closing balance	<u>\$ 414,782</u>	<u>\$ —</u>

The original issue discount is being amortised on an effective interest rate basis over the life of the 2019 Notes.

Under the 2019 Notes we are required within 120 days following the end of each financial year, in which we have at least \$1,000 of Excess Cash Flow, to offer to purchase up to a maximum offer amount of \$20,000, such amount being the aggregate of 102% of the principal amount plus any accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the purchase date.

c) Revolving Credit Facility

On March 19, 2014, and in connection with the 2019 Notes, the Company entered into a new \$40.0 million senior secured revolving credit facility with Citibank N.A. (the "Revolving Credit Facility"). This facility matures on October 1, 2018. The interest rate under the facility is USD LIBOR plus a margin of 3.25% and is payable at least quarterly. A commitment fee of 1.30% per annum is due quarterly on undrawn amounts.

The collateral provided to the 2019 Notes also secures on a first priority basis the Revolving Credit Facility. There is a Cash Balance financial covenant which is tested each six months, commencing June 30, 2014. Up to and including December 31, 2015, the Company must have a minimum cash balance of \$15,000 on each test date. After this date, the minimum cash balance on each test date increases to \$20,000.

Global Ship Lease, Inc.**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)**

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars)

9. Long Term Debt (continued)**c) Revolving Credit Facility (continued)**

Amounts outstanding under this facility can be prepaid without penalty, other than breakage costs in certain circumstances. At December 31, 2014 no amounts had been drawn down under the Revolving Credit Facility.

10. Other Operating Income

Other operating income is summarized as follows:

	Year ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Sundry shipping income	\$420	\$411	\$329
Other sundry income	90	—	13
	<u>\$510</u>	<u>\$411</u>	<u>\$342</u>

11. Related Party Transactions

CMA CGM is considered to be a related party as it was, until the merger referred to in note 1, the parent company of Global Ship Lease, Inc. and at December 31, 2014 is a significant shareholder of the Company, owning Class A and Class B common shares representing a 44.43% voting interest in the Company.

Amounts due to and from CMA CGM companies are summarized as follows:

	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013
Amounts due to CMA CGM companies presented within current liabilities	<u>\$ 2,366</u>	<u>\$ 1,969</u>
Amounts due from CMA CGM companies presented within current assets	<u>\$ 1,183</u>	<u>\$ 7,006</u>

The current account balances at December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 relate to amounts payable to or recoverable from CMA CGM group companies. The majority of the Company's charter arrangements are with CMA CGM and one of its subsidiaries provides the Company with ship management services on all but one of its vessels.

The Company has from time to time experienced delays in receiving charterhire from CMA CGM. Under the charter contracts charterhire is due to be paid every 15 days in advance on the 1st and 16th of each month. Up to two instalments were outstanding at times during 2014. As at December 31, 2014, no charterhire was outstanding. As at close of business on April 17, 2015, the latest practicable date prior to the issuance of these consolidated financial statements, no charterhire was outstanding.

CMA CGM held all of the Series A preferred shares of the Company until they were fully redeemed, at a discount, pursuant to a Share Repurchase Agreement on August 22, 2014 (see note 13). Dividends on these preferred shares for the year ended December 31, 2014 amounted to \$653 (2013: \$1,037, 2012: \$1,161). Dividends on these preferred shares are included within interest expense.

Global Ship Lease, Inc.**Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)**

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars except share data)

11. Related Party Transactions (continued)**Time Charter Agreements**

The majority of the Company's time charter arrangements are with CMA CGM. Under these time charters, hire is payable in advance and the daily rate is fixed for the duration of the charter. The charters are for remaining periods as at December 31, 2014 of between 3.00 and 11.00 years (see note 2(a)). Of the \$871,639 maximum contracted future charter hire receivable for the fleet set out in note 12, \$832,492 relates to the 15 vessels that were chartered to CMA CGM as at December 31, 2014. Revenues generated from charters to CMA CGM are summarized as follows:

	Year ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Revenue generated from charters to CMA CGM	<u>\$133,426</u>	<u>\$143,212</u>	<u>\$153,205</u>

Ship Management Agreement

The Company outsources day to day technical management of 17 of its vessels to a ship manager, CMA Ships Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of CMA CGM. The Company pays CMA Ships Limited an annual management fee of \$123 per vessel (2013: \$114, 2012: \$114) and reimburses costs incurred by CMA Ships on its behalf, mainly being for the provision of crew, lubricating oils and routine maintenance. Such reimbursement is subject to a cap of between \$5.9 and \$9.0 (2013: between \$5.4 and \$8.8) per day per vessel depending on the vessel. The impact of the cap is determined annually on a vessel by vessel basis for so long as the initial charters remain in place. Ship management fees expensed for the year ended December 31, 2014 amounted to \$2,091 (2013: \$1,938, 2012: \$1,938).

Except for transactions with CMA CGM companies, the Company did not enter into any other related party transactions.

12. Commitments and Contingencies**Charter Hire Receivable**

The Company has entered into time charters for its vessels. The charter hire is fixed for the duration of the charter. The maximum contracted annual future charter hire receivable (not allowing for any offhire and assuming expiry at the mid-point between the earliest and latest possible end dates) for the 18 vessels subject to charters as at December 31, 2014 is as follows:

Year ending December 31,	Fleet as at December 31, 2014
2015	145,811
2016	144,317
2017	142,189
2018	104,372
2019	103,285
Thereafter	231,665
	<u>\$ 871,639</u>

Global Ship Lease, Inc.

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars except share data)

13. Share Capital

At December 31, 2014 the Company had two classes of common shares outstanding. The rights of holders of Class B common shares are identical to those of holders of Class A common shares, except that the dividend rights of holders of Class B common shares are subordinated to those of holders of Class A common shares. Dividends, when declared, must be paid as follows:

- firstly, to all Class A common shares at the applicable rate for the quarter;
- secondly, to all Class A common shares until they have received payment for all preceding quarters at the rate of \$0.23 per share per quarter;
- thirdly, to all Class B common shares at the applicable rate for the quarter;
- then, to all Class A and B common shares as if they were a single class.

The Class B common shares remain subordinated until the Company has paid a dividend at least equal to \$0.23 per quarter per share on both the Class A and Class B common shares for the immediately preceding four-quarter period. Due to the requirements described above, Class B common shares cannot receive any dividend until all Class A common shares have received dividends representing \$0.23 per share per quarter for all preceding quarters. The last quarter for which a dividend was paid was fourth quarter 2008. Should the notional arrearages of dividend on the Class A common shares be made up and a dividend at the rate of \$0.23 per share be paid for four consecutive quarters, the Class B common shares convert to Class A common shares on a one-for-one basis. Also, each Class B common share will convert into a Class A common share on a change of control of the Company.

Restricted stock units have been granted periodically to the Directors and management, under the Company's 2008 Equity Incentive Plan, as part of their compensation arrangements (see note 15).

The Series A Preferred Shares ranked senior to the common shares and were mandatorily redeemable in 12 quarterly instalments commencing August 31, 2016. They were classified as a long-term liability. The dividend that the Series A Preferred shareholders were entitled to was presented as part of interest expense. Total proceeds received in 2008, and recorded as restricted cash, from the exercise of Public Warrants prior to their expiry was \$3,027. These proceeds were only to be used to redeem the Series A Preferred Shares with a minimum redemption amount of \$5,000. As part of the replacement time charters agreed in September 2012 for the Ville d'Aquarius and the Ville d'Orion, the Company accelerated the redemption of 63 Series A Preferred Shares of \$48 each for \$3,024. The remaining Series A Preferred Shares, which had a liquidation value at maturity of \$44,976, were redeemed at a discount pursuant to a Share Repurchase Agreement for \$36,400 on August 22, 2014, using the proceeds received from the issuance of the Series B Preferred Shares, the balance of the restricted cash and cash on hand.

On August 20, 2014, the Company issued 1,400,000 depository shares, each of which represents 1/100th of one share of the Company's 8.75% Series B Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares (the "Series B Preferred Shares"). Dividends are payable at 8.75% per annum in arrears on a quarterly basis. At any time after August 20, 2019 (or within 180 days after the occurrence of a fundamental change), the Series B Preferred Shares may be redeemed, at the discretion of the Company, in whole or in part, at a redemption price of \$2,500.00 per share (equivalent to \$25.00 per depository share). The net proceeds from the offering were \$33,497. These shares are classified as Equity in the Consolidated Balance Sheet. The dividends payable on the Series B Preferred Shares are presented as a reduction of Retained Earnings in the Consolidated Statement of Equity, when and if declared by the Board of Directors. A dividend was declared on September 22, 2014 for the third quarter 2014 and on December 10, 2014 for the fourth quarter 2014.

Global Ship Lease, Inc.

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars except share data)

14. Interest Rate Derivatives and Fair Value Measurements

Prior to the issue of the 2019 Notes (see note 9(b)) the Company had been exposed to the impact of changes to interest rates on the floating rate debt drawn under the credit facility (see note 9(a)) which also required the Company to hedge at least 50% of any drawings. Accordingly, the Company entered into interest rate swap agreements to manage the exposure.

On March 19, 2014 the secured credit facility was fully repaid and was replaced with the 2019 Notes, which have a fixed interest rate. The \$277,000 nominal amount of outstanding interest rate swaps which had hedged the Company's interest rate risk were terminated accordingly. The cost of the termination included an element of unsettled payments due under the swap agreements up to March 19, 2014 amounting to \$307. This amount is included in the Consolidated Statements of Income as a realized loss on derivative instruments.

During the periods when the interest rate swaps were outstanding, they were "marked to market" at each reporting date end and recorded at their fair values. This generated unrealized gains and losses. The unrealized gain on interest rate derivatives for the year ended December 31, 2014 was \$1,944 (2013: \$14,302, 2012: \$9,725).

None of the Company's interest rate agreements qualified for hedge accounting and therefore the net changes in the fair value of the interest rate derivative assets and liabilities at each reporting period were reflected in the current period operations as unrealized gains and losses on derivatives. Cash flows related to interest rate derivatives (initial payments for the derivatives, periodic cash settlements and termination payments) are included within cash flows from investing activities in the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows.

The fair value hierarchy has three levels based on the reliability of the inputs used to determine fair value as follows:

- Level 1. Observable inputs such as quoted prices in active markets;
- Level 2. Inputs, other than the quoted prices in active markets, that are observable either directly or indirectly; and
- Level 3. Unobservable inputs in which there is little or no market data, which require the reporting entity to develop its own assumptions.

The Company's derivative instruments were categorized as level 2 in the fair value hierarchy. Due to the termination of these instruments in the current year, the fair value at the reporting date was \$ nil (December 31, 2013: liability of \$21,289). Within the consolidated balance sheets, there are no offsets of recognized assets or liabilities related to these derivatives.

15. Share-Based Compensation

In August 2008, the Company's Board adopted the 2008 Equity Incentive Plan (the "Plan"), which enables management, consultants and Directors of the Company and its subsidiaries to receive options, stock appreciation rights, stock grants, stock units and dividend equivalents.

The Plan is administered by the Board or a committee of the Board. The maximum aggregate number of Class A common shares that may be delivered pursuant to awards granted under the Plan during the 10-year term of the Plan is 1,500,000. The maximum number of Class A common shares with respect to which awards may be granted to any participant in the Plan in any fiscal year is 500,000. As at December 31, 2014, the remaining number of Class A common shares available to be awarded under the Plan was 1,877.

Global Ship Lease, Inc.

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars except share data)

15. Share-Based Compensation (continued)

The holder of a stock grant awarded under the Plan shall have the same voting, dividend and other rights as the Company's other Class A common shareholders when the grant vests and the shares are issued.

Under the plan, the Company has issued the following share based awards since January 1, 2012:

	Restricted Stock Units			
	Number of Units		Weighted Average Fair Value on Grant Date	Actual Fair Value on Vesting Date
	Management	Directors		
Unvested as at January 1, 2012	150,000	17,886	\$ 3.40	n/a
Vested in January 2012	—	(17,886)	6.15	1.75
Granted on March 13, 2012	75,000	32,070	3.43	n/a
Unvested as at December 31, 2012	225,000	32,070	\$ 3.22	n/a
Vested in January 2013	—	(32,070)	3.43	3.07
Granted on March 7, 2013	75,000	27,550	3.43	n/a
Unvested as at December 31, 2013	300,000	27,550	\$ 3.26	n/a
Vested in January 2014	—	(27,550)	3.43	5.85
Unvested as at December 31, 2014	300,000	—	\$ 3.25	n/a

The restricted stock units granted to Directors on March 17, 2011, March 13, 2012 and March 7, 2013 vested in January 2012, January 2013 and January 2014 respectively.

The restricted stock units granted to four members of management on September 2, 2011 were to vest over two years; half during September and October 2012 and the remaining half during September and October 2013. In March 2012, these grants were amended and restated to provide that vesting would occur only when the individual leaves employment, for whatever reason, provided that this was after September 30, 2012 in respect of half of the grant and after September 30, 2013 for the other half of the grant. The restricted stock units granted to management on March 13, 2012 are expected to vest when the individual leaves employment, provided that this is after September 30, 2014 and is not as a result of resignation or termination for cause. The restricted stock units granted to management on March 7, 2013 are expected to vest when the individual leaves employment, provided that this is after September 30, 2015 and is not as a result of resignation or termination for cause.

Using the graded vesting method of expensing the restricted stock unit grants, the weighted average fair value of the stock units is recognized as compensation costs in the consolidated statement of income over the vesting period. The fair value of the restricted stock units for this purpose is calculated by multiplying the number of stock units by the fair value of the shares at the grant date, which is discounted for dividends forfeited over the vesting period. The Company has not factored any anticipated forfeiture into these calculations based on the limited number of participants.

For the grants issued on September 2, 2011, March 13, 2012 and March 7, 2013, the fair value at the grant date was the closing price for the common stock on that date. The share value has not been discounted as no dividends were expected to be paid on the common stock at that time.

During the year ended December 31, 2014 the Company recognized a total of \$177 (2013: \$360, 2012: \$460) in respect of share based compensation costs. As at December 31, 2014 there was a total of \$75 (2013: \$252) unrecognized compensation costs relating to the above share based awards. The remaining costs are expected to be recognized over a period of nine months.

Global Ship Lease, Inc.

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars except share data)

16. Risks Associated with Concentration

The Company is exposed to certain concentration risks that may adversely affect the Company's financial position in the near term:

- (i) The Company derives the majority of its revenue from CMA CGM which is exposed to the cyclical nature of the container shipping industry.
- (ii) There is a concentration of credit risk with respect to cash and cash equivalents at December 31, 2014 to the extent that substantially all of the amounts are deposited with three banks (2013; three banks). However, the Company believes this risk is remote as the banks are high credit quality financial institutions.

17. Earnings per Share

Basic earnings per common share is presented under the two-class method and is computed by dividing the earnings applicable to common stockholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding for the period.

Under the two class method, net income available to common stockholders, if any, is first reduced by the amount of dividends declared in respect of common shares for the current period, if any, and the remaining earnings are allocated to common shares and participating securities to the extent that each security can share the earnings assuming all earnings for the period are distributed. For the years ended December 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2012 no dividend was declared. The Class B common shareholders' dividend rights are subordinated to those of holders of Class A common shares. Net income for the relevant period is allocated based on the contractual rights of each class of security and as there was insufficient net income to allow any dividend on the Class B common shares no earnings were allocated to Class B common shares.

Losses are only allocated to participating securities in a period of net loss if, based on the contractual terms, the relevant common shareholders have an obligation to participate in such losses. No such obligation exists for Class B common shareholders and, accordingly, losses would only be allocated to the Class A common shareholders.

At December 31, 2014, there were 300,000 restricted stock units granted and unvested as part of management's equity incentive plan. As of December 31, 2014 only Class A and B common shares are participating securities.

For the years ended December 31, 2014, December 31, 2013 and December 31, 2012, the diluted weighted average number of shares includes the incremental effect of outstanding stock based incentive awards.

Global Ship Lease, Inc.

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements (continued)

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars except share data)

(In thousands, except share data)	Year ended December 31, 2014	Year ended December 31, 2013	Year ended December 31, 2012
Class A common shares			
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding (B)	47,541,409	47,513,846	47,481,766
Weighted average number of RSU's without service conditions (note 15) (B)	168,904	93,904	18,904
Dilutive effect of share-based awards	113,423	159,516	110,987
Common shares and common share equivalents (F)	<u>47,823,736</u>	<u>47,767,266</u>	<u>47,611,657</u>
Class B common shares			
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding (D)	7,405,956	7,405,956	7,405,956
Dilutive effect of share-based awards	—	—	—
Common shares (H)	<u>7,405,956</u>	<u>7,405,956</u>	<u>7,405,956</u>
Basic Earnings per Share			
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 4,996	\$ 32,518	\$ 31,928
Available to:			
- Class A shareholders for period	\$ 4,996	\$ 32,518	\$ 31,928
- Class A shareholders for arrears	—	—	—
- Class B shareholders for period	—	—	—
- allocate pro-rata between Class A and B	—	—	—
Net income available for Class A (A)	\$ 4,996	\$ 32,518	\$ 31,928
Net income available for Class B (C)	—	—	—
Basic Earnings per share:			
Class A (A/B)	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.67
Class B (C/D)	—	—	—
Diluted Earnings per Share			
Net income available to common shareholders	\$ 4,996	\$ 32,518	\$ 31,928
Available to:			
- Class A shareholders for period	\$ 4,996	\$ 32,518	\$ 31,928
- Class A shareholders for arrears	—	—	—
- Class B shareholders for period	—	—	—
- allocate pro rata between Class A and B	—	—	—
Net income available for Class A (E)	\$ 4,996	\$ 32,518	\$ 31,928
Net income available for Class B (G)	—	—	—
Diluted Earnings per share:			
Class A (E/F)	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.67
Class B (G/H)	—	—	—

18. Subsequent events

The Company acquired an 8,063 TEU containership from Orient Overseas Container Lines Limited ("OOCL") on March 11, 2015. The vessel, OOCL Qingdao, had a purchase price of \$53.6 million, which was settled by fully utilizing the \$40.0 million Revolving Credit Facility and existing cash on hand. The vessel was immediately time chartered back to OOCL for a period of 36 to 39 months, at charterer's option, at a gross rate of \$34,500 per day.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INDENTURE
FOR ADDITIONAL GUARANTOR**

SUPPLEMENTAL INDENTURE (this **Supplemental Indenture**), dated as of 23 December 2014, among Global Ship Lease 20 Limited (the **Guaranteeing Subsidiary**), a subsidiary of Global Ship Lease, Inc. (or its permitted successor), a Marshall Islands corporation, (the **Issuer**), the other Guarantors (as defined in the Indenture referred to herein) and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee (or its permitted successor) under the Indenture referred to below (the **Trustee**) and as security agent (or its permitted successor) under the Indenture referred to below (the **Security Agent**).

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the Issuer and the other Guarantors have heretofore executed and delivered to the Trustee an indenture (the **Indenture**), dated as of 19 March 2014 providing for the issuance of 10.000% First Priority Secured Notes due 2019 (the **Notes**);

WHEREAS, the Indenture provides that under certain circumstances the Guaranteeing Subsidiary shall execute and deliver to the Trustee a supplemental indenture pursuant to which the Guaranteeing Subsidiary shall unconditionally guarantee all of the Issuer's obligations under the Notes and the Indenture on the terms and conditions set forth herein (the **Guarantee**); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 9.01 of the Indenture, each of the Trustee and the Security Agent is authorised to execute and deliver this Supplemental Indenture.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the Guaranteeing Subsidiary and the Trustee mutually covenant and agree for the equal and rateable benefit of the Holders as follows:

1. CAPITALIZED TERMS

Capitalised terms used herein without definition shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Indenture.

2. AGREEMENT TO GUARANTEE

The Guaranteeing Subsidiary hereby agrees to provide an unconditional Guarantee, on and subject to the terms, conditions and limitations set forth in the Indenture, including, but not limited to, Article 10 thereof.

3. NEW YORK LAW TO GOVERN

THIS SUPPLEMENTAL INDENTURE SHALL BE GOVERNED BY AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, WITHOUT GIVING EFFECT TO CONFLICTS OF LAW PRINCIPLES TO THE EXTENT THAT THE APPLICATION OF THE LAWS OF ANOTHER JURISDICTION WOULD BE REQUIRED THEREBY.

4. COUNTERPARTS

The parties may sign any number of copies of this Supplemental Indenture. Each signed copy shall be an original, but all of them together represent the same agreement.

5. EFFECT OF HEADINGS

The Section headings herein are for convenience only and shall not affect the construction hereof.

6. THE TRUSTEE AND THE SECURITY AGENT

Neither the Trustee nor the Security Agent shall be responsible in any manner whatsoever for or in respect of the validity or sufficiency of this Supplemental Indenture or for or in respect of the recitals contained herein, all of which recitals are made solely by the Guaranteeing Subsidiary and the Issuer.

IN WITNESS whereof the parties hereto have caused this Supplemental Indenture to be duly executed and attested, all as of the date first above written.

Dated: 23 December 2014

GLOBAL SHIP LEASE 20 LIMITED

By: /s/ Susan Cook
Name: Susan Cook
Title: Authorized Person

GLOBAL SHIP LEASE, INC.

By: /s/ I. J. Webber
Name: I. J. Webber
Title: Authorized Officer

By: /s/ Susan Cook
Name: Susan Cook
Title: Authorized Officer

DEUTSCHE BANK TRUST COMPANY AMERICAS, as Trustee

By: Deutsche Bank National Trust Company

By: /s/ Debra A. Schwalb
 Authorized Signatory

Debra A. Schwalb
Vice President

By: /s/ Jeffrey Schoenfeld
 Authorized Signatory

Jeffrey Schoenfeld
Assistant Vice President

DEUTSCHE BANK TRUST COMPANY AMERICAS, as Security Agent

By: Deutsche Bank National Trust Company

By: /s/ Debra A. Schwalb
 Authorized Signatory

Debra A. Schwalb
Vice President

By: /s/ Jeffrey Schoenfeld
 Authorized Signatory

Jeffrey Schoenfeld
Assistant Vice President

**SUPPLEMENTAL INDENTURE
FOR ADDITIONAL GUARANTOR**

SUPPLEMENTAL INDENTURE (this **Supplemental Indenture**), dated as of 23 February 2015, among Global Ship Lease 21 Limited (the **Guaranteeing Subsidiary**), a subsidiary of Global Ship Lease, Inc. (or its permitted successor), a Marshall Islands corporation, (the **Issuer**), the other Guarantors (as defined in the Indenture referred to herein) and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee (or its permitted successor) under the Indenture referred to below (the **Trustee**) and as security agent (or its permitted successor) under the Indenture referred to below (the **Security Agent**).

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, the Issuer and the other Guarantors have heretofore executed and delivered to the Trustee an indenture (the **Indenture**), dated as of 19 March 2014 providing for the issuance of 10.000% First Priority Secured Notes due 2019 (the **Notes**);

WHEREAS, the Indenture provides that under certain circumstances the Guaranteeing Subsidiary shall execute and deliver to the Trustee a supplemental indenture pursuant to which the Guaranteeing Subsidiary shall unconditionally guarantee all of the Issuer's obligations under the Notes and the Indenture on the terms and conditions set forth herein (the **Guarantee**); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 9.01 of the Indenture, each of the Trustee and the Security Agent is authorised to execute and deliver this Supplemental Indenture.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the Guaranteeing Subsidiary and the Trustee mutually covenant and agree for the equal and rateable benefit of the Holders as follows:

1. CAPITALIZED TERMS

Capitalised terms used herein without definition shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Indenture.

2. AGREEMENT TO GUARANTEE

The Guaranteeing Subsidiary hereby agrees to provide an unconditional Guarantee, on and subject to the terms, conditions and limitations set forth in the Indenture, including, but not limited to, Article 10 thereof.

3. NEW YORK LAW TO GOVERN

THIS SUPPLEMENTAL INDENTURE SHALL BE GOVERNED BY AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, WITHOUT GIVING EFFECT TO CONFLICTS OF LAW PRINCIPLES TO THE EXTENT THAT THE APPLICATION OF THE LAWS OF ANOTHER JURISDICTION WOULD BE REQUIRED THEREBY.

4. COUNTERPARTS

The parties may sign any number of copies of this Supplemental Indenture. Each signed copy shall be an original, but all of them together represent the same agreement.

5. EFFECT OF HEADINGS

The Section headings herein are for convenience only and shall not affect the construction hereof.

6. THE TRUSTEE AND THE SECURITY AGENT

Neither the Trustee nor the Security Agent shall be responsible in any manner whatsoever for or in respect of the validity or sufficiency of this Supplemental Indenture or for or in respect of the recitals contained herein, all of which recitals are made solely by the Guaranteeing Subsidiary and the Issuer.

IN WITNESS whereof the parties hereto have caused this Supplemental Indenture to be duly executed and attested, all as of the date first above written.

Dated: 23 February 2015

GLOBAL SHIP LEASE 21 LIMITED

By: /s/ Mathew James Davies
Name: Mathew James Davies
Title: Sole Director

GLOBAL SHIP LEASE, INC.

By: /s/ Ian Webber
Name: Ian Webber
Title: Authorised Officer

By: /s/ Susan Cook
Name: Susan Cook
Title: Authorised Officer

DEUTSCHE BANK TRUST COMPANY
AMERICAS, as Trustee

By: /s/ Debra A. Schwalb
Name: Debra A. Schwalb
Title: Vice President, Vice President

By: /s/ Jeffrey Schoenfeld
Name: Jeffrey Schoenfeld
Title: Assistant Vice President, Vice President

DEUTSCHE BANK TRUST COMPANY AMERICAS, as
Security Agent

By: /s/ Debra A. Schwalb
Name: Debra A. Schwalb
Title: Vice President, Vice President

By: /s/ Jeffrey Schoenfeld
Name: Jeffrey Schoenfeld
Title: Assistant Vice President, Vice President

LIST OF SUBSIDIARIES OF GLOBAL SHIP LEASE, INC.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Jurisdiction of Incorporation</u>
Global Ship Lease Services Limited	United Kingdom
Global Ship Lease 1 Limited	Cyprus
Global Ship Lease 2 Limited	Cyprus
Global Ship Lease 3 Limited	Cyprus
Global Ship Lease 4 Limited	Cyprus
Global Ship Lease 5 Limited	Cyprus
Global Ship Lease 6 Limited	Cyprus
Global Ship Lease 7 Limited	Cyprus
Global Ship Lease 8 Limited	Cyprus
Global Ship Lease 9 Limited	Cyprus
Global Ship Lease 10 Limited	Cyprus
Global Ship Lease 11 Limited	Cyprus
Global Ship Lease 12 Limited	Cyprus
Global Ship Lease 13 Limited	Cyprus
Global Ship Lease 14 Limited	Cyprus
Global Ship Lease 15 Limited	Cyprus
Global Ship Lease 16 Limited	Cyprus
Global Ship Lease 17 Limited	Cyprus
Global Ship Lease 18 Limited	Republic of the Marshall Islands
Global Ship Lease 19 Limited	Republic of the Marshall Islands
Global Ship Lease 20 Limited	Hong Kong
Global Ship Lease 21 Limited	Hong Kong
Global Ship Lease 22 Limited	Hong Kong
GSL Alcazar Inc.	Republic of the Marshall Islands

CERTIFICATION

I, Ian J. Webber, Chief Executive Officer of the Company, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this report on Form 20-F of Global Ship Lease, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Company as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The Company's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the Company and have:
 - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the Company is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of consolidated financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the period covered by the report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.
5. The Company's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the Company's auditors and the audit committee of the Company's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the Company's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Dated: April 21, 2015

By: /s/ Ian J. Webber
Ian J. Webber
Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

CERTIFICATION

I, Susan J. Cook, Chief Financial Officer of the Company, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this report on Form 20-F of Global Ship Lease, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the consolidated financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the Company as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The Company's other certifying officer and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the Company and have:
 - a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the Company is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of consolidated financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - d) Disclosed in this report any change in the Company's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the period covered by the report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Company's internal control over financial reporting.
5. The Company's other certifying officer and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the Company's auditors and the audit committee of the Company's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the Company's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Dated: April 21, 2015

By: /s/ Susan J. Cook
Susan J. Cook
Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906
OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

In connection with the Annual Report of Global Ship Lease, Inc. (the "Company") on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2014 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Form 20-F"), I Ian J. Webber, Chief Executive Officer of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §1350, as adopted pursuant to §906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

- (1) The Form 20-F fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m or 78o(d)); and
- (2) The information contained in the Form 20-F fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Dated: April 21, 2015

By: /s/ Ian J. Webber

Ian J. Webber
Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906
OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

In connection with the Annual Report of Global Ship Lease, Inc. (the "Company") on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2014 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof (the "Form 20-F"), I Susan J. Cook, Chief Financial Officer of the Company, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §1350, as adopted pursuant to §906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, that:

- (1) The Form 20-F fully complies with the requirements of Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m or 78o(d)); and
- (2) The information contained in the Form 20-F fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

Dated: April 21, 2015

By: /s/ Susan J. Cook

Susan J. Cook
Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We hereby consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement on Form S-8 (No. 333-156454) and the Registration Statement on Form F-3 (No. 333-197518-13), each of Global Ship Lease, Inc. of our report dated April 20, 2015 relating to the consolidated financial statements and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, which appears in this Form 20-F.

Neuilly-sur-Seine, France
April 20, 2015

PricewaterhouseCoopers Audit
/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers

PricewaterhouseCoopers is represented by PricewaterhouseCoopers Audit, 63 rue de Villiers—92200 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.