

FreeSeas Inc.  
Form 20-F  
April 15, 2009

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

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

**OR**

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

**For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008**

**OR**

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

**o 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 333-124825**

**FREESEAS INC.**

**(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)**

**Republic of the Marshall Islands**

**(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)**

**89 Akti Miaouli & 4 Mavrokordatou Street, Piraeus, Greece**

**(Address of principal executive offices)**

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**Piraeus, Greece**

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**(Name, Telephone, E-mail and/or Facsimile Number and Address of Company contact person)**

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

Title of each class	Name of each exchange on which registered
Shares of common stock, par value \$0.001 per share	
Class W Warrants to purchase shares of common stock	
Class Z Warrants to purchase shares of common stock	

**Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act**

**NONE**

**(Title of Class)**

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

**None**

**We had 21,171,329 shares of common stock outstanding as of December 31, 2008.**

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

**o Yes    p No**

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If this 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 is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer. See definition of accelerated filer and large accelerated filer in Rule 126-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

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

IFRS as issued by IASB

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

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***CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS***

This annual report contains forward-looking statements as defined in Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act). These forward-looking statements include information about our possible or assumed future results of operations or our performance. Words such as expects, intends, plans, believes, anticipates, estimates, and variations of such words and similar expressions are intended to identify the forward-looking statements. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, no assurance can be given that such expectations will prove to be correct. These statements involve known and unknown risks and are based upon a number of assumptions and estimates which are inherently subject to significant uncertainties and contingencies, many of which are beyond our control. Actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include statements regarding:

our future operating or financial results;

our financial condition and liquidity, including our ability to obtain additional financing in the future to fund capital expenditures, acquisitions and other general corporate activities;

our ability to pay dividends in the future;

dry bulk shipping industry trends, including charter rates and factors affecting vessel supply and demand;

future, pending or recent acquisitions, business strategy, areas of possible expansion, and expected capital spending or operating expenses;

the useful lives and value of our vessels;

availability of crew, number of off-hire days, dry-docking requirements and insurance costs;

global and regional economic and political conditions;

our ability to leverage to our advantage our manager's relationships and reputation in the dry bulk shipping industry;

changes in seaborne and other transportation patterns;

changes in governmental rules and regulations or actions taken by regulatory authorities;

potential liability from future litigation and incidents involving our vessels;

acts of terrorism and other hostilities; and

other factors discussed in the section titled Risk Factors.

We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements contained in this annual report, or the documents to which we refer you in this annual report, to reflect any change in our expectations with respect to such statements or any change in events, conditions or circumstances on which any statement is based.

FreeSeas Inc. is a Republic of the Marshall Islands company that is referred to in this annual report on Form 20-F, together with its subsidiaries, as FreeSeas Inc., FreeSeas, the company, we, us, or our. This report should be read in conjunction with our audited consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes thereto, which are included in Item 18 to this annual report.



**Table of Contents****PART I****ITEM 1. IDENTITY OF DIRECTORS, SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND ADVISERS**

Not applicable.

**ITEM 2. OFFER STATISTICS AND EXPECTED TIMETABLE**

Not applicable.

**ITEM 3. KEY INFORMATION****A. Selected Consolidated Financial Data**

The selected consolidated financial information set forth below has been derived from our audited financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007, 2006 and 2005 and for the period from April 23, 2004 (date of inception) to December 31, 2004. The information is only a summary and should be read in conjunction with our audited consolidated financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 and notes thereto contained elsewhere herein. The financial results should not be construed as indicative of financial results for subsequent periods. See Item 4. Information on the Company and Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects.

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>				<b>From Inception (April 23, 2004) to December 31, 2004</b>
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	
<b>Statement of Operations Data:</b>					
Operating revenues	\$ 66,689,000	\$ 20,147,000	\$ 11,727,000	\$ 10,326,000	\$ 2,830,000
Income (loss) from operations	26,570,000	5,761,000	(2,281,000)	1,205,000	706,000
Other expense	(7,378,000)	(5,917,000)	(1,043,000)	(1,053,000)	(236,000)
Net income (loss)	19,192,000	(156,000)	(3,324,000)	152,000	470,000
<b>Earnings Per Share Data:</b>					
Net income (loss) per share:					
Basic earnings (loss) per share	\$ 0.91	\$ (0.02)	\$ (0.53)	\$ 0.03	\$ 0.10
Diluted earnings (loss) per share	\$ 0.91	\$ (0.02)	\$ (0.53)	\$ 0.03	\$ 0.10
Weighted average number of shares:					
Basic weighted average number of shares	21,006,497	8,786,287	6,290,100	4,574,588	4,500,000
Diluted weighted average number of shares	21,051,963	8,786,287	6,290,100	4,600,444	4,500,000
	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>December 31, 2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Selected Balance Sheet Data:</b>					
Cash in hand and at bank	\$ 3,378,000	\$ 63,394,000	\$ 372,000	\$ 3,285,000	\$ 461,000
Net working (deficiency) capital	(23,584,000)	47,343,000	(8,843,000)	(4,945,000)	(3,528,000)



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Total assets	307,861,000	191,972,000	23,086,000	29,840,000	18,335,000
Long-term debt, including current portion	160,350,000	56,300,000	7,830,000	13,000,000	10,150,000
Shareholders' loan and advance			2,552,000	3,200,000	3,828,000
Total shareholders' equity	120,855,000	112,626,000	7,007,000	9,705,000	3,386,000

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**Table of Contents****B. Capitalization and Indebtedness**

The following table sets forth our consolidated capitalization as of December 31, 2008.

	<b>Historical as of December 31, 2008</b>
<b>Debt:</b>	
Long-term debt, current portion	\$ 26,700
Long-term debt, net of current portion	133,650
Total debt	\$ 160,350
<b>Shareholders equity:</b>	
Preferred stock, \$0.001 par value; 5,000,000 shares authorized, none issued	
Common stock, \$0.001 par value, 40,000,000 shares authorized, 21,171,329 shares issued and outstanding	21
Additional paid-in capital	110,322
Retained earnings	10,512
Total shareholders equity	\$ 120,855
Total capitalization	\$ 281,205

As of December 31, 2008, our actual cash and cash equivalents totaled \$3.378 million.

**C. Reasons for the Offer and Use of Proceeds**

Not applicable.

**D. Risk Factors**

*Our business faces certain risks. The risks described below may not be the only risks we face. Additional risks that we do not yet know of or that we currently think are immaterial may also impair our business. If any of the events or circumstances described as risks below or elsewhere in this report actually occurs, our business, results of operations or financial condition could be materially and adversely affected.*

**Industry-Specific Risk Factors**

***The cyclical nature of the international shipping industry may lead to volatile changes in charter rates and vessel values, which may reduce our revenues and net income.***

We are an independent shipping company that operates in the international dry bulk shipping market. Our profitability is dependent upon the charter rates we are able to charge. The supply of and demand for shipping capacity strongly influences charter rates. The demand for shipping capacity is determined primarily by the demand for the type of commodities carried, the distance that those commodities must be moved by sea, and the demand for vessels of a particular size. The demand for commodities is affected by, among other things, world and regional economic and political conditions (including developments in international trade, fluctuations in industrial and agricultural production and armed conflicts), environmental concerns, weather patterns, port congestion, and changes in seaborne and other transportation costs. The size of the existing fleet per size category (i.e., Handysize, Handymax, Panamax or Capesize) in any particular dry bulk market, the number of new vessel deliveries, the scrapping of older vessels and the number of vessels out of active service (i.e., laid-up, dry-docked, awaiting repairs or otherwise not available for hire), determines the supply of shipping capacity, which is measured by the amount of suitable tonnage available to carry cargo.

In addition to the prevailing and anticipated charter rates, factors that affect the supply and demand for shipping capacity include the rate of newbuilding, scrapping and laying-up, newbuilding prices, secondhand vessel values in relation to scrap prices, costs of bunkers and other operating costs, costs associated with classification society surveys, normal maintenance and insurance coverage, the efficiency and age profile of the existing fleet in the market, and government and industry regulation of maritime transportation practices, particularly environmental protection laws and regulations. These factors are outside of our control, and we cannot predict the nature, timing and degree of changes in industry conditions. Some of these factors may have a negative impact on our revenues and net income.

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The market value of our vessels can fluctuate significantly. The market value of our vessels may increase or decrease depending on the following factors:

economic and market conditions affecting the shipping industry in general;

supply of dry bulk vessels, including secondhand vessels;

demand for dry bulk vessels;

types and sizes of vessels;

other modes of transportation;

cost of newbuildings;

new regulatory requirements from governments or self-regulated organizations; and

prevailing level of charter rates.

Because the market value of our vessels may fluctuate significantly, we may incur losses when we sell vessels, which may adversely affect our earnings. In addition, any determination that a vessel's remaining useful life and earnings requires an impairment of its value on our financial statements could result in a charge against our earnings and a reduction in our shareholders' equity. If for any reason we sell our vessels at a time when prices have fallen, the sale may be less than that vessel's carrying amount on our financial statements, and we would incur a loss and a reduction in earnings.

***Disruptions in world financial markets and in the international charter market could have a material adverse impact on our ability to obtain financing, our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows and could cause the market price of our common stock to decline.***

The United States and other countries are experiencing deteriorating economic trends and have entered into a recession. For example, the credit markets worldwide and in the United States have experienced significant contraction, de-leveraging and reduced liquidity, and the United States government and foreign governments have either implemented or are 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 uncertainty surrounding the future of the global credit markets has resulted in reduced access to credit worldwide and inability of many parties to obtain trade finance, including letters of credit, which, in turn has adversely affected dry bulk charter rates. We face risks attendant to changes in economic environments, changes in interest rates, and instability in certain securities markets, among other factors. Major market disruptions and the current adverse changes in global market conditions, and the economic climate in the United States and worldwide, may adversely affect our business or impair our ability to borrow amounts under our credit facilities or any future financial arrangements. The current market conditions may last longer than we anticipate. These recent and developing economic and governmental factors may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition or cash flows and could cause the price of our common stock to decline significantly.

The recession currently occurring worldwide has resulted in fewer imports to industrialized nations from Asia, which in turn has resulted in fewer requirements for imports of raw materials from the Asia, and in particular China. This trend has coincided with the credit crisis, which has made the availability of trade credit scarce; documentary letters of credit were largely unavailable in the last quarter of 2008. At the same time, the extreme volatility of commodity prices has substantially increased the risk of physical commodity traders, who have reduced the volume of their trades. The volatility of commodity prices, resulting in particular in a dramatic fall of spot iron ore prices, has shifted the negotiating balance of power in favor of China, the largest iron ore importing country, against iron ore producers based in Brazil and Australia, and has led China to centrally implement a suspension of iron ore imports in

order to have more ample negotiating leverage for the conclusion of its longer-term contract prices for iron ore imports.

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The combination of all the above factors has caused the volume of seaborne trade to drop dramatically and charter rates to plummet. These conditions may last longer than expected and may continue to adversely affect our results of operations.

***Charter hire rates for dry bulk vessels have decreased significantly and may remain at low rates or further decrease in the future, which may adversely affect our earnings.***

The dry bulk shipping industry is cyclical with volatility in charter hire rates and profitability. The degree of charter hire rate volatility among different types of dry bulk vessels has varied widely. Since the middle of the third quarter of 2008, charter hire rates for dry bulk vessels have decreased very substantially, and although charter rates have recovered from their lows, they may remain volatile for the foreseeable future.

We anticipate that the future demand for our dry bulk vessels will be dependent upon existing conditions in the world's economies, seasonal and regional changes in demand, changes in the capacity of the global dry bulk fleet and the sources and supply of dry bulk cargo to be transported by sea. Adverse economic, political, social or other developments could have a further material adverse effect on dry bulk shipping in general and on our business and operating results in particular.

Our ability to re-charter our dry bulk vessels upon the expiration or termination of their current time charter, the charter rates payable under any renewal or replacement charters will depend upon, among other things, the current state of the dry bulk shipping market. If the dry bulk shipping market is in a period of depression when our vessels charters expire, it is likely that we may be forced to re-charter them at reduced rates, including rates whereby we incur a loss, which may reduce our earnings or make our earnings volatile.

In addition, because the market value of our vessels may fluctuate significantly, we may incur losses when we sell vessels, which may adversely affect our earnings. If we sell vessels at a time when vessel prices have fallen and before we have recorded an impairment adjustment to our financial statements, the sale may be at less than the vessel's carrying amount on our financial statements, resulting in a loss and a reduction in earnings.

***An economic slowdown in the Asia Pacific region could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position and results of operations.***

We anticipate a significant number of the port calls made by our vessels will involve the loading or discharging of dry bulk commodities in ports in the Asia Pacific region. As a result, negative change in economic conditions in any Asia Pacific country, but particularly in China, may have an adverse effect on our business, financial position and results of operations, as well as our future prospects. 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. Through the end of the third quarter of 2008, China's gross domestic product was approximately 2.3% lower than it was during the same period in 2007, and it is likely that China and other countries in the Asia Pacific region will continue to experience slowed or even negative economic growth in the near future. Moreover, the current economic slowdown in the economies of the United States, the European Union and Asian countries may further adversely affect economic growth in China and elsewhere. Our business, financial position, results of operations, ability to pay dividends as well as our future prospects, would be materially and adversely affected by a long-lasting or significant economic downturn in any of these countries.

**Table of Contents*****Changes in the economic and political environment in China and policies adopted by the government to regulate its economy may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

The Chinese economy differs from the economies of most countries belonging to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, or OECD, in such respects as structure, government involvement, level of development, growth rate, capital reinvestment, allocation of resources, rate of inflation and balance of payments position. Prior to 1978, the Chinese economy was a planned economy. Since 1978, increasing emphasis has been placed on the utilization of market forces in the development of the Chinese economy. There is an increasing level of freedom and autonomy in areas such as allocation of resources, production, pricing and management and a gradual shift in emphasis to a market economy and enterprise reform. Although limited price reforms were undertaken, with the result that prices for certain commodities are principally determined by market forces, many of the reforms are experimental and may be subject to change or abolition. We cannot assure you that the Chinese government will continue to pursue a policy of economic reform. The level of imports to and exports from China could be adversely affected by changes to these economic reforms, as well as by changes in political, economic and social conditions or other relevant policies of the Chinese government, such as changes in laws, regulations or export and import restrictions, all of which could, adversely affect our business, financial condition and operating results.

***Turbulence in the financial services markets and the tightening of credit may affect the ability of purchasers of dry bulk cargo to obtain letters of credit to purchase dry bulk goods, resulting in declines in the demand for vessels.***

Turbulence in the credit markets has led many lenders to reduce, and in some cases, cease to provide credit, including letters of credit, to borrowers. Purchasers of dry bulk cargo typically pay for cargo with letters of credit. The tightening of the credit markets has reduced the issuance of letters of credit and as a result decreased the amount of cargo being shipped as sellers determine not to sell cargo without a letter of credit. Reductions in cargo results in less business for charterers and declines in the demand for vessels. Any material decrease in the demand for vessels may decrease charter rates and make it more difficult for the Company to charter its vessels in the future at competitive rates. Reduced charter rates would reduce the Company's revenues.

***If the recent volatility in LIBOR rates continues, it could affect our profitability, earnings and cash flow.***

LIBOR rates have recently been volatile, with the spread between those rates and prime lending rates widening significantly at times. These conditions are the result of the recent disruptions in the international credit markets. Because the interest rates borne by our outstanding indebtedness fluctuate with changes in the LIBOR rates, if this volatility were to continue, it would affect the amount of interest payable on our debt, which in turn, would have an effect on our profitability, earnings and cash flow.

***Charter rates are subject to seasonal fluctuations, which may adversely affect our operating results.***

Our fleet consists of Handysize and Handymax dry bulk carriers that operate in markets that have historically exhibited seasonal variations in demand and, as a result, in charter rates. This seasonality may result in quarter-to-quarter volatility in our operating results. The energy markets primarily affect the demand for coal, with increases during hot summer periods when air conditioning and refrigeration require more electricity and towards the end of the calendar year in anticipation of the forthcoming winter period. Grain shipments are driven by the harvest within a climate zone. Because three of the five largest grain producers (the United States, Canada and the European Union) are located in the northern hemisphere and the other two (Argentina and Australia) are located in the southern hemisphere, harvests occur throughout the year and grains require dry bulk shipping accordingly. As a result of these and other factors, the dry bulk shipping industry is typically stronger in the fall and winter months. Therefore, we expect our revenues from our dry bulk carriers to be typically weaker during the fiscal quarters ended June 30 and September 30 and, conversely, we expect our revenues from our dry bulk carriers to be typically stronger in fiscal quarters ended December 31 and March 31. Seasonality in the dry bulk industry could materially affect our operating results.

**Table of Contents*****The operation of dry bulk carriers has certain unique operational risks.***

The operation of certain vessel types, such as dry bulk carriers, has certain unique risks. With a dry bulk carrier, the cargo itself and its interaction with the ship can be a risk factor. By their nature, dry bulk cargoes are often heavy, dense, easily shifted, and react badly to water exposure. In addition, dry bulk carriers are often subjected to battering treatment during unloading operations with grabs, jackhammers (to pry encrusted cargoes out of the hold), and small bulldozers. This treatment may cause damage to the vessel. Vessels damaged due to treatment during unloading procedures may be more susceptible to breach to the sea. Hull breaches in dry bulk carriers may lead to the flooding of the vessels' holds. If a dry bulk carrier suffers flooding in its forward holds, the bulk cargo may become so dense and waterlogged that its pressure may buckle the vessel's bulkheads leading to the loss of a vessel. If we are unable to adequately maintain our vessels we may be unable to prevent these events. Any of these circumstances or events could negatively impact our business, financial condition, results of operations and ability to pay dividends. In addition, the loss of any of our vessels could harm our reputation as a safe and reliable vessel owner and operator.

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

Our business and the operation of our vessels are materially affected by government regulation in the form of international conventions and national, state and local laws and regulations in force in the jurisdictions in which the vessels operate, as well as in the country or countries of their registration. We are also required by various governmental and quasi-governmental agencies to obtain certain permits, licenses and certificates with respect to our operations. Because such conventions, laws, regulations and permit requirements are often revised, we cannot predict the ultimate cost of complying with such conventions, laws, regulations or permit requirements, or the impact thereof on the resale prices or useful lives of our vessels. Additional conventions, laws and regulations may be adopted that could limit our ability to do business and thereby reduce our revenue or increase our cost of doing business, thereby materially decreasing our net income.

The operation of our vessels is affected by the requirements set forth in the International Safety Management, or ISM, Code. The ISM Code requires shipowners and bareboat charterers to develop and maintain an extensive Safety Management System. The system includes the adoption of a safety and environmental protection policy setting forth instructions and procedures for safe operation and dealing with emergencies. The failure of a shipowner 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/or may result in a denial of access to, or detention in, certain ports. Currently, Lloyd's Register of Shipping has awarded ISM and International Ship and Port Facilities Security, or ISPS, certification to all of our vessels and to Free Bulklers, our ship management company. There can be no assurance, however, that such certification will be maintained indefinitely.

The European Union is considering legislation that will affect the operation of vessels and the liability of owners for oil pollution. It is difficult to predict what legislation, if any, may be promulgated by the European Union or any other country or authority.

We currently maintain, for each of our vessels, protection and indemnity insurance, which includes pollution liability coverage, in the amount of one billion dollars per incident. If the damages from a catastrophic incident exceeded our insurance coverage, the payment of these damages may materially decrease our net income.

The International Maritime Organization, or IMO, or other regulatory bodies may adopt further regulations in the future that could adversely affect the useful lives of our vessels as well as our ability to generate income from them. These requirements can also affect the resale value of our vessels.

The United States Oil Pollution Act of 1990, or OPA, established an extensive regulatory and liability regime for the protection and clean-up of the environment from oil spills. OPA affects all owners and operators whose vessels trade in the United States of America or any of its territories and possessions or whose vessels operate in waters of the United States of America, which includes the territorial sea of the United States of America and its 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone.



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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, including bunkers (fuel).

***If any of our vessels fail to maintain their class certification and/or fail any annual survey, intermediate survey, dry-docking or special survey, that vessel would be unable to carry cargo, thereby reducing our revenues and profitability and violating certain loan covenants of our third-party indebtedness.***

The hull and machinery of every commercial vessel must be classed by a classification society authorized by its country of registry. The classification society certifies that a vessel is safe and seaworthy in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations of the country of registry of the vessel and the Safety of Life at Sea Convention, or SOLAS. Our vessels are currently classed with Lloyd's Register of Shipping, Korean Register of Shipping, Nippon Kaiji Kyokai, Germanischer Lloyd and Bureau Veritas.

A vessel must undergo annual surveys, intermediate surveys, dry-dockings and special surveys. In lieu of a special survey, a vessel's machinery may be on a continuous survey cycle, under which the machinery would be surveyed periodically over a five-year period. Our vessels are on special survey cycles for hull inspection and continuous survey cycles for machinery inspection. Every vessel is also required to be dry-docked every two to three years for inspection of the underwater parts of such vessel.

If any vessel does not maintain its class and/or fails any annual survey, intermediate survey, dry-docking or special survey, the vessel will be unable to carry cargo between ports and will be unemployable and uninsurable, thereby reducing our revenues and profitability. That could also cause us to be in violation of certain covenants in our loan agreements. In addition, the cost of maintaining our vessels' classifications may be substantial at times and could result in reduced revenues.

***Maritime claimants could arrest our vessels, which could interrupt our cash flow.***

Crew members, suppliers of goods and services to a vessel, shippers of cargo and other parties may be entitled to a maritime lien against a vessel for unsatisfied debts, claims or damages. In many jurisdictions, a maritime lienholder may enforce its lien by arresting a vessel through foreclosure proceedings. The arresting or attachment of one or more of our vessels could interrupt our cash flow and require us to pay large sums of funds 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 which is subject to the claimant's maritime lien and any associated vessel, which is any vessel owned or controlled by the same owner or managed by the same manager. Claimants could try to assert "sister ship" liability against one of our vessels for claims relating to another of our vessels or a vessel managed by our manager.

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

A government could requisition for title or seize our vessels. Requisition for title occurs when a government takes control of a vessel and becomes the owner. A government could also requisition our vessels for hire, which occurs when a government takes control of a vessel and effectively becomes the charterer at dictated charter rates. Generally, requisitions occur during a period of war or emergency. Government requisition of one or more of our vessels could reduce our revenues and net income.

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***World events outside our control such as terrorism and international and regional hostilities may negatively affect our ability to operate, thereby reducing our revenues and net income or our ability to obtain additional financing, thereby restricting the implementation of our business strategy.***

Terrorist attacks such as those in New York on September 11, 2001, the bombings in Spain on March 11, 2004 and in London on July 7, 2005, and the continuing response of the United States and other countries to these attacks, as well as the threat of future terrorist attacks in the United States or elsewhere continue to cause uncertainty in the world financial markets and may adversely affect our business and operating results by increasing security costs and creating delays because of heightened security measures. In the past, political conflicts have also resulted in attacks on vessels, mining of waterways and other efforts to disrupt international shipping, particularly in the Arabian Gulf region. Acts of terrorism and piracy have also affected vessels trading in regions such as the South China Sea.

Terrorist attacks and international and regional hostilities may also negatively impact our vessels or our customers directly. The continuing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan may lead to additional acts of terrorism and armed conflict around the world, which may contribute to economic instability and could result in increased volatility of the financial markets in the United States of America and globally, an economic recession in the United States of America or the world and a corresponding reduction in our business and future prospects. Any of these occurrences could prevent us from obtaining additional financing on terms acceptable to us or at all and have a material adverse impact on our operating results, revenues and costs which would impair our implementation of our business strategy.

***Risks involved with operating ocean-going vessels could affect our business and reputation, which may reduce our revenues.***

The operation of an ocean-going vessel has inherent risks. These risks include the possibility of:  
crew strikes and/or boycotts;

marine disaster;

piracy;

environmental accidents;

cargo and property losses or damage; and

business interruptions caused by mechanical failure, human error, war, terrorism, political action in various countries, labor strikes or adverse weather conditions.

The involvement of any of our vessels in an environmental disaster may harm our reputation as a safe and reliable vessel operator. Any of these circumstances or events could increase our costs or lower our revenues.

***Rising fuel prices may adversely affect our profits.***

The cost of fuel is a significant factor in negotiating charter rates. As a result, an increase in the price of fuel beyond our expectations may adversely affect our profitability. The price and supply of fuel is unpredictable and fluctuates based on events outside our control, including geo-political developments, supply and demand for oil, actions by members of OPEC and other oil and gas producers, war and unrest in oil producing countries and regions, regional production patterns and environmental concerns and regulations.

**Table of Contents*****Our vessels may suffer damage and we may face unexpected dry-docking costs, which could affect our cash flow and financial condition.***

If our vessels suffer damage, they may need to be repaired at a dry-docking facility, resulting in vessel downtime. The costs of dry-dock repairs are unpredictable and can be substantial. We may have to pay dry-docking costs that our insurance does not cover. The inactivity of these vessels while they are being repaired and repositioned, as well as the actual cost of these repairs, would decrease our earnings. In addition, space at dry-docking facilities is sometimes limited and not all dry-docking facilities are conveniently located. We may be unable to find space at a suitable dry-docking facility or we may be forced to move to a dry-docking facility that is not conveniently located to our vessels' positions. The loss of earnings while our vessels are forced to wait for space or to relocate to dry-docking facilities that are farther away from the routes on which our vessels trade would also decrease our earnings.

**Company-Specific Risk Factors*****The downturn in the dry bulk carrier charter market may have an adverse effect on our earnings, affect compliance with our loan covenants, and require us to raise additional capital in order to remain compliant with our loan covenants.***

The Baltic Dry Index, or BDI, a daily average of charter rates in 26 shipping routes measured on a time charter and voyage basis and covering dry bulk carriers, has fallen over 90% since May 2008 and over 70% in October 2008 alone. In December 2008, the BDI reached an all time low since 1986, yet by the end of January 2009 the BDI had recovered from its lows by approximately 40%. The decline in charter rates is due to various factors, including the lack of trade financing for purchases of commodities carried by sea, which has resulted in a significant decline in cargo shipments, and the excess supply of iron ore in China which has resulted in falling iron ore prices and increased stockpiles in Chinese ports. The decline in charter rates in the dry bulk market also affects the value of our dry bulk vessels, which follow the trends of dry bulk charter rates, and earnings on our charters, and similarly, affects our cash flows, liquidity and compliance with the covenants contained in our loan agreements.

We have received waivers from each of our lenders with respect to the breach of any loan covenants. If the current low charter rates in the dry bulk market continue beyond the periods covered by such waivers, however, our earnings will be adversely affected and there is a probability we will not be in compliance with the financial covenants in our various loan agreements. There can be no assurance our lenders will be willing to provide further waivers of covenant compliance or modifications to our covenants. In such a situation, in order to remain viable, we would have to continue to withhold payment of dividends, sell vessels in our fleet and/or seek to raise additional capital in the equity markets. If we are able to raise additional capital at a time when the charter rates in the dry bulk charter market are low, our shareholders could be significantly diluted and our earnings per share could be adversely affected. Even if we are able to raise additional capital in the equity markets, there is no assurance we will remain compliant with our loan covenants or receive any required waivers.

***Our charterers may terminate or default on their charters, which could adversely affect our results of operations and cash flow.***

We have secured 53% of our available days in 2009 through time charters, which represents approximately \$45,000,000 in gross revenue. However, the ability of each of our charterers to perform its obligations under a charter will depend on a number of factors that are beyond our control. These factors may include general economic conditions, the condition of the dry bulk shipping industry, the charter rates received for specific types of vessels, hedging arrangements, the ability of charterers to obtain letters of credit from its customers, cash reserves, cash flow considerations and various operating expenses.

The costs and delays associated with the termination of a charter or the default by a charterer of a vessel may be considerable and may adversely affect our business, results of operations, cash flows and financial condition.

We cannot predict whether our charterers will, upon the expiration of their charters, recharter our vessels on favorable terms or at all. If our charterers decide not to recharter our vessels, we may not be able to recharter them on terms similar to the terms of our current charters or at all. If we receive lower charter rates under replacement charters or are unable to recharter all of our vessels, our business, operating results and financial condition may be adversely affected.



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If we receive lower charter rates under replacement charters or are unable to recharter all of our vessels, the amounts available if any, to service debt and/or to pay dividends to our shareholders may be significantly reduced or eliminated.

***The current low dry bulk charter rates and dry bulk vessel values and any future declines in these rates and values will affect our ability to comply with various covenants in our loan agreements.***

Our loan agreements require that we remain in compliance with certain financial and other covenants. The current low dry bulk charter rates and dry bulk vessel values have adversely affected our ability to comply with these covenants. Noncompliance with these covenants constitutes an event of default under our credit facilities, which would, unless waived by our lenders, provide our lenders with various remedies, including the right to require us to post additional collateral, enhance our equity and liquidity, increase our interest payments, pay down our indebtedness to a level where we are in compliance with our loan covenants, sell vessels in our fleet, reclassify our indebtedness as current liabilities, accelerate our indebtedness, and foreclose our lenders' liens on our vessels. The exercise of any of the remedies could materially adversely impair our ability to continue to conduct our business. In addition, if the fair value of our vessels deteriorates significantly from their current levels, we may have to record an impairment adjustment to our financial statements, which would adversely affect our financial results and further hinder our ability to raise capital. Moreover, our lenders may require the payment of additional fees, require prepayment of a portion of our indebtedness to them, accelerate the amortization schedule for our indebtedness and increase the interest rates they charge us on our outstanding indebtedness. As of December 31, 2008, we were not in full compliance with certain loan covenants but obtained the waivers from each of our lenders. There can be no assurances, however, that once such waivers expire our lenders will grant us any such waivers in the future if at the time of such expiration we are still not in compliance with certain loan covenants.

***Our earnings may be adversely affected if we do not successfully employ our vessels.***

We intend to continue to employ our vessels in fixed-rate period charters and spot charters. If our vessels become available for employment in the spot market or under new period charters during periods when charter rates have fallen, as occurred during the first part of 2008, we employed, and may have to continue to employ, our vessels at depressed charter rates that lead, and would continue to lead, to reduced or volatile earnings. We cannot assure you that future charter rates will be at a level that will enable us to operate our vessels profitably or to repay our debt.

***We previously relied on spot charters and may spot charter certain of our vessels in the future. The rates on spot charters are very competitive and volatile, which can result in decreased revenues if spot charter rates decline.***

Our vessels have previously been spot chartered, which made our historical revenues subject to greater fluctuation. In the future, we may continue to spot charter certain of our vessels. The spot charter market is highly competitive and rates within this market are subject to volatile fluctuations, while longer-term period time charters provide income at pre-determined rates over more extended periods of time. If we decide to continue to spot charter certain of our vessels, there can be no assurance that we will be successful in keeping those vessels fully employed in these short-term markets or that future spot rates will be sufficient to enable those vessels to be operated profitably.

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***A decline in the market value of our vessels could lead to a default under our loan agreements and the loss of our vessels.***

We have incurred secured debt under loan agreements for all of our vessels. If the market value of our fleet declines, we may not be in compliance with certain covenants of our existing loan agreements that relate to maintenance of asset values and, as a result, we may not be able to refinance our debt or obtain additional financing. We have received waivers from our lenders with respect to certain covenants. See Item 4. Information on the Company Loans for Vessels Loan Agreement Covenants and Waivers. There can be no assurances, however, that once such waivers expire, that we will be in compliance with the financial covenants or that our lenders will extend such waivers.

***Our loan agreements contain covenants that may limit our liquidity and corporate activities.***

Our loan agreements impose operating and financial restrictions on us. These restrictions may limit our ability to: incur additional indebtedness;

create liens on our assets;

sell capital stock of our subsidiaries;

make investments;

engage in mergers or acquisitions;

pay dividends;

make capital expenditures; and

change the management of our vessels or terminate or materially amend the management agreements and sell our vessels.

In addition, our credit facilities contain a number of financial covenants and general covenants that require us to, among other things, maintain minimum vessel values, minimum cash balances on deposit, minimum working capital and adequate insurance. Therefore, we may need to seek permission from our lenders in order to undertake certain corporate actions. Our lenders' interests may be different from ours, and we cannot guarantee that we will be able to obtain our lenders' permission when needed. This may prevent us from taking actions that are in our best interest.

***Servicing debt may limit funds available for other purposes and inability to service debt may lead to acceleration of debt and foreclosure on our fleet.***

To finance our fleet, we incurred secured debt under various loan agreements. As of December 31, 2008, we had outstanding an aggregate of \$160.35 million in debt. We will be required to dedicate a significant portion of our cash flow from operations to pay the principal and interest on our debt. These requirements will increase as we draw additional funds available for the acquisition of new vessels. These payments will limit funds otherwise available for working capital, capital expenditures and other purposes. We will need to incur additional indebtedness as we further expand our fleet, which would increase our ratio of debt to equity. The need to service our debt may limit funds available for other purposes, including distributing cash to our shareholders, and our inability to service debt could lead to acceleration of our debt and foreclosure on our fleet.

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***We cannot assure you that we will pay dividends.***

There can be no assurance that we will be able to pay dividends. Although in 2008 we paid quarterly cash dividends to our shareholders of \$0.175 per share in February and May, \$0.20 per share in August and \$0.075 per share in November, in the first quarter of 2009, our Board modified our dividend policy so that we would pay quarterly cash dividends equal to 50% of our distributable cash flow, which is our cash from operations during the previous quarter after expenses and reserves for scheduled dry-dockings, intermediate and special surveys and other purposes, including possible acquisitions, as our board of directors may determine from time to time are required, and after taking into account any other cash needs. In light of the current economic conditions, the Board determined that no cash dividend would be paid in February 2009. Further, the waiver we have received from FBB restricts our ability to pay dividends during the waiver period, which ends January 1, 2010. See Item 4. Information on the Company Loans for Vessels Loan Agreement Covenants and Waivers. Therefore, there can be no assurances that, if we were to determine to resume paying cash dividends, FBB would provide any required consent. In addition, even if we were to receive consent to the payment of dividends, in light of the current worldwide economic conditions, there can be no assurances that we will be able to resume payment of dividends.

***If we fail to manage our planned growth properly, we may not be able to successfully expand our market share.***

We intend to continue to grow our fleet. Our growth will depend on:

locating and acquiring suitable vessels;

identifying and consummating acquisitions or joint ventures;

integrating any acquired vessel successfully with our existing operations;

enhancing our customer base;

managing our expansion; and

obtaining the required financing.

Growing any business by acquisition presents numerous risks, such as undisclosed liabilities and obligations and difficulty experienced in (1) obtaining additional qualified personnel, (2) managing relationships with customers and suppliers and (3) integrating newly acquired operations into existing infrastructures.

We cannot give any assurance that we will be successful in executing our growth plans or that we will not incur significant expenses and losses in connection with the execution of those growth plans.

***We depend entirely on Free Bulkers and Safbulk to manage and charter our fleet.***

We currently have no employees and contract all of our financial, accounting, including our financial reporting and internal controls, and other back-office services, and the management of our fleet, including crewing, maintenance and repair, to Free Bulkers, an affiliated company. Free Bulkers has entered into a sub-management agreement with Safbulk, a company controlled by the Restis family, for the commercial management of our fleet, including negotiating and obtaining charters, relations with charter brokers and performance of post-charter activities. We are dependent upon Free Bulkers for technical management of our fleet and upon Safbulk for our ability to attract charterers and charter brokers. The loss of either of their services or their failure to perform their obligations could reduce our revenues and net income and adversely affect our operations and business. Generally, Free Bulkers is not liable to us for any losses or damages, if any, that may result from its management of our fleet unless Free Bulkers or its employees act with negligence or gross negligence or commit a willful default with respect to one of our vessels. Pursuant to its agreement with us, Free Bulkers' liability for such acts, except in certain limited circumstances, may not exceed ten times the annual management fee payable by the applicable subsidiary to Free Bulkers. Although we may have rights against Free Bulkers, if Free Bulkers defaults on its obligations to us, you may have no recourse against Free Bulkers. In addition, if Safbulk defaults on its obligations to Free Bulkers, we may have no recourse against Safbulk. Further, we expect that we will need approval from our lenders if we intend to replace Free Bulkers as our fleet manager.





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***If Free Bulkters is unable to perform under its vessel management agreements with us, our results of operations may be adversely affected.***

As we expand our fleet, we will rely on Free Bulkters to recruit suitable additional seafarers and to meet other demands imposed on Free Bulkters. We cannot assure you that Free Bulkters will be able to meet these demands as we expand our fleet. If Free Bulkters crewing agents encounter business or financial difficulties, they may not be able to adequately staff our vessels. If Free Bulkters is unable to provide the commercial and technical management service for our vessels, our business, results of operations, cash flows and financial position and our ability to pay dividends may be adversely affected.

***We, and one of our executive officers, have affiliations with Free Bulkters that could create conflicts of interest detrimental to us.***

Our chairman, chief executive officer and president, Ion G. Varouxakis, is also the controlling shareholder and officer of Free Bulkters, which is our ship management company. These dual responsibilities of our officer and the relationships between the two companies could create conflicts of interest between Free Bulkters and us. Each of our operating subsidiaries has a nonexclusive management agreement with Free Bulkters. Free Bulkters has subcontracted the charter and post-charter management of our fleet to Safbulk, which is controlled by FS Holdings Limited, one of our principal shareholders. Although Free Bulkters currently serves as manager for vessels owned by us, neither Free Bulkters nor Safbulk is restricted from entering into management agreements with other competing shipping companies, and Safbulk provides management services to other international shipping companies, including the Restis group, which owns and operates vessels in the dry bulk sector. Free Bulkters or Safbulk could also allocate charter and/or vessel purchase and sale opportunities to others. There can be no assurance that Free Bulkters or Safbulk would resolve any conflicts of interest in a manner beneficial to us.

***Operational or financial problems experienced by Free Bulkters, our affiliate, may adversely impact us.***

The ability of Free Bulkters to continue providing services for us will depend in part on Free Bulkters own financial strength. Circumstances beyond our control could impair Free Bulkters financial strength and, as a result, Free Bulkters ability to fulfill its obligations to us which could have a material adverse effect on us.

***If Free Bulkters is unable to recruit suitable seafarers for our fleet or as we expand our fleet, our results of operations may be adversely affected.***

We will rely on Free Bulkters to recruit suitable senior officers and crews as we expand our fleet. In addition, as we expand our fleet, we will have to rely on Free Bulkters to recruit suitable additional seafarers. We cannot assure you that Free Bulkters will be able to continue to hire suitable employees as we expand our fleet. If Free Bulkters crewing agents encounter business or financial difficulties, they may not be able to adequately staff our vessels. We expect that all or part of the seafarers who will be employed on the ships in our fleet will be covered by industry-wide collective bargaining agreements that set basic standards. We cannot assure you that these agreements will prevent labor interruptions. If Free Bulkters is unable to recruit suitable seafarers as we expand our fleet, our business, results of operations, cash flows and financial condition and our ability to pay dividends may be materially adversely affected.

***Because our seafaring employees are covered by collective bargaining agreements, failure of industry groups to renew those agreements may disrupt our operations and adversely affect our earnings.***

All of the seafarers employed on the vessels in our fleet are covered by collective bargaining agreements that set basic standards. We cannot assure you that these agreements will prevent labor interruptions. Any labor interruptions could disrupt our operations and harm our financial performance.

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***Increases in interest rates would reduce funds available to purchase vessels and service debt.***

We have purchased, and may purchase in the future, vessels with loans that provide for periodic interest payments based on indices that fluctuate with changes in market interest rates. If interest rates increase significantly, it would increase our costs of financing our acquisition of vessels, which could decrease the number of additional vessels that we could acquire and adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations and may adversely affect our ability to service debt.

***The performance of our existing charters and the creditworthiness of our charterers may hinder our ability to implement our business strategy by making additional debt financing unavailable or available only at higher than anticipated cost.***

The actual or perceived credit quality of our charterers, and any defaults by them, may materially affect our ability to obtain the additional debt financing that we will require to acquire additional vessels or may significantly increase our costs of obtaining such financing. Our inability to obtain additional financing at all, or at a higher than anticipated cost, may materially impair our ability to implement our business strategy.

***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 or to make dividend payments.***

We are a holding company and our subsidiaries, which are all wholly owned by us, conduct all of our operations and own all of our operating assets. We have no significant assets other than the equity interests in our wholly owned subsidiaries. As a result, our ability to make dividend payments depends on our subsidiaries and their ability to distribute funds to us. If we are unable to obtain funds from our subsidiaries, our Board of Directors may exercise its discretion not to pay dividends. We and our subsidiaries will be permitted to pay dividends only for so long as we are in compliance with all applicable financial covenants, terms and conditions of our debt. In addition, we and our subsidiaries are subject to limitations on the payment of dividends under Marshall Islands laws discussed above.

***As we expand our business, we will need to upgrade our operational and financial systems, and add more staff. If we cannot upgrade these systems or recruit suitable additional employees, our performance may suffer.***

Our current operating and financial systems may not be adequate if we significantly expand the size of our fleet, and our attempt to improve those systems may be ineffective. In addition, if we significantly expand our fleet, we will have to rely on Free Bulklers to recruit additional shoreside administrative and management personnel. We cannot assure you that Free Bulklers will be able to continue to hire suitable additional employees as we expand our fleet. If we cannot upgrade our operational and financial systems effectively or recruit suitable additional employees our performance may suffer and our ability to expand our business further will be restricted.

***We are required by Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to evaluate our controls, which evaluation requires substantial resources. If these evaluations result in the identification of material weaknesses, we may be adversely affected until these weaknesses can be corrected.***

We are required to comply with a variety of laws, regulations and standards relating to corporate governance and public disclosure, including the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (which we refer to as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act), SEC regulations and the NASDAQ Stock Market rules. In particular, Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act requires management's annual review and evaluation of our internal control systems, and attestations as to the effectiveness of these systems by our independent public accounting firm. Our internal controls and procedures are tested on an annual basis. During the course of our annual testing, deficiencies may be identified that we may not be able to remediate to meet the deadline imposed for filing our annual reports. If we fail to maintain the adequacy of our internal controls, as such standards are modified, supplemented or amended from time to time, we may not be able to ensure that we can conclude on an ongoing basis that we have effective internal controls over financial reporting in accordance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. In addition, if we fail to correct any deficiencies we identify, we may not obtain an unqualified attestation report from our independent public accounting firm, which will be required for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter. Failure to achieve and maintain an effective internal control environment or obtain an unqualified report could have a material adverse effect on the market price of our common stock.

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***We may be unable to attract and retain key management personnel and other employees in the shipping industry, which may reduce the effectiveness of our management and lower our results of operations.***

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

***Our vessels may suffer damage and may face unexpected dry-docking costs, which could reduce our cash flow and impair our financial condition.***

If our vessels suffer damage, they may need to be repaired at a dry-docking facility. The costs of dry-dock repairs are unpredictable and can be substantial. We may have to pay dry-docking costs that our insurance does not cover. The loss of earnings while these vessels are being repaired and reconditioned, as well as the actual cost of these repairs, would decrease our earnings.

***Purchasing and operating previously owned, or secondhand, vessels may result in increased operating costs and vessels off-hire, which could adversely affect our earnings.***

Although we inspect the secondhand vessels that we acquire prior to purchase, this inspection does not provide us with the same knowledge about their condition and cost of any required (or anticipated) repairs that we would have had if these vessels had been built for and operated exclusively by us. Generally, we do not receive the benefit of warranties on secondhand vessels.

In general, the costs to maintain a vessel in good operating condition increase with the age of the vessel. The average age of our dry bulk carriers is currently approximately 13.72 years. Older vessels are typically less fuel efficient and more costly to maintain than more recently constructed vessels. Cargo insurance rates increase with the age of a vessel, making older vessels less desirable to charterers.

Governmental regulations or safety or other equipment standards related to the age of vessels may require expenditures for alterations, or the addition of new equipment, to our vessels and may restrict the type of activities in which the vessels may engage. We cannot assure you that, as our vessels age, market conditions will justify those expenditures or enable us to operate our vessels profitably during the remainder of their useful lives. If we sell vessels, it is not certain that the price for which we sell them will equal their carrying amount at that time.

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

Unless we maintain reserves or are able to borrow or raise funds for vessel replacement, we may be unable to replace the vessels in our fleet upon the expiration of their useful lives, which we expect to range from 25 years to 30 years, depending on the type of vessel. Our cash flows and income are dependent on the revenues earned by the chartering of our vessels to customers. If we are unable to replace the vessels in our fleet upon the expiration of their useful lives, our business, results of operations, financial condition and ability to pay dividends will be materially and adversely affected. Any reserves set aside for vessel replacement may not be available for dividends.

**Table of Contents*****Because we will generate all of our revenues in U.S. dollars but will incur a portion of our expenses in other currencies, exchange rate fluctuations could have an adverse impact on our results of operations.***

We will generate all of our revenues in U.S. dollars, but we expect that portions of our future expenses will be incurred in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. This difference could lead to fluctuations in net income due to changes in the value of the dollar relative to the other currencies, in particular the Euro. Expenses incurred in foreign currencies against which the dollar falls in value can increase, decreasing net income. For the year ended December 31, 2008, the fluctuation of the value of the dollar against the foreign currencies resulted in an impact of \$49,000. Further declines in the value of the dollar could lead to higher expenses payable by us.

***Investment in derivative instruments such as freight forward agreements could result in losses.***

From time to time in the future, we may take positions in derivative instruments including freight forward agreements, or FFAs. FFAs and other derivative instruments may be used to hedge a vessel owner's exposure to the charter market by providing for the sale of a contracted charter rate along a specified route and period of time. Upon settlement, if the contracted charter rate is less than the average of the rates, as reported by an identified index, for the specified route and time period, the seller of the FFA is required to pay the buyer an amount equal to the difference between the contracted rate and the settlement rate, multiplied by the number of days in the specified period. Conversely, if the contracted rate is greater than the settlement rate, the buyer is required to pay the seller the settlement sum. If we take positions in FFAs or other derivative instruments and do not correctly anticipate charter rate movements over the specified route and time period, we could suffer losses in the settling or termination of the FFA. This could adversely affect our results of operation and cash flow. As of December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, there were no freight forward agreements outstanding.

***We may not have adequate insurance to compensate us adequately for damage to, or loss of, our vessels.***

We procure hull and machinery insurance, protection and indemnity insurance, which includes environmental damage and pollution insurance and war risk insurance for our fleet. We currently maintain insurance against loss of hire for seven of our vessels, which covers business interruptions that result in the loss of use of a vessel. We can give no assurance that we are adequately insured against all other risks. We may not be able to obtain adequate insurance coverage for our fleet in the future. Our insurance policies contain deductibles for which we will be responsible and limitations and exclusions which may increase our costs. Moreover, we cannot assure that the insurers will not default on any claims they are required to pay. If our insurance is not enough to cover claims that may arise, we may not be able to repair any damage to our vessels or replace any vessel that is lost or may have to use our own funds for those purposes, thereby reducing our funds available to implement our business strategy.

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

Under the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the Code, 50% of the gross shipping income of a vessel owning or chartering corporation, such as ourselves and our subsidiaries, that is attributable to transportation that begins or ends, but that does not both begin and end, in the United States may be subject to a 4% United States federal income tax without allowance for deduction, unless that corporation qualifies for exemption from tax under Section 883 of the Code and the applicable Treasury Regulations recently promulgated thereunder.

We expect that we and each of our subsidiaries will qualify for this statutory tax exemption for 2006, 2007, 2008 and subsequent years. However, there are factual circumstances beyond our control that could cause us to fail to qualify for this tax exemption and thereby be subject to United States federal income tax on our United States source income. For example, we would fail to qualify for exemption under Section 883 of the Code for a particular tax year if shareholders, each of whom owned, actually or under applicable constructive ownership rules, a 5% or greater interest in the vote and value of the outstanding shares of our stock, owned in the aggregate 50% or more of the vote and value of the outstanding shares of our stock, and qualified shareholders as defined by the regulations to Section 883 do not own, directly or under applicable constructive ownership rules, sufficient shares in our closely-held block of stock to preclude the shares in the closely-held block that are not so owned from representing 50% or more of the value of our stock for more than half of the number of days during the taxable year. Establishing such ownership by qualified shareholders will depend upon the status of our direct and indirect individual shareholders as residents of qualifying jurisdictions and whether they own shares through bearer share arrangements and will require compliance with ownership certification procedures by individual shareholders that are residents of qualifying jurisdictions and by each

intermediary or other person in the chain of ownership between us and such individuals. Due to the factual nature of the issues involved, we can give no assurances on our tax-exempt status or that of any of our subsidiaries.

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If we or our subsidiaries are not entitled to exemption under Section 883 for any taxable year, we or our subsidiaries could be subject for those years to an effective 4% U.S. federal income tax on the shipping income these companies derive during the year that are attributable to the transport of cargoes to or from the United States. The imposition of this taxation would have a negative effect on our business and would result in decreased earnings available for distribution to our shareholders.

***U.S. tax authorities could treat us as a passive foreign investment company, which could have adverse U.S. federal income tax consequences to U.S. holders.***

A foreign corporation will be treated as a passive foreign investment company, or PFIC, for U.S. federal income tax purposes if either (1) at least 75% of its gross income for any taxable year consists of certain types of passive income or (2) at least 50% of the average value of the corporation's assets produce or are held for the production of 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. For purposes of these tests, income derived from the performance of services does not constitute passive income. U.S. shareholders of a PFIC are subject to a disadvantageous U.S. federal income tax regime with respect to the income derived by the PFIC, the distributions they receive from the PFIC and the gain, if any, they derive from the sale or other disposition of their shares in the PFIC.

Based on our currently anticipated operations, we do not believe that we will be a PFIC with respect to any taxable year. In this regard, we intend to treat the gross income we derive or are deemed to derive from our time chartering activities as services income, rather than rental income. Accordingly, we believe that our time chartering activities does not constitute passive income, and the assets that we own and operate in connection with the production of that income do not constitute passive assets.

There is, however, no direct legal authority under the PFIC rules addressing our proposed method of operation. Accordingly, no assurance can be given that the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, or IRS, or a court of law will accept our position, and there is a risk that the IRS or a court of law could determine that we are a PFIC. Moreover, no assurance can be given that we would not constitute a PFIC for any future taxable year if there were to be changes in the nature and extent of our operations.

If the IRS were to find that we are or have been a PFIC for any taxable year, our U.S. shareholders will face adverse U.S. tax consequences. Under the PFIC rules, unless those shareholders make an election available under the Code (which election could itself have adverse consequences for such shareholders), such shareholders would be liable to pay United States federal income tax at the then prevailing income tax rates on ordinary income plus interest upon excess distributions and upon any gain from the disposition of our common shares, as if the excess distribution or gain had been recognized ratably over the shareholder's holding period of our common shares.

***Legislation has been proposed in the United States which would prevent dividends on our shares from qualifying for certain preferential rates for U.S. federal income tax purposes.***

Qualified dividend income derived by noncorporate shareholders that are subject to U.S. federal income tax is currently subject to U.S. federal income taxation at reduced rates. We expect that under current law, so long as our shares are traded on the NASDAQ Global Market or the and we do not and have not qualified as a passive foreign investment company for U.S. federal income tax purposes, distributions treated as dividends for U.S. tax purposes on our shares will potentially be eligible (that is, eligible if certain conditions relating to the shareholder are satisfied) for treatment as qualified dividend income. Proposed legislation in the United States would, however, if enacted, make it unlikely that such distributions on our shares would be eligible for such treatment. As of the date hereof, no assurance can be given regarding whether or not such legislation will be enacted.

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**Risks Related to Our Common Stock**

***The market price of our common stock has been and may in the future be subject to significant fluctuations.***

The market price of our common stock has been and may in the future be subject to significant fluctuations as a result of many factors, some of which are beyond our control. Among the factors that have in the past and could in the future affect our stock price are:

quarterly variations in our results of operations;

changes in sales or earnings estimates or publication of research reports by analysts;

speculation in the press or investment community about our business or the shipping industry generally;

changes in market valuations of similar companies and stock market price and volume fluctuations generally;

strategic actions by us or our competitors such as acquisitions or restructurings;

regulatory developments;

additions or departures of key personnel;

general market conditions; and

domestic and international economic, market and currency factors unrelated to our performance.

The stock markets in general, and the markets for dry bulk shipping and shipping stocks in general, have experienced extreme volatility that has sometimes been unrelated to the operating performance of particular companies. These broad market fluctuations may adversely affect the trading price of our common stock.

***If holders of our warrants exercise their warrants to purchase shares of our common stock, you will experience immediate dilution.***

As of December 31, 2008, we had outstanding 150,000 Class A warrants issued to our initial shareholders. Of our publicly traded classes of warrants, we had outstanding as of December 31, 2008, 786,265 Class W warrants and 1,655,006 Class Z warrants. Each of these warrants is exercisable to purchase one share of our common stock at an exercise price of \$5.00 per share, and our Class A, Class W and Class Z warrants must be exercised for cash. Our Class A warrants expire July 29, 2011, our Class W warrants expire July 29, 2009, and our Class Z warrants expire July 29, 2011. As a result, if holders of our warrants exercise their warrants, we may issue up to 2,591,271 additional shares of our common stock at \$5.00 per share, which could cause our shareholders to be diluted.

***Two of our principal shareholders may effectively control the outcome of matters on which our shareholders are entitled to vote, including the election of directors and other significant corporate actions.***

Two of our principal shareholders, The Mida s Touch S.A. and FS Holdings Limited, controlled by Mr. Varouxakis and members of the Restis family, respectively, currently beneficially own approximately 26.2% of our outstanding common stock. While our principal shareholders have no agreement, arrangement or understanding relating to the voting of their shares, they may effectively control the outcome of matters on which our shareholders are entitled to vote, including the election of directors and other significant corporate actions. The interests of these shareholders may be different from your interests.

**Table of Contents*****Future sales of our 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. We may issue additional shares of our stock in the future and our shareholders may elect to sell large numbers of shares held by them from time to time.

***Because the Republic of the Marshall Islands, where we are incorporated, does not have a well-developed body of corporate law, shareholders may have fewer rights and protections than under typical United States law, such as Delaware, and shareholders may have difficulty in protecting their interest with regard to actions taken by our Board of Directors.***

Our corporate affairs are governed by amended and restated articles of incorporation and by-laws and by the Marshall Islands Business Corporations Act, or BCA. The provisions of the BCA resemble provisions of the corporation laws of a number of states in the United States. However, there have been 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. For example, under Marshall Islands law, a copy of the notice of any meeting of the shareholders must be given not less than 15 days before the meeting, whereas in Delaware such notice must be given not less than 10 days before the meeting. Therefore, if immediate shareholder action is required, a meeting may not be able to be convened as quickly as it can be convened under Delaware law. Also, under Marshall Islands law, any action required to be taken by a meeting of shareholders may only be taken without a meeting if consent is in writing and is signed by all of the shareholders entitled to vote, whereas under Delaware law action may be taken by consent if approved by the number of shareholders that would be required to approve such action at a meeting. Therefore, under Marshall Islands law, it may be more difficult for a company to take certain actions without a meeting even if a majority of the shareholders approve of such action. 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, public 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.

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

We, and all our subsidiaries, are or will be incorporated in jurisdictions outside the U.S. and substantially all of our assets and those of our subsidiaries and will be located outside the U.S. In addition, most of our directors and officers are or will be non-residents of the U.S., and all or a substantial portion of the assets of these non-residents are or will be located outside the U.S. As a result, it may be difficult or impossible for U.S. investors to serve process within the U.S. upon us, our subsidiaries, or our directors and officers, or to enforce a judgment against us for civil liabilities in U.S. courts. In addition, you should not assume that courts in the countries in which we or our subsidiaries are incorporated or where our or the assets of our subsidiaries are located would enforce judgments of U.S. courts obtained in actions against us or our subsidiaries based upon the civil liability provisions of applicable U.S. federal and state securities laws or would enforce, in original actions, liabilities against us or our subsidiaries based on those laws.

***Anti-takeover provisions in our organizational documents, and under Marshall Islands corporate law, could make it difficult for our shareholders to replace or remove our current Board of Directors or have the effect of discouraging, delaying or preventing a merger or acquisition, which could adversely affect the market price of our common stock.***

Several provisions of our amended and restated articles of incorporation and by-laws, and certain provisions of the Marshall Islands corporate law, could make it difficult for our shareholders to change the composition of our Board of Directors in any one year, preventing them from changing the composition of management. In addition, these provisions may discourage, delay or prevent a merger or acquisition that shareholders may consider favorable. These provisions include:



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authorizing our Board of Directors to issue blank check preferred stock without shareholder approval;

providing for a classified Board of Directors with staggered, three year terms;

prohibiting cumulative voting in the election of directors;

authorizing the removal of directors only for cause and only upon the affirmative vote of the holders of a two-thirds majority of the outstanding shares of our common shares, voting as a single class, entitled to vote for the directors;

limiting the persons who may call special meetings of shareholders;

establishing advance notice requirements for election to our Board of Directors or proposing matters that can be acted on by shareholders at shareholder meetings; and

limiting our ability to enter into business combination transactions with certain shareholders.

These anti-takeover provisions could substantially impede the ability of public shareholders to benefit from a change in control and, as a result, may adversely affect the market price of our common shares and your ability to realize any potential change of control premium.

**ITEM 4. INFORMATION ON THE COMPANY**

**Our Organization and Corporate Structure**

We were incorporated on April 23, 2004 by Ion G. Varouxakis, our chairman, chief executive officer and president, and two other co-founding shareholders under the name Adventure Holdings S.A. pursuant to the laws of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to serve as the parent holding company of our ship-owning entities. On April 27, 2005, we changed our name to FreeSeas Inc.

Our common stock, Class W warrants and Class Z warrants currently trade on the NASDAQ Global Market under the trading symbols FREE, FREEW and FREEZ, respectively.

On October 30, 2007, we completed a public offering of 11,000,000 shares of our common stock and in November 2007, the underwriters exercised their over-allotment option in full to purchase an additional 1,650,000 shares of our common stock, all at the price of \$8.25 per share. In addition, an aggregate of 1,803,356 of our Class B, Class W and Class Z warrants were exercised during 2007 and 127,873 Class W and 50,000 Class A warrants were exercised during 2008.

We became a public reporting company on December 15, 2005, when we completed a merger with Trinity Partners Acquisition Company Inc., a blank check company formed to serve as a vehicle to complete a business combination with an operating business, in which we were the surviving corporation. At the time of the merger we owned three dry bulk carriers. Each outstanding share of Trinity's common stock and Class B common stock was converted into the right to receive an equal number of shares of our common stock, and each Trinity Class W warrant and Class Z warrant was converted into the right to receive an equal number of our Class W warrants and Class Z warrants.

In January 2007, Mr. Varouxakis purchased all of the shares of common stock owned by the two other co-founding shareholders. He simultaneously sold shares of common stock owned by him to FS Holdings Limited, an entity controlled by the Restis family, and to certain other investors. Immediately following these transactions, our Board of Directors appointed Mr. Varouxakis Chairman of the Board and President, the two other co-founding shareholders and one other director resigned from the Board of Directors, and two new directors were appointed to fill the vacancies.

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Our executive offices are located at 89 Akti Miaouli & 4 Mavrokordatou Street, 185 38, Piraeus, Greece and our telephone number is 00-30-210-452-8770.

**Our Fleet**

We are an international dry bulk shipping company currently focusing on the Handysize and Handymax sectors, which we believe will enable us to transport a wider variety of cargoes and pursue a greater number of chartering opportunities than if we owned larger vessels. We may, however, acquire larger dry bulk vessels if market conditions warrant and we identify appropriate opportunities. Our existing fleet consists of seven Handysize vessels and two Handymax vessels that carry a variety of dry bulk commodities, including coal, grains, and iron ore which are referred to as major bulks, as well as bauxite, phosphate, fertilizers, steel products, sugar and rice, or minor bulks. The aggregate dwt of our fleet is approximately 268,166 dwt, the net book value of our fleet is approximately \$275.41 million, and the average age of our fleet is approximately 13.72 years. We are continuing to expand our fleet, as described below:

<b>Vessel</b>	<b>DWT</b>	<b>Country Built</b>	<b>Year Built</b>	<b>Vessel Type</b>	<b>Purchase Price</b>
<i>Free Destiny</i>	25,240	Bulgaria	1982	Handysize	\$7.60 million
<i>Free Envoy</i>	26,318	Japan	1984	Handysize	\$9.50 million
<i>Free Goddess</i>	22,051	Japan	1995	Handysize	\$25.20 million
<i>Free Hero</i>	24,318	Japan	1995	Handysize	\$25.25 million
<i>Free Impala</i>	24,111	China	1997	Handysize	\$37.50 million
<i>Free Jupiter</i>	47,777	China	2002	Handymax	\$47.00 million
<i>Free Knight</i>	24,111	China	1998	Handysize	\$39.25 million
<i>Free Lady</i>	50,246	Japan	2003	Handymax	\$65.20 million
<i>Free Maverick</i>	23,994	Japan	1998	Handysize	\$39.60 million

See Vessel Employment below for a description of each our vessel's current employment status.

**Competitive Strengths**

We believe that we possess the following competitive strengths:

***Experienced management team.*** Our management team has significant experience in commercial, technical, operational and financial areas of our business and has developed relationships with leading charterers, ship brokers and financial institutions. Since 1997, Ion G. Varouxakis, our chairman, chief executive officer and president, has served in various management roles for shipping companies in the dry bulk sector.

***Affiliation with a leading shipping group.*** FS Holdings Limited and Benbay Limited, entities controlled by the Restis family, are collectively one of our largest shareholders with 3,240,653 shares of our common stock as of December 31, 2008. The Restis family has been engaged in the international shipping industry for more than 40 years and their interests include ownership and operation of more than 60 vessels in several segments of the shipping industry, as well as cargo and chartering interests. The Restis family group is regarded as one of the largest independent ship-owning and management groups in the shipping industry. Our management believes that affiliation with and access to the resources of companies controlled by the Restis family commercially enhances the operations of our fleet, our ability to obtain employment for our vessels and our ability to obtain more favorable financing.

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***Strong customer relationships.*** Through Free Bulkers, our ship management company, and Safbulk, a Restis family controlled management company, we have established and maintained customer relationships with leading charterers around the world, such as major international industrial companies, commodity producers and traders and a number of chartering brokerage houses. Free Bulkers has subcontracted the charter and post-charter management of our fleet to Safbulk. We believe that the established customer base and the reputation of our fleet managers enable us to secure favorable employment for our vessels with well-known charterers. In addition, in light of current economic conditions, we have worked to maintain our relationships with our customers by negotiating strategically appropriate modifications to charters when determined to be in our best long-term interests.

***Stable cash flow from well-established and reputable charterers.*** A majority of the vessels in our fleet may be employed on time charters to well-established and reputable charterers. We believe these time charters will provide us with steady cash flow and high vessel utilization rates while limiting our exposure to freight rate volatility.

***Efficient operations.*** Through Free Bulkers, we believe that we have established a strong track record in the technical management of dry bulk carriers, which has enabled us to maintain cost-efficient operations. We actively monitor and control vessel operating expenses while maintaining the high quality of our fleet through regular inspections, proactive maintenance programs, high standards of operations, and retaining and training qualified crew members.

## **Business Strategy**

The following are highlights of our business strategy:

***Leveraging our strategic relationships.*** Free Bulkers, Safbulk, the Restis family and their affiliates have extensive experience and relationships in the ship brokerage and financial industries as well as directly with industrial charterers and commodity traders. We use these relationships to identify chartering and acquisition opportunities and make available to us sources of additional financing, make contacts, and gain market intelligence.

***Handysize and Handymax focus.*** Our fleet of dry bulk carriers will consist primarily of Handysize and Handymax vessels, although we may consider acquiring larger vessels if we identify appropriate opportunities. Based on the relatively low number of dry bulk newbuildings on order in the Handysize and Handymax categories, we believe there will be continued high demand for such vessels. Handysize and Handymax vessels are typically shallow-drafted and equipped with onboard cranes. This makes Handysize and Handymax vessels more versatile and able to access a wider range of loading and discharging ports than larger ships, which are unable to service many ports due to their size or the local port infrastructure. Many countries in the Asia Pacific region, including China, as well as countries in Africa and South America, have shallow ports. We believe that our vessels, and any Handysize or Handymax vessels that we acquire, will enable us to transport a wider variety of cargoes and to pursue a greater number of chartering opportunities than if we owned larger dry bulk vessels. Handysize and Handymax vessels have also historically achieved greater charter rate stability than larger dry bulk vessels.

***Renew and expand our fleet.*** We intend to continue growing our fleet in a disciplined manner through acquisition of well-maintained, secondhand vessels, preferably not more than 15 years old. We perform technical review and financial analysis of each potential acquisition and only purchase vessels as market conditions and opportunities dictate and warrant. We are focused on purchasing such vessels, because we believe that secondhand vessels, when operated in a cost-efficient manner, should provide significant value given the prevailing charter rate environment and currently provide better returns as compared to newbuildings. Furthermore, as part of our fleet renewal, we will continue to sell vessels in order to renew our fleet when we believe it is in the best interests of FreeSeas and our shareholders.



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**Maintain balanced time charter employment.** We intend to strategically deploy a substantial portion of our fleet under period employment and our remaining vessels under spot employment depending on market conditions. We actively pursue time charter coverage to provide adequate cash flow to cover our fleet's fixed costs, consisting of vessel operating expenses, management fees, debt repayment and interest expense, general and administrative expenses, and dry-docking costs for the upcoming 12-month period. We look to deploy part of our fleet through spot charters, depending on our view of the direction of the markets and other tactical or strategic considerations. We believe this balanced employment strategy will provide us with more predictable operating cash flows and sufficient downside protection, while allowing us to participate in the potential upside of the spot market during periods of rising charter rates.

**Use of flexible financial strategy.** We have used and intend to continue to use a combination of bank debt, cash flow and proceeds from equity offerings to fund our vessel acquisitions. We assess the level of debt we will incur in light of our ability to repay that debt based on the level of cash flow we expect to generate pursuant to our chartering strategy and our operating cost structure. As of December 31, 2008, our ratio of debt to total capitalization is approximately 57%. We believe that the maintenance of a reasonable ratio of debt to total capitalization will be important to our ability to borrow funds to make additional vessel acquisitions, and we have determined to suspend cash dividends to our shareholders while we focus on reducing our debt.

**Vessel Employment**

We have employed and continue to employ our vessels in the spot charter market, under period time charters and in dry bulk carrier pools. As of the date of this report, our vessels, and those for which acquisitions are pending, are employed as indicated in the table below:

Vessel Name	Type	Dwt	Employment
M/V Free Destiny	Handysize	25,240	Spot time charter trip of two to four months at \$4,000 per day through April/June 2009
M/V Free Envoy	Handysize	26,318	Balance of time charter at \$20,000 per day through July/August 2009
M/V Free Hero	Handysize	24,318	60-day spot time charter through April 2009 at \$4,500 per day
M/V Free Jupiter	Handymax	47,777	Balance of time charter through February 2011 at \$32,000 per day for first year, \$28,000 per day for second year and \$24,000 per day for third year
M/V Free Goddess	Handysize	22,051	Balance of time charter through September 2009 at \$8,000 per day plus 50% profit sharing above \$10,000 per day, which increases to \$10,500 per day on September 15, 2009 through January/February 2010 plus 50% profit sharing above \$12,500 per day
M/V Free Knight	Handysize	24,111	40-day spot time charter through April 2009 at \$7,000 per day
M/V Free Impala	Handysize	24,111	45-day spot time charter through March 2009 at \$6,500 per day
M/V Free Lady	Handymax	50,246	Balance of time charter at \$51,150 per day through May 2010
M/V Free Maverick	Handysize	23,994	Balance of time charter through April 2009 at \$32,000 per day

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A spot time charter and a period time charter are each contracts to charter a vessel for an agreed period of time at a set daily rate. Under both types of charters, the charterer pays for voyage expenses such as port, canal and fuel costs and we pay for vessel operating expenses, which include crew costs, provisions, deck and engine stores, lubricating oil, insurance, maintenance and repairs. We are also responsible for each vessel's intermediate dry-docking and special survey costs. Lastly, vessels can be chartered under bareboat contracts whereby the charterer is responsible for the vessel's maintenance and operations, as well as all voyage expenses.

Vessels operating on period time charter provide more predictable cash flows, but can yield lower profit margins than vessels operating in the spot market during periods characterized by favorable market conditions. Vessels operating in the spot market generate revenues that are less predictable but may enable us to increase profit margins during periods of increasing dry bulk charter rates. However, we would then be exposed to the risk of declining dry bulk charter rates, which may be higher or lower than the rates at which we chartered our vessels. We are constantly evaluating opportunities for period time charters, but only expect to enter into additional period time charters if we can obtain contract terms that satisfy our criteria.

Although we have not previously done so, we may from time to time utilize forward freight agreements that enable us to enter into contractual obligations to sell the spot charter forward and thereby reduce our exposure to a potential deterioration of the charter market.

**Customers**

During the twelve months ended December 31, 2008, we had contracts with four charterers. We believe that our customer base is composed of established charterers, including MUR Shipping FZCO and Premuda S.p.A.

**Management of Operations and Fleet**

Pursuant to our amended and restated services agreement with Free Bulkers, a Marshall Islands corporation owned by Ion G. Varouxakis, our chairman, chief executive officer and president, our operations are executed and supervised by Free Bulkers, based on the strategy devised by the board of directors and subject to the approval of our board of directors as described below. The amended services agreement is for a term of 10 years and can be terminated by either party upon prior written notice in certain circumstances. Free Bulkers is entitled to a termination fee if the agreement is terminated upon a change of control as defined in the agreement. We pay Free Bulkers a monthly fee of \$100,000 (based on an exchange rate of \$1.35 to 1.00) in aggregate for these services. Free Bulkers provides us with the following services:

*General Administration.* Free Bulkers provides us with general administrative, office and support services necessary for our operations and our fleet, including technical and clerical personnel, communication, accounting, and data processing services.

*Financial Accounting Services.* Free Bulkers maintains our books, records and accounts and provides all services as are necessary in connection with our compliance with the rules promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) and the NASDAQ Stock Market relating to the preparation and maintenance of the our accounting records in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principals (U.S. GAAP), preparing and filing financial statements with the SEC and NASDAQ in accordance with applicable financial reporting requirements, and developing, implementing, monitoring and assessing our internal controls;

*Sale and Purchase of Vessels.* Free Bulkers advises our board of directors when opportunities arise to purchase, including through newbuildings, or to sell any vessels. All decisions to purchase or sell vessels require the approval of our board of directors. Any purchases or sales of vessels approved by our board of directors are arranged and completed by Free Bulkers. This involves the appointment of superintendents to inspect and take delivery of vessels and to monitor compliance with the terms and conditions of the purchase contracts.

We also contract the technical and commercial management of our vessels to Free Bulkers. Free Bulkers has a separate management contract with each of our ship-owning subsidiaries and provides a wide range of services on a fixed fee per vessel basis. These services include vessel operations, maintenance, regulatory compliance, crewing, supervising dry-docking and repairs, arranging insurance for vessels, vessel supplying, advising on the purchase and sale of vessels, and performing certain accounting and other administrative services, including financial reporting and internal controls requirements.



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Free Bulkers has entered into a sub-management agreement with Safbulk, an affiliate of FS Holdings Limited, one of our principal shareholders. Safbulk and FS Holdings Limited are controlled by the Restis family. Safbulk has agreed to perform charter and post-charter management services for our fleet, including obtaining and negotiating vessel employment and related services, freight calculations, correspondence with charterers, and employment of charter brokers. Free Bulkers has agreed to pay to Safbulk 1.25% of gross hire or freight for vessels chartered through Safbulk, except for the M/V *Free Hero* and the M/V *Free Maverick* where the fee is 0.625%, commencing with the charters secured by it for the M/V *Free Envoy* and the M/V *Free Destiny* in March 2007. This agreement is for an initial one-year term and renews automatically until terminated by either party, with or without cause, upon one month's notice. We believe that the reputation of Safbulk, and its long-standing relationships with charterers and charter brokers, enhances the commercial operation of our fleet and our ability to obtain employment for our fleet, while operational coordination is maintained by Free Bulkers. We believe that using Free Bulkers and Safbulk to perform these functions provides us experienced technical and commercial management for our fleet and enables us to better manage our costs.

Free Bulkers currently manages only our vessels, but we anticipate that Free Bulkers may manage any additional vessels we may acquire in the future. Safbulk performs management services to other international shipping entities, including the Restis group of companies.

Pursuant to the management agreements, we pay Free Bulkers a monthly (pro rata for the calendar days) management fee of \$15,000 (effective as of January 1, 2008, the fee is paid on the basis of an exchange rate of \$1.30 to 1.00) per vessel, paid in advance, from the date of signing the memorandum of agreement for the purchase of the vessel until two months after delivery of the vessel to its new owners pursuant to its subsequent sale. In addition, we have agreed to pay Free Bulkers a 1% commission on the gross purchase price of any new vessels acquired or the gross sales price of any vessels we sell with the assistance of Free Bulkers. We also reimburse, at cost, the travel and other personnel expenses of the Free Bulkers staff, including the per diem paid by Free Bulkers to its staff, when they are required to attend our vessels at port. Our ship management agreements with Free Bulkers remain in effect indefinitely unless, in each case, it is terminated by either party upon two months' advance notice.

Generally, Free Bulkers is not liable to us for any losses or damages, if any, that may result from its management of our fleet unless Free Bulkers or its employees act with negligence or gross negligence or commit a willful default with respect to one of our vessels. Pursuant to its agreement with us, Free Bulkers' liability for such acts, except in certain limited circumstances, may not exceed ten times the annual management fee payable by the applicable subsidiary to Free Bulkers.

We believe that we pay Free Bulkers industry-standard fees for these services.

**Crewing and Employees**

Free Bulkers, our affiliate, employs approximately 19 people, all of whom are shore-based. In addition, Free Bulkers is responsible for recruiting, either directly or through a crewing agent, the senior officers and all other crew members for our vessels. We currently employ two officers and no other employees.

**Loans for Vessels**

We and our subsidiaries have obtained financing from affiliated and unaffiliated lenders for our vessels.

On August 12, 2008, the Company amended the credit facility of January 21, 2008 with the Hollandsche Bank Unie ( HBU ), and was granted a new credit facility of \$34,600,000 from HBU in addition to the then-outstanding facility of \$32,125,000. The breakdown of the facility amount of \$66,725,000 is as follows: (i) the pre-existing overdraft facility I in the outstanding amount of \$2,500,000; (ii) an unused overdraft facility II in the amount of \$1,375,000, the availability of which will be reduced quarterly by \$125,000 beginning three months after the first draw down date; (iii) an overdraft facility III in the amount of \$3,000,000, which can be drawn down when the overdraft facility IV has been repaid and, except for earlier alteration the limit of the overdraft facility III, will be reduced to zero on April 1, 2016; (iv) an overdraft facility IV in the amount of \$34,600,000, which has been used to finance a portion of the purchase price of the M/V *Free Maverick*; and (v) the then-outstanding amount of \$25,250,000 of the rollover eight-year loan facility, the principal amount of which was \$27,000,000. The \$27,000,000 was drawn on March 18, 2008 to finance a portion of the purchase price of the M/V *Free Knight*.





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As of December 31, 2008, the outstanding loan balances under the amended HBU facility amounts to \$21,750,000 for the M/V *Free Knight*, \$32,100,000 for the M/V *Free Maverick* and \$0 for the M/V *Free Destiny*. The remaining undrawn availability as of December 31, 2008 amounted to \$1,125,000.

In March 2009, we and HBU entered into a term sheet pursuant to which HBU agreed to refinance the balloon payment due on August 1, 2009 on overdraft facility IV amounting to \$27,100,000 with a new 3.5 year facility which is payable as follows: 13 installments of \$600,000 beginning on August 1, 2009 and one balloon payment of \$19,300,000 on November 1, 2012. The new facility bears interest at the rate of 3.00% above LIBOR, which will be increased by a liquidity premium, to be determined on August 1, 2009. The existing conditional HBU overdraft facility III amounting to \$3,000,000 has been terminated upon the refinancing of the balloon payment in August 2009. In addition, HBU has amended the existing value to loan covenants to be set forth in the loan agreement that we and HBU will enter into in accordance with the term sheet. See **Loan Agreement Covenants**.

Credit Suisse has provided us with a \$91,000,000 rollover loan facility in two tranches; (i) Tranche A of \$48,700,000, for the refinancing of the M/V *Free Hero*, the M/V *Free Goddess* and the M/V *Free Jupiter*, which replaced previous financings of \$68,000,000 by HSH Nordbank under its senior loan and by BTMU Capital Corporation under its original \$21,500,000 junior loan; and (ii) Tranche B of \$42,300,000 for partly financing the acquisition of the M/V *Free Lady* acquired on July 7, 2008. As of December 31, 2008, the aggregate amount outstanding under the Credit Suisse facility is \$81,750,000. On March 23, 2009, in connection with the waiver of certain loan covenants, Credit Suisse increased the interest payable from March 23, 2009 to March 31, 2010 to 2.25% above LIBOR.

We have obtained a loan of \$26,250,000 from First Business Bank S.A. of Greece ( FBB ) to partially finance the acquisition of the M/V *Free Impala*, which as of December 31, 2008 had an outstanding balance of \$24,750,000. On March 17, 2009, in connection with the waiver of certain loan covenants, FBB increased the interest payment to 2.00% above LIBOR.

As of April 14, 2009, the total indebtedness of the Company is \$151,350,000.

All of the above credit facilities bear interest at LIBOR plus a margin, ranging from 2% to 3.00%, and are secured by mortgages on the financed vessels and assignments of vessels' earnings and insurance coverage proceeds. They also include affirmative and negative financial covenants of the borrowers, including maintenance of operating accounts, minimum cash deposits and minimum market values. Each borrower is restricted under its respective loan agreement from incurring additional indebtedness or changing the vessels' flag without the lender's consent, and distributing earnings only in case of default under any credit agreement.

**Loan Agreement Covenants and Waivers**

Our loan agreements contain various financial covenants that require us to, among other things:

- maintain the value of the security that we provide to our lenders, generally known as value to loan, in ratios ranging from 130% to 147%, such that if the market value of our vessels or other assets pledged as security declines below the required value, we are obligated to post additional collateral within a specified period of time to cover the amount of the shortfall or prepay a portion of the outstanding loan such that the value to loan ratio is within the required ratio;

- maintain minimum cash balances per mortgaged vessel;

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the leverage ratio of the corporate guarantor will not at any time exceed 68%;

maintain the ratio of EBITDA, which is the Company's consolidated pre-tax profits before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, over Net Interest Expenses, which is the interest paid net of any interest rate hedge agreements at greater than 3x;

maintain corporate liquidity, also known as available cash, to at least \$3,000,000;

If we are not in compliance with the covenants in our loan agreements such as the ones identified above, including due to a sharp decline in the market value of our vessels, we may be at risk of default under our loan agreements. If we default, our lender would have the option of accelerating our loan, meaning that we could be required to immediately pay the amount due on our loan including accrued interest. If we were unable to pay the accelerated indebtedness due, or to refinance under our loan agreements, our lenders may foreclose on their liens, in which case we would lose vessels in our fleet.

We may need to seek permission from our lenders in order to engage in some corporate actions that would otherwise put us at risk of default. Any declines in the market value of our vessels and in the dry bulk charter market may increase our risk of default under the covenants described above. Our lenders' interests may be different from ours and we may not be able to obtain our lenders' permission or waivers when needed. This may limit our ability to continue to conduct our operations, pay dividends to you, finance our future operations, make acquisitions or pursue business opportunities.

As of December 31, 2008, we were not in compliance with certain loan covenants and have obtained the following waivers:

On March 20, 2009, HBU agreed to waive any breach of the 70% loan to value ratio in our existing credit agreements during the period from October 1, 2008 through July 1, 2010. A new value to loan covenant will be added in the existing credit agreement, as well as the credit agreement for the new \$27,100,000 loan, and will be as follows:

100% commencing July 1, 2010

110% commencing July 1, 2011

120% commencing July 1, 2012

125% commencing December 31, 2012

In addition, commencing March 1, 2009, interest due on the continuing term loan and overdraft facilities will increase from 1.30% above LIBOR to 2.25% above LIBOR. Interest will decrease to 1.30% above LIBOR at such time as we meet the originally agreed loan to value ratio of 70%.

On March 23, 2009, Credit Suisse agreed to waive any breach of the 135% value to loan covenant from October 1, 2008 until March 31, 2010. In consideration of the waiver, we have agreed to a prepayment of \$5,000,000 on July 31, 2009. In addition, from March 23, 2009 until March 31, 2010, the interest payable on the loan shall increase to 2.25% above LIBOR from 1.25% above LIBOR.

On March 17, 2009, FBB agreed to waive any breach of the 130% value to loan covenant for the mortgaged vessel and any breach of our ratio of total liabilities to total assets from January 1, 2009 until January 1, 2010. Further, FBB has confirmed that no event of default had occurred as of December 31, 2008. Effective as January 1, 2009, the interest payable increased from 1.375% above LIBOR to 2.00% above LIBOR.

### **Competition**

We operate in markets that are highly competitive and based primarily on supply and demand. Ownership of dry bulk carriers is highly fragmented and is divided among approximately 1,400 dry bulk carrier owners. We compete for charters on the basis of price, vessel location, size, age and condition of the vessel, as well as on our reputation. There are many dry bulk shipping companies which are publicly traded on the U.S. stock markets, such as Euroseas Ltd., Dryships Inc., Diana Shipping Inc., Eagle Bulk Shipping Inc. and Excel Maritime Carriers Ltd., which are significantly larger than we are and have substantially more capital, more and larger vessels, personnel, revenue and profits and which are in competition with us. There is no assurance that we can successfully compete with such companies for charters or other business.



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Free Bulkers arranges our charters (whether spot charters, period time charters, bareboat charters or pools) through the use of brokers, who negotiate the terms of the charters based on market conditions. We compete with other owners of dry bulk carriers in the Capesize, Panamax, Handysize and Handymax sectors. Charters for our vessels are negotiated by Free Bulkers utilizing a worldwide network of shipbrokers. These shipbrokers advise Free Bulkers on a continuous basis of the availability of cargo for any particular vessel. There may be several shipbrokers involved in any one charter. The negotiation for a charter typically begins prior to the completion of the previous charter in order to avoid any idle time. The terms of the charter are based on industry standards.

**Seasonality**

Coal, iron ore and grains, which are the major bulks of the dry bulk shipping industry, are somewhat seasonal in nature. The energy markets primarily affect the demand for coal, with increases during hot summer periods when air conditioning and refrigeration require more electricity and towards the end of the calendar year in anticipation of the forthcoming winter period. The demand for iron ore tends to decline in the summer months because many of the major steel users, such as automobile makers, reduce their level of production significantly during the summer holidays. Grains are completely seasonal as they are driven by the harvest within a climate zone. Because three of the five largest grain producers (the United States of America, Canada and the European Union) are located in the northern hemisphere and the other two (Argentina and Australia) are located in the southern hemisphere, harvests occur throughout the year and grains required dry bulk shipping accordingly.

**Environmental and Other Regulations**

Government regulation significantly affects the ownership and operation of our vessels. The vessels are subject to international conventions and national, state and local laws and regulations in force in the countries in which our vessels may operate or are registered.

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 administration (country of registry) and charterers. Certain of these entities require us to obtain permits, licenses, financial assurances and certificates for the operation of our vessels. Failure to maintain necessary permits or approvals could require us to incur substantial costs or temporarily suspend operation of one or more of our vessels.

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 industry. Increasing environmental concerns have created a demand for vessels that conform to the stricter environmental standards. We are required to maintain operating standards for all of our vessels that will emphasize operational safety, quality maintenance, continuous training of its officers and crews and compliance with U.S. and international regulations. We believe that the operation of our vessels is in substantial compliance with applicable environmental laws and regulations; however, because such laws and regulations are frequently changed and may impose increasingly stricter requirements, such future requirements 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***

The United Nations International Maritime Organization, or IMO, has negotiated international conventions that impose liability for oil pollution in international waters and a signatory's territorial waters. In September 1997, the IMO adopted Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships to address air pollution from ships. It received the required approval of fifteen states on May 2004 and Annex VI became effective in May 2005. Annex VI sets limits on sulfur oxide and nitrogen oxide emissions from ship exhausts and prohibits deliberate emissions of ozone depleting substances, such as chlorofluorocarbons. Annex VI also includes a global cap on the sulfur content of fuel oil and allows for special areas to be established with more stringent controls on sulfur emissions. Compliance with these requirements could require the installation of expensive emission controls and could have an adverse financial impact on the operation of our vessels. We have developed a plan to comply with the Annex VI regulations, and we believe we are in substantial compliance with Annex VI. Additional or new conventions, laws and regulations may be adopted that could adversely affect our ability to operate our ships.



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The operation of our vessels is also affected by the requirements set forth in the IMO's Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and Pollution Prevention, or the ISM Code. The ISM Code requires shipowners and bareboat charterers to develop and maintain an extensive Safety Management System that includes the adoption of a safety and environmental protection policy setting forth instructions and procedures for safe operation and describing procedures for dealing with emergencies. The failure of a shipowner or management company 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. Currently, each of our vessels is ISM Code-certified. However, there can be no assurance that such certification will be maintained indefinitely.

***The U.S. Oil Pollution Act of 1990***

The United States Oil Pollution Act of 1990, or OPA, established an extensive regulatory and liability regime for the protection and clean-up of the environment from oil spills. OPA affects all owners and operators whose vessels trade in the United States, its territories and possessions or whose vessels operate in waters of the United States, which includes the United States territorial sea and its 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone.

Under OPA, vessel owners, operators, charterers and management companies 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 removal costs and other damages arising from discharges or threatened discharges of oil from their vessels, including bunkers (fuel).

As a result of amendments to OPA that became effective in July 2006, the liability of responsible parties for dry bulk vessels is limited to the greater of \$950 per gross ton or \$0.8 million (subject to possible adjustment for inflation). 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.

We currently maintain pollution liability coverage as part of our protection and indemnity insurance for each of our vessels in the amount of \$1 billion per incident. If the damages from a catastrophic pollution liability incident exceed our insurance coverage, the payment of those damages may materially decrease our net income.

OPA requires owners and operators of vessels to establish and maintain with the United States Coast Guard evidence of financial responsibility sufficient to meet their potential liabilities under OPA. Current Coast Guard regulations require evidence of financial responsibility in the amount of \$900 per gross ton for non-tank vessels, which includes an OPA limitation on liability of \$600 per gross ton and the U.S. Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act liability limit of \$300 per gross ton. We expect the Coast Guard to increase the amounts of financial responsibility to reflect the July 2006 increases in OPA liability. Under the regulations, vessel owners and operators may evidence their financial responsibility by showing proof of insurance, surety bond, self-insurance, or guaranty. Upon satisfactory demonstration of financial responsibility, a Certificate of Financial Responsibility, or COFR, is issued by the United States Coast Guard. This certificate must be carried aboard the vessel to comply with these financial responsibility regulations. We have complied with these financial responsibility regulations by obtaining a COFR for five of our vessels and carrying such COFRs on each of these vessels. These COFRs are effective January 2007 through April 2011.

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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. In some cases, states, which have enacted such legislation, have not yet issued implementing regulations defining vessels owners responsibilities under these laws. We currently comply, and intend to continue to comply in the future, with all applicable state regulations in the ports where our vessels call.

***The United States Clean Water Act***

The U.S. Clean Water Act, or CWA, prohibits the discharge of oil or hazardous substances in navigable waters and imposes strict liability in the form of penalties for any unauthorized discharges. The CWA also imposes substantial liability for the costs of removal, remediation and damages and complements the remedies available under the more recent OPA and CERCLA.

Currently, under U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or the EPA, regulations that have been in place since 1978, vessels are exempt from the requirement to obtain CWA permits for the discharge in U.S. ports of ballast water and other substances incidental to their normal operation. However, on March 30, 2005, the United States District Court for the Northern District of California ruled in *Northwest Environmental Advocate v. EPA*, 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 5373, that the EPA exceeded its authority in creating an exemption for ballast water. On September 18, 2006, the court issued an order invalidating the blanket exemption in the EPA's regulations for all discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel as of September 30, 2008, and directing the EPA to develop a system for regulating all discharges from vessels by that date. Under the court's ruling, owners and operators of vessels visiting U.S. ports would be required to comply with any CWA permitting program to be developed by the EPA or face penalties. Although the EPA has appealed this decision to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, we cannot predict the outcome of this litigation. If the District Court's order is ultimately upheld, we will incur certain costs to obtain CWA permits for our vessels and meet any treatment requirements, although we do not expect that these costs would be material.

***Other Environmental Initiatives***

The European Union is considering legislation that will affect the operation of vessels and the liability of owners for oil pollution. It is difficult to predict what legislation, if any, may be adopted by the European Union or any other country or authority.

The U.S. 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. The United States Coast Guard adopted regulations under NISA, which became effective in August 2004, that impose mandatory ballast water management practices for all vessels equipped with ballast water tanks entering U.S. waters. These requirements can be met by performing mid-ocean ballast exchange, which is the exchange of ballast water on the waters beyond the exclusive economic zone from an area more than 200 miles from any shore, by retaining ballast water on board the ship, or by using environmentally sound alternative ballast water management methods approved by the United States Coast Guard. (However, mid-ocean ballast exchange is mandatory for ships heading to the Great Lakes or Hudson Bay.) Mid-ocean ballast exchange is the primary method for compliance with the United States Coast Guard regulations, since holding ballast water can prevent ships from performing cargo operations upon arrival in the United States, and alternative methods are still under development. Vessels that are unable to conduct mid-ocean ballast exchange due to voyage or safety concerns may discharge minimum amounts of ballast water (in areas other than the Great Lakes and the Hudson River), provided that they comply with recordkeeping requirements and document the reasons they could not follow the required ballast water management requirements. The United States Coast Guard is developing a proposal to establish ballast water discharge standards, which could set maximum acceptable discharge limits for various invasive species, and/or lead to requirements for active treatment of ballast water. A number of bills relating to regulation of ballast water management have been recently introduced in the U.S. Congress, but it is difficult to predict which, if any, will be enacted into law.

At the international level, the IMO adopted an International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships Ballast Water and Sediments, or the BWM Convention, in February 2004. The BWM Convention's implementing regulations call for a phased introduction of mandatory ballast water exchange requirements (beginning in 2009), to be replaced in time with mandatory concentration limits. The BWM Convention will not enter into force until 12 months after it has been adopted by 30 states, the combined merchant fleets of which represent not less than 35% of the gross



tonnage of the world's merchant shipping. As of December 31, 2008, the BWM Convention has been adopted by 18 states, representing 15.36% of the world's tonnage.

**Table of Contents*****Vessel Security Regulation***

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, in July 2003, the U.S. Coast Guard issued regulations requiring the implementation of certain security requirements aboard vessels operating in waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States of America. Similarly, in December 2002, amendments to SOLAS created a new chapter of the convention dealing specifically with maritime security. The new chapter went 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 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.

The U.S. Coast Guard regulations, intended to align with international maritime security standards, exempt non-U.S. vessels from MTSA vessel security measures provided such vessels have on board, by July 1, 2004, a valid International Ship Security Certificate that attests to the vessel's compliance with SOLAS security requirements and the ISPS Code. Our vessels are in compliance with the various security measures addressed by the MTSA, SOLAS and the ISPS Code. We do not believe these additional requirements will have a material financial impact on our operations.

***Inspection by Classification Societies***

The hull and machinery of every commercial vessel must be classed by a classification society authorized by its country of registry. The classification society certifies that a vessel is safe and seaworthy in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations of the country of registry of the vessel and SOLAS. The M/V *Free Destiny* and the M/V *Free Maverick* are currently classed with Lloyd's Register of Shipping. The M/V *Free Envoy* is classed with Korean Register of Shipping. The M/V *Free Hero* and the M/V *Free Jupiter* are classed with Nippon Kaiji Kyokai, the Japanese Classification Society. The M/V *Free Goddess* is classed with Germanischer Lloyd, the German Classification Society. The M/V *Free Knight*, the M/V *Free Impala* and the M/V *Free Lady* are classed with Bureau Veritas. ISM and ISPS certifications have been awarded to all of our vessels and Free Bulk carriers by Lloyd's Register of Shipping.

A vessel must undergo annual surveys, intermediate surveys, dry-dockings and special surveys. In lieu of a special survey, a vessel's machinery may be on a continuous survey cycle, under which the machinery would be surveyed periodically over a five-year period. Our vessels are on special survey cycles for hull inspection and continuous survey cycles for machinery inspection. Every vessel is also required to be dry-docked every two to three years for inspection of the underwater parts of such vessel.

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The table below lists the next dry-docking and special surveys scheduled for our fleet, to the extent such dates are known as of the date of this annual report:

<b>Vessel</b>	<b>Next Intermediate Dry-docking</b>	<b>Next Special Survey Dry-docking</b>
<i>Free Destiny</i>	Third quarter 2010	Third quarter 2012
<i>Free Envoy</i>	Third quarter 2011	Third quarter 2013
<i>Free Goddess</i>	Third quarter 2013	Third quarter 2010
<i>Free Hero</i>	Fourth quarter 2013	Fourth quarter 2010
<i>Free Impala</i>	Third quarter 2009	Third quarter 2012
<i>Free Jupiter</i>	Second quarter 2010	Second quarter 2012
<i>Free Knight</i>	Third quarter 2010	Second quarter 2013
<i>Free Lady</i>	Third quarter 2011	Second quarter 2013
<i>Free Maverick</i>	Second quarter 2011	First quarter 2010

If any vessel does not maintain its class and/or fails any annual survey, intermediate survey, dry-docking or special survey, the vessel will be unable to carry cargo between ports and will be unemployable and uninsurable. That could cause us to be in violation of certain covenants in our loan agreements.

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

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

Most insurance underwriters make it a condition for insurance coverage and lending that a vessel be certified as in class by a classification society which is a member of the International Association of Classification Societies. Our vessels are certified as being in class by their respective classification societies.

**Risk of Loss and Liability Insurance*****General***

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

***Hull and Machinery Insurance***

We have obtained marine hull and machinery and war risk insurance, which include the risk of actual or constructive total loss, for all of our vessels. The vessels are each covered up to at least fair market value or such higher amount as may be required to meet the requirements of any outstanding indebtedness on a particular vessel,

with deductibles in amounts of approximately \$75,000 to \$150,000.

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We arrange, as necessary, increased value insurance for our vessels. With the increased value insurance, in case of total loss of the vessel, we can recover the sum insured under the increased value policy in addition to the sum insured under the hull and machinery policy. Increased value insurance also covers excess liabilities which are not recoverable in full by the hull and machinery policies by reason of under insurance.

***Protection and Indemnity Insurance***

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

Our current protection and indemnity insurance coverage for pollution is \$1 billion per vessel per incident. The 14 P&I associations that comprise the International Group insure approximately 90% of the world's commercial tonnage and have entered into a pooling agreement to reinsure each association's liabilities. Each P&I association has capped its exposure to this pooling agreement at \$5.4 billion. The M/V *Free Destiny*, the M/V *Free Envoy*, the M/V *Free Hero*, the M/V *Free Jupiter* and the M/V *Free Maverick* are members of the London Steamship Mutual Bilbrough Association Ltd. We have entered the M/V *Free Goddess*, the M/V *Free Knight*, the M/V *Free Impala* and the M/V *Free Lady* as members of The Standard Club. As a member of a P&I association, which is a member of the International Group, we are subject to calls payable to the associations based on its claim records as well as the claim records of all other members of the individual associations and members of the pool of P&I associations comprising the International Group.

***Loss of Hire Insurance***

We have obtained loss of hire insurance for seven of our vessels for 2008 in amounts that we believe to be prudent to cover normal risks in our operations. Loss of hire insurance generally provides coverage against loss of charter hire that results from the loss of use of a vessel. The insurance is subject to various and significant deductibles, conditions and coverage limitations. After the initial policy year, we will review annually whether maintaining this insurance is cost effective. Our ability to obtain loss of hire insurance is subject to market conditions and general availability. We did not maintain insurance against the loss of hire for any of our vessels at the time of the grounding of the M/V *Free Jupiter*.

***Procedures in the Event of an Insured Event***

Marine casualties are an inherent risk in the shipping industry. If one of our vessels undergoes a marine casualty, we intend to take prompt action in consultation with the appropriate insurers, as described above, to ascertain the extent of any damage to our vessel, its cargo, the crew, the vessel's ability to complete its charter and any environmental impact and the appropriate steps to try to mitigate the impact of the casualty on our financial condition and results of operations.

For example, on September 21, 2007, one of our vessels, the M/V *Free Jupiter*, ran aground off the coast of the Philippines. We have worked in consultation with our insurance brokers and the salvage company, SMIT Singapore PTE Ltd., to address the incident. Operations to re-float the vessel were completed under a Lloyd's Open Form agreement with the salvage company. This agreement is a standard agreement used internationally for such purposes and imposes obligations on the salvage company to conduct its operations in a manner that will preserve the vessel's cargo and that will not cause damage to the environment. The vessel was returned to service in February 2008.

We expect that the vessel's insurance will cover the cost of the re-floating operations and the vessel's repairs and related expenses, less applicable deductibles. Our insurance policies provide that payments will be made directly by the insurers to the party entitled to receive payment. We did not maintain insurance for loss of charter hire for that vessel, nor would our insurance cover any claims made by our charterers for damages that they may incur in connection with the delays caused by the grounding incident, although our insurance would cover our fees and expenses incurred in defending any claims for damages brought by our charterers.



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We are subject to a claim by cargo interests in China of approximately \$643,000 (CNY 4.5 million) for certain nickel/ore cargo tonnage off-loaded during the refloating salvage process and eventually abandoned as it could not be delivered to its final destination due to its dangerous condition. This claim has been defended and settled by our P&I club.

**Legal Proceedings**

We are not currently a party to any material lawsuit that, if adversely determined, we believe would be reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations or liquidity.

**Property**

Free Bulkers provided us with our office space at no rental cost to us until February 5, 2007. On that date, and in conjunction with moving into new office space, we entered into an agreement with Free Bulkers pursuant to which we agreed to pay Free Bulkers one-half of the rents due from Free Bulkers to the lessor of our rented office space, commencing on January 1, 2007. During 2007, the amount paid under that agreement totaled approximately \$67,000 ( 48,200 based on an exchange rate of \$1.39 to 1.00). Beginning on January 1, 2008 and in conjunction with a further expansion of our office space, we agreed to pay Free Bulkers one half of the monthly rent of 9,704 plus one half of the apportioned common expenses charged by the lessor. Reimbursement of rental and common expenses continue on the same basis under our amended services agreement with Free Bulkers. See Item 7. Mahor Shareholders and Related Party Transactions.

**Exchange Controls**

Under Marshall Islands law, there are currently no restrictions on the export or import of capital, including foreign exchange controls or restrictions that affect the remittance of dividends, interest or other payments to non-resident holders of our common stock.

**ITEM 4A. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS**

None.

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

The following management's discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with our historical consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes included elsewhere in this report. This discussion contains forward-looking statements that reflect our current views with respect to future events and financial performance. Our actual results may differ materially from those anticipated in these forward-looking statements as a result of various factors, such as those set forth in the section entitled Risk Factors and elsewhere in this report.

**General**

We are a shipping company that currently operates nine vessels in the dry bulk shipping market through our wholly owned subsidiaries. We were formed on April 23, 2004, under the name Adventure Holdings S.A. pursuant to the laws of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, to serve as the parent holding company of the ship-owning entities. On April 27, 2005, we changed our name to FreeSeas Inc.

On December 15, 2005, we completed a merger with Trinity Partners Acquisition Company Inc., a blank check corporation organized under the laws of the State of Delaware. Under the terms of the merger, we were the surviving corporation. Each outstanding share of Trinity's common stock and Class B common stock was converted into the right to receive an equal number of shares of our common stock, and each Trinity Class W warrant and Class Z warrant was converted into the right to receive an equal number of our Class W warrants and Class Z warrants.

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Our common stock, Class W warrants and Class Z warrants began trading on the NASDAQ Capital Market on December 16, 2005 under the trading symbols FREE, FREEW and FREEZ, respectively. As a result of the merger, Trinity's former securities, including the Trinity Class A Units and the Class B Units, ceased trading on the OTC Bulletin Board. Our common stock, Class W warrants and Class Z warrants currently trade on the NASDAQ Global Market.

The operations of our vessels are managed by Free Bulkers, an affiliated Marshall Islands corporation. Free Bulkers provides us with a wide range of shipping services. These services include, at a monthly fee per vessel, the required technical management, such as managing day-to-day vessel operations including supervising the crewing, supplying, maintaining and dry-docking of vessels. Also for a fee, Free Bulkers covers the commercial management of our fleet, such as identifying suitable vessel charter opportunities. Free Bulkers has entered into a subcontract agreement with Safbulk, a company controlled by one of our affiliates, for the commercial management of our fleet. In addition, Free Bulkers provides us with all the necessary accounting services and, effective July 1, 2007, all the necessary financial reporting services for a fixed quarterly fee. Commencing October 1, 2008, the services agreement was amended to include the execution and supervision of all of our operations under the guidance of our board of directors and the rental of office space for FreeSeas, for a fixed monthly fee.

During the twelve-month period ended December 31, 2008, our fleet consisted of seven Handysize and two Handymax vessels that carried a variety of dry bulk commodities, including coal, iron ore, and grains, or major bulks, as well as bauxite, phosphate, fertilizers and steel products, or minor bulks. During the twelve-month period ended December 31, 2007, our fleet consisted of four Handysize and one Handymax vessels. During the twelve-month period ended December 31, 2008, we took delivery of the M/V *Free Knight*, which was built in 1998 and has a carrying capacity of 24,111 dwt, for \$39,250,000. On April 2, 2008, we took delivery of the M/V *Free Impala*, which was built in 1997 and has a carrying capacity of 24,111 dwt for \$37,500,000. On July 7, 2008, we took delivery of the M/V *Free Lady*, which was built in 2003 and has a carrying capacity of 50,246 dwt, for \$65,200,000. On September 1, 2008, we took delivery of the M/V *Free Maverick*, which was built in 1998 and has a carrying capacity of 23,994 dwt, for \$39,600,000.

The following table details the vessels owned as of April 6, 2009:

Vessel Name	Type	Dwt	Employment	Built	Purchase Price	Date of Acquisition
M/V Free Destiny	Handysize	25,240	Spot time charter trip of 2 to 4 months at \$4,000 per day through April/June 2009	1982	\$7.60 million	August 3, 2004
M/V Free Envoy	Handysize	26,318	Balance of time charter at \$20,000 per day through July/August 2009	1984	\$9.50 million	September 20, 2004
M/V Free Hero	Handysize	24,318	60-day spot time charter through April 2009 at \$4,500 per day	1995	\$25.25 million	July 3, 2007
M/V Free Jupiter	Handymax	47,777	Balance of time charter through February 2011 at \$32,000 per day for first year, \$28,000 per day for second year and \$24,000 per day for third year	2002	\$47.00 million	September 5, 2007



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M/V Free Goddess	Handysize	22,051	Balance of time charter through September 2009 at \$8,000 per day plus 50% profit sharing above \$10,000 per day, which increases to \$10,500 per day on September 15, 2009 through January/February 2010 plus 50% profit sharing above \$12,500 per day	1995	\$25.20 million	October 30, 2007
M/V Free Knight	Handysize	24,111	40-day spot time charter through April 2009 at \$7,000 per day	1998	\$39.25 million	March 19, 2008
M/V Free Impala	Handysize	24,111	45-day spot time charter through March 2009 at \$6,500 per day	1997	\$37.5 million	April 2, 2008
M/V Free Lady	Handymax	50,246	Balance of time charter at \$51,150 per day through May 2010	2003	\$65.2 million	July 7, 2008
M/V Free Maverick	Handysize	23,994	Balance of time charter through April 2009 at \$32,000 per day	1998	\$39.6 million	September 1, 2008

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One of our vessels, the *M/V Free Jupiter*, underwent an unscheduled dry-docking for repairs necessitated by a grounding incident off the coast of the Philippines on September 21, 2007. Upon completion of repairs on February 28, 2008, the vessel was delivered to her charterers for her three-year time charter. We expect that the vessel's insurance will cover the vessel's repairs and related expenses, less applicable deductibles. As of December 31, 2008, we received insurance proceeds of \$6,480,686 and the hull and machinery insurance underwriters paid the salvors \$1,200,000, which has been deducted from the claim in discussion. As of December 31, 2008, the amount remaining to be recovered is \$17,807,000. During the first quarter of 2009, the outstanding balance of our claim receivables will be reduced from \$17,807,000 to \$8,298,000 as a result of insurance proceeds received.

**Employment and Charter Rates**

The BDI, a daily average of charter rates in 26 shipping routes measured on a time charter and voyage basis and covering dry bulk carriers, fell over 90% from May 2008 through October 2008 and over 70% in October 2008 alone. In December 2008, the BDI reached an all-time low since 1986, yet by the end of March 2009, the BDI had recovered from its lows by approximately over 300%. The steep decline in charter rates is due to various factors, including the lack of trade financing for purchases of commodities carried by sea, which has resulted in a significant decline in cargo shipments, and the excess supply of iron ore in China, which has resulted in falling iron ore prices and increased stockpiles in Chinese ports.

As of the date of this filing, we have four vessels trading in the spot market that are currently exposed to the downturn in the dry bulk charter rates. Should dry bulk charter rates continue to decline or remain at their current low level, our charter revenue with respect to these vessels will remain low as well. Most of our vessels have employment in the first quarter and the second quarter of 2009 and, while we expect that charter rates will gradually recover as economic activity improves during the course of the year, those vessels that are redelivered earlier in the year are expected to receive lower charter rates.

The *M/V Free Destiny*, the *M/V Free Hero*, the *M/V Free Knight*, *M/V Free Maverick* and *M/V Free Impala* are expected to be redelivered to us from their charterers in the second quarter of 2009.

Historically high levels of scrapping have been taking place since October 2008 among older vessels as a result of the adverse rate environment, in particular with respect to smaller size Handysize vessels, the segment in which we operate. It may take some time until the elimination of excess tonnage supply manifests itself in the form of higher charter rates.

A prolonged period of extremely low charter rates may lead owners to face difficulties in meeting their cash flow obligations, and they may seek to find mutual accommodations with charterers in which charterers may pay lower charter rates over a longer period of time. Depending on their overall financial condition, and book, some weaker owners may not be able to service their debt obligations, which may cause them to cease operations or seek protection from creditors.

Recent developments in the dry bulk charter market and credit markets have also resulted in additional risks. You should consider carefully the risks beginning on page 2, of this annual report. The occurrence of one or more of these risk factors would adversely affect our results of operations or financial condition.

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**Acquisition of Vessels**

From time to time, as opportunities arise and depending on the availability of financing, we intend to acquire additional secondhand dry bulk carriers. We accepted delivery of the M/V *Free Lady* on July 7, 2008, with a time charter at \$51,150 per day through May 2010 and the M/V *Free Maverick* on September 1, 2008, with a time charter at \$32,000 per day through April 2009. When a vessel is acquired free of charter, we enter into a new charter contract. The shipping industry uses income days (also referred to as voyage or operating days) to measure the number of days in a period during which vessels actually generate revenues.

Consistent with shipping industry practice, we treat the acquisition of a vessel (whether acquired with or without a charter) as the acquisition of an asset rather than a business. When we acquire a vessel, we conduct, also consistent with shipping industry practice, an inspection of the physical condition of the vessel, unless practical considerations do not allow such an inspection. We also examine the vessel's classification society records. We do not obtain any historical operating data for the vessel from the seller. We do not consider that information material to our decision on acquiring the vessel.

Prior to the delivery of a purchased vessel, the seller typically removes from the vessel all records and log books, including past financial records and accounts related to the vessel. Upon the change in ownership, the technical management agreement between the seller's technical manager and the seller is automatically terminated and the vessel's trading certificates are revoked by its flag state, in the event the buyer determines to change the vessel's flag state.

When a vessel has been under a voyage charter, the seller delivers the vessel free of charter to the buyer. When a vessel is under time charter and the buyer wishes to assume that charter, the buyer cannot acquire the vessel without the charterer's consent and an agreement between the buyer and the charterer for the buyer to assume the charter. The purchase of a vessel does not in itself transfer the charter because the charter is a separate service agreement between the former vessel owner and the charterer.

When we acquire a vessel and want to assume or renegotiate a related time charter, we must take the following steps:

- Obtain the charterer's consent to us as the new owner;
- Obtain the charterer's consent to a new technical manager;
- Obtain the charterer's consent to a new flag for the vessel, if applicable;
- Arrange for a new crew for the vessel;
- Replace all hired equipment on board the vessel, such as gas cylinders and communication equipment;
- Negotiate and enter into new insurance contracts for the vessel through our own insurance brokers;
- Register the vessel under a flag state and perform the related inspections in order to obtain new trading certificates from the flag state, if we change the flag state;
- Implement a new planned maintenance program for the vessel; and
- Ensure that the new technical manager obtains new certificates of compliance with the safety and vessel security regulations of the flag state.

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Our business comprises the following primary components:

Employment and operation of our dry bulk carriers; and

Management of the financial, general and administrative elements involved in the ownership and operation of our dry bulk vessels.

The employment and operation of our vessels involve the following activities:

Vessel maintenance and repair;

Planning and undergoing dry-docking, special surveys and other major repairs;

Organizing and undergoing regular classification society surveys;

Crew selection and training;

Vessel spares and stores supply;

Vessel bunkering;

Contingency response planning;

Onboard safety procedures auditing;

Accounting;

Vessel insurance arrangements;

Vessel chartering;

Vessel hire management; and

Vessel performance monitoring.

**Important Measures for Analyzing Our Results of Operations**

We believe that the important measures for analyzing trends in the results of our operations consist of the following:

***Ownership days.*** We define ownership days as the total number of calendar days in a period during which each vessel in the fleet was owned by us. Ownership days are an indicator of the size of the fleet over a period and affect both the amount of revenues and the amount of expenses that we record during that period.

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**Available days.** We define available days as the number of ownership days less the aggregate number of days that our vessels are off-hire due to major repairs, dry-dockings or special or intermediate surveys. The shipping industry uses available days to measure the number of ownership days in a period during which vessels are actually capable of generating revenues.

**Operating days.** Operating days are the number of available days in a period less the aggregate number of days that vessels are off-hire due to any reason, including unforeseen circumstances. The shipping industry uses operating days to measure the aggregate number of days in a period during which vessels actually generate revenues.

**Fleet utilization.** We calculate fleet utilization by dividing the number of operating days during a period by the number of ownership days during that period. The shipping industry uses fleet utilization to measure a company's efficiency in finding suitable employment for its vessels and minimizing the amount of days that its vessels are off-hire for any reason including scheduled repairs, vessel upgrades, dry-dockings or special or intermediate surveys.

**Off-hire.** The period a vessel is unable to perform the services for which it is required under a charter. Off-hire periods typically include days spent undergoing repairs and dry-docking, whether or not scheduled.

**Time charter.** A time charter is a contract for the use of a vessel for a specific period of time during which the charterer pays substantially all of the voyage expenses, including port costs, canal charges and bunkers expenses. The vessel owner pays the vessel operating expenses, which include crew wages, insurance, technical maintenance costs, spares, stores and supplies and commissions on gross voyage revenues. Time charter rates are usually fixed during the term of the charter. Prevailing time charter rates do fluctuate on a seasonal and year-to-year basis and may be substantially higher or lower from a prior time charter agreement when the subject vessel is seeking to renew the time charter agreement with the existing charterer or enter into a new time charter agreement with another charterer. Fluctuations in time charter rates are influenced by changes in spot charter rates.

**Voyage charter.** A voyage charter is an agreement to charter the vessel for an agreed per-ton amount of freight from specified loading port(s) to specified discharge port(s). In contrast to a time charter, the vessel owner is required to pay substantially all of the voyage expenses, including port costs, canal charges and bunkers expenses, in addition to the vessel operating expenses.

**Time charter equivalent (TCE).** The time charter equivalent equals voyage revenues minus voyage expenses divided by the number of operating days during the relevant time period, including the trip to the loading port. TCE is a standard seaborne transportation industry performance measure used primarily to compare period-to-period changes in a seaborne transportation company's performance despite changes in the mix of charter types (i.e., spot charters, time charters and bareboat charters) under which the vessels may be employed during a specific period.

**Adjusted EBITDA.** We consider EBITDA to represent net earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, unrealized gains or losses from changes in the value of derivatives and non-cash charges such as losses on debt extinguishment. Under the laws of the Marshall Islands, we are not subject to tax on international shipping income. However, we are subject to registration and tonnage taxes, which have been included in vessel operating expenses. Accordingly, no adjustment for taxes has been made for purposes of calculating Adjusted EBITDA. Adjusted EBITDA does not represent and should not be considered as an alternative to net income or cash flow from operations, as determined by United States generally accepted accounting principles, or U.S. GAAP, and our calculation of Adjusted EBITDA may not be comparable to that reported by other companies. Adjusted EBITDA is included herein because it is an alternative measure of our liquidity performance and indebtedness.

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The following performance measures were derived from our audited consolidated financial statements for the twelve months ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, included elsewhere in this report. The historical data included below is not necessarily indicative of our future performance.

**PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

(All amounts in tables in thousands of United States dollars, except for fleet data )

	For the year ended December 31,		
	2008	2007	2006
<b>Adjusted EBITDA (1)</b>	<b>\$ 40,658</b>	<b>\$ 8,350</b>	<b>\$ 2,582</b>
<b>Fleet Data:</b>			
Average number of vessels (2)	7.36	3.3	3.0
Ownership days (3)	2,688	1,206	1,095
Available days (4)	2,605	1,177	1,005
Operating days (5)	2,441	1,048	941
Fleet utilization (6)	90.8%	86.9%	86.0%
<b>Average Daily Results:</b>			
Average TCE rate (7)	\$ 25.719	\$ 17.925	\$ 10.881
Vessel operating expenses (8)	6.084	4.976	4.094
Management fees (9)	0.727	0.726	0.493
General and administrative expenses(10)	1.129	2.014	2.046
Total vessel operating expenses (11)	6.811	5.702	4.587

- (1) Adjusted EBITDA reconciliation to net income:

Adjusted EBITDA represents net earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization and change in the fair value of derivatives and loss on debt extinguishment. Adjusted EBITDA does not represent and should not be considered as an alternative to net income or cash flow from operations, as determined by United States generally accepted accounting principles, or U.S. GAAP, and our calculation of adjusted EBITDA may not be comparable to that reported by other companies. Adjusted EBITDA is included herein because it is an alternative measure of our liquidity, performance and indebtedness. The following is a reconciliation of adjusted EBITDA to net income:

	For the year ended December 31,		
	2008	2007	2006
Net income (loss)	\$ 19,192	\$ (156)	\$ (3,324)
Depreciation and amortization	14,137	5,192	4,921
Change in derivatives fair value	1,061	749	
Interest and finance cost	5,629	2,565	985
Loss on debt extinguishment	639		
<b>Adjusted EBITDA</b>	<b>\$ 40,658</b>	<b>\$ 8,350</b>	<b>\$ 2,582</b>

- (2) Average number of vessels is the number of vessels that constituted our fleet for the relevant period, as measured by the sum of the number of days each vessel was a part of our fleet during the period divided by the number of calendar days in the period.
- (3) Ownership days are the total number of days in a period during which the vessels in our fleet have been owned by us. Ownership days are an indicator of the size of our fleet over a period and affect both the amount of revenues and the amount of expenses that we record during a period.

- (4) Available days are the number of ownership days less the aggregate number of days that our vessels are off-hire due to major repairs, dry dockings or special or intermediate surveys. The shipping industry uses available days to measure the number of ownership days in a period during which vessels should be capable of generating revenues.

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- (5) Operating days are the number of available days less the aggregate number of days that our vessels are off-hire due to any reason, including unforeseen circumstances. The shipping industry uses operating days to measure the aggregate number of days in a period during which vessels actually generate revenues.
- (6) We calculate fleet utilization by dividing the number of our fleet's operating days during a period by the number of ownership days during the period. The shipping industry uses fleet utilization to measure a company's efficiency in finding suitable employment for its vessels and minimizing the amount of days that its vessels are off-hire for reasons such as scheduled repairs, vessel upgrades, or dry dockings or other surveys.
- (7) Time charter equivalent, or TCE, is a measure of the average daily revenue performance of a vessel on a per voyage basis. Our method of calculating TCE is consistent with industry standards and is determined by dividing operating revenues (net of voyage expenses and commissions) by operating days for the relevant time period. Voyage expenses primarily consist of port, canal and fuel costs that are unique to a particular voyage, which would otherwise be paid by the charterer under a time charter contract. TCE is a standard shipping industry performance measure used primarily to compare period-to-period changes in a shipping company's performance despite changes in the mix of charter types (i.e., spot charters, time charters and bareboat charters) under which the vessels may be employed between the periods:

	For the year ended December 31,		
	2008	2007	2006
Operating revenues	\$ 66,689	\$ 20,147	\$ 11,727
Voyage expenses and commissions	(3,910)	(1,362)	(1,488)
Net operating revenues	62,779	18,785	10,239
Operating days	2,441	1,048	941
<b>Time charter equivalent daily rate</b>	<b>\$ 25.719</b>	<b>\$ 17.925</b>	<b>\$ 10.881</b>

- (8) Average daily vessel operating expenses, which includes crew costs, provisions, deck and engine stores, lubricating oil, insurance, maintenance and repairs, is calculated by dividing vessel operating expenses by ownership days for the relevant time periods:

	For the year ended December 31,		
	2008	2007	2006
Vessel operating expenses	\$ 16,354	\$ 6,001	\$ 4,483
Ownership days	2,688	1,206	1,095
<b>Daily vessel operating expense</b>	<b>\$ 6.084</b>	<b>\$ 4.976</b>	<b>\$ 4.094</b>

- (9) Daily management fees are calculated by dividing total management fees paid on ships owned by ownership days for the relevant time period.
- (10) Average daily general and administrative expenses are calculated by dividing general and administrative expenses by operating days for the relevant period.
- (11) Total vessel operating expenses, or TVOE, is a measurement of our total expenses associated with operating our vessels. TVOE is the sum of daily vessel operating expense and daily management fees. Daily TVOE is calculated by dividing TVOE by fleet ownership days for the relevant time period.



**Table of Contents****Results of Operations**

*Year ended December 31, 2008 ( fiscal 2008 ) as compared to year ended December 31, 2007 ( fiscal 2007 )*

**Consolidated Statements of Income**

(All amounts in tables in thousands of United States dollars, except for share and per share data)

	<b>For the Year Ended December 31, 2008</b>	<b>For the Year Ended December 31, 2007</b>
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>	\$ 66,689	\$ 20,147
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES:</b>		
Vessel operating expenses	(16,354)	(6,001)
Voyage expenses	(527)	(267)
Depreciation expenses	(13,349)	(4,435)
Amortization of deferred charges	(788)	(757)
Management and other fees to a related party	(2,634)	(875)
Commissions	(3,383)	(1,095)
Stock-based compensation expense	(107)	(96)
General and administrative expenses	(2,756)	(2,111)
Bad debt	(221)	(118)
Gain on sale of vessel		1,369
<b>Income from operations</b>	<b>\$ 26,570</b>	<b>\$ 5,761</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE):</b>		
Interest and finance costs	(6,209)	(3,204)
Loss on debt extinguishment	(639)	(2,570)
Change in derivatives fair value	(1,061)	(749)
Interest income	580	639
Other	(49)	(33)
<b>Other (expense) income</b>	<b>\$ (7,378)</b>	<b>\$ (5,917)</b>
<b>Net income (loss)</b>	<b>\$ 19,192</b>	<b>\$ (156)</b>
Basic income (loss) per share	\$ 0.91	\$ (0.02)
Diluted income (loss) per share	\$ 0.91	\$ (0.02)
Basic weighted average number of shares	21,006,497	8,786,287
Diluted weighted average number of shares	21,051,963	8,786,287

**REVENUES** Operating revenues for fiscal 2008 were \$66,689,000, an increase of \$46,542,000 over fiscal 2007. Revenues increased primarily as a result of the increase in the size of our fleet, and the delay in the receipt of time charter earnings of approximately \$3,232,000 that were not received during 2007 because of the M/V *Free Jupiter*'s casualty incident in September 2007.

**OPERATING EXPENSES** Vessel operating expenses, which include crew costs, provisions, deck and engine stores, lubricating oil, insurance, maintenance and repairs, totaled \$16,354,000 for fiscal 2008, as compared to \$6,001,000 for fiscal 2007. This increase of \$10,353,000 in vessel operating expenses reflects primarily the increase in

the size of our fleet to nine vessels at the end of fiscal 2008 from five vessels at the end of fiscal 2007. These expenses in fiscal 2008 also include approximately \$182,000 associated with two unscheduled repairs during fiscal 2008, causing expenses beyond normal operation and maintenance costs (i.e., main engine turbocharger of the M/V *Free Envoy*; main engine of the M/V *Free Impala*). As a result, the total daily vessel operating expenses per vessel owned, including the management fees paid to our affiliate, Free Bulkers, was \$6,811 for fiscal 2008 and \$5,702 for fiscal 2007, a net increase of \$1,109, or 19.45%, for fiscal 2008.

**VOYAGE EXPENSES** Voyage expenses, which include bunkers, cargo expenses, port expenses, port agency fees, tugs, extra insurance and various expenses, were \$527,000 for fiscal 2008 as compared to \$267,000 for fiscal 2007. The increase in voyage expenses reflected primarily the shore crane hire cost for an amount of \$53,000 and bunkers costs of \$189,000 due to delivery and re-delivery operations during fiscal 2008.

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**DEPRECIATION AND AMORTIZATION** For fiscal 2008, depreciation expense totaled \$13,349,000 as compared to depreciation expense of \$4,435,000 for fiscal 2007. The increase in depreciation expense resulted primarily from the increase in the number of our vessels from five to nine vessels during fiscal 2008. For fiscal 2008 amortization of dry-docking and special survey costs and amortization of financing costs total \$1,141,000, an increase of \$384,000 compared to \$757,000 reported in fiscal 2007 primarily resulting from the financing costs related to the availability of the credit facilities secured for the purchase of the new vessels and the incurrence of costs for dry-docking and special survey for the M/V *Free Envoy*, the M/V *Free Hero*, and the M/V *Free Goddess* during fiscal 2008.

**MANAGEMENT FEES** Management fees for fiscal 2008 totaled \$2,634,000 as compared to \$875,000 for fiscal 2007. The increase resulted primarily from the larger number of vessels under management during fiscal 2008, from an additional fee of \$300,000 paid to Free Bulkers as partial contribution for the refurbishment of our office space in December 2008 and from an increase in the annual fee from \$500,000 to \$1,200,000 commencing in October 2008 in connection with Free Bulkers undertaking to provide additional services to FreeSeas including execution and supervision of all of FreeSeas operations under the direction and supervision of the FreeSeas Board.

Commencing on January 1, 2008, an annual fee of \$500,000 was paid to Free Bulkers quarterly as compensation for services, including but not limited to, services related to our accounting and financial reporting obligations and implementation of Sarbanes-Oxley internal control over financial reporting procedures, general and administrative operation, the purchase and sale of vessels, and negotiations with FreeSeas lenders. On October 1, 2008, in connection with Free Bulkers undertaking to provide additional services to FreeSeas, including execution and supervision of all of our operations under the direction and supervision of our Board, the annual fee of \$500,000 was increased to \$1,200,000. An additional fee of \$300,000 was paid to Free Bulkers as partial contribution for the refurbishment of our office space. Management fees are paid to our affiliate, Free Bulkers, for the technical management of our vessels and for accounting services related to the vessels operations and our public financial reporting obligations. Pursuant to the management agreements related to each of our current vessels, we pay Free Bulkers a monthly management fee of \$15,000 per vessel commencing from the date of the relevant purchase memorandum of agreement and ending two months after delivery of the vessel to its new owners. In addition, we reimburse at cost the travel and other personnel expenses of the Free Bulkers staff, including the per diem paid by Free Bulkers, when Free Bulkers employees are required to attend our vessels at port, both prior to and after taking delivery. These agreements have no specified termination date. We anticipate that Free Bulkers would manage any additional vessels that we may acquire in the future on comparable terms. We believe that the management fees paid to Free Bulkers are comparable to those charged by unaffiliated management companies.

**COMMISSIONS AND GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES** For fiscal 2008 commissions paid totaled \$3,383,000, as compared to \$1,095,000 for fiscal 2007. These commissions represent commissions paid to Free Bulkers and other related and unrelated third parties. Commissions paid to Free Bulkers equal 1.25% of freight or hire collected from the employment of our vessels. Free Bulkers has entered into a commercial sub-management agreement with Safbulk, an affiliate of FS Holdings Limited, one of our principal shareholders, pursuant to which Safbulk has agreed to perform charter and post charter management services for our fleet. Free Bulkers has agreed to pay Safbulk a fee equal to 1.25% of freight or hire collected from the employment of our vessels. The increase of \$2,288,000 for fiscal 2008 as compared to fiscal 2007 related directly to the increase of operating revenues in the respective periods. General and administrative expenses, which included, among other things, international safety code compliance expenses, travel expenses and communications expenses, totaled \$2,756,000 in comparison with \$2,111,000 for fiscal 2007. Our general and administrative expenses increased by \$645,000 mainly due to managers and directors fees and expenses, which increased by \$163,000, rent and utilities, which increased by \$139,000, legal expenses which increased by \$130,000, and investor relations expenses, which increased by \$200,000.

**STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION EXPENSE** For fiscal 2008 stock compensation expenses totaled \$107,000 as compared to \$96,000 for fiscal 2007. Compensation costs reflect non-cash, equity based compensation of our executive officers.

**INTEREST AND FINANCE COSTS** For fiscal 2008 financing costs were \$5,857,000 in comparison with \$3,204,000 for the fiscal 2007. Our financing costs represent primarily the interest paid in connection with the bank loans for our vessels. The increase in financing costs resulted from financing costs incurred to secure the financing

sources related to the acquisition of new vessels.

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**LOSS ON DEBT EXTINGUISHMENT** During fiscal 2008, we expensed the unamortized financing costs of \$639,000 in comparison with a related expenses incurred for fiscal 2007 of \$2,570,000. The \$639,000 unamortized financing cost relates to the refinancing of the HSH Nordbank AG loan facility with a new credit facility from Credit Suisse.

**CHANGE IN FAIR VALUE OF DERIVATIVES** During fiscal 2007 we entered into a swap agreement with respect to the loan from HSH Nordbank AG, which swap converted this loan into a fixed rate loan. The interest rate swap did not qualify for hedge accounting; therefore, the marked to market fair value adjustment is recorded in the statement of income. We recorded an unrealized loss of \$1,061,000 during fiscal 2008. On April 9, 2008 we entered into a novation for this swap agreement in connection with the refinancing of the loan from HSH Nordbank AG with a new credit facility from Credit Suisse.

**NET INCOME/(LOSS)** Net income for fiscal 2008 was \$19,192,000 as compared to a net loss of \$156,000 for fiscal 2007. The significant increase in our net income reflected primarily the increased revenues due to the increased number of vessels and due to the favorable charter rates environment prevailing during the first nine months of 2008. *Year ended December 31, 2007 ( fiscal 2007 ) as compared to year ended December 31, 2006 ( fiscal 2006 )*

**Consolidated Statements of Income**

(All amounts in tables in thousands of United States dollars, except for share and per share data)

	<b>For the Year Ended December 31, 2007</b>	<b>For the Year Ended December 31, 2006</b>
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>	\$ 20,147	\$ 11,727
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES:</b>		
Vessel operating expenses	(6,001)	(4,483)
Voyage expenses	(267)	(689)
Depreciation expenses	(4,435)	(4,479)
Amortization of deferred charges	(757)	(442)
Management fees to a related party	(875)	(540)
Commissions	(1,095)	(799)
Stock-based compensation expense	(96)	(651)
General and administrative expenses	(2,111)	(1,925)
Bad debt	(118)	
Gain on sale of vessel	1,369	
<b>Income (loss) from operations</b>	\$ 5,761	\$ (2,281)
<b>OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE):</b>		
Interest and finance costs	(3,204)	(1,004)
Loss on debt extinguishment	(2,570)	
Change in derivatives fair value	(749)	
Interest income	639	19
Other	(33)	(58)
<b>Other income (expense)</b>	\$ (5,917)	\$ (1,043)
<b>Net loss</b>	\$ (156)	\$ (3,324)

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Basic loss per share	(0.02)	(0.53)
Diluted loss per share	(0.02)	(0.53)
Basic weighted average number of shares	8,786,287	6,290,100
Diluted weighted average number of shares	8,786,287	6,290,100

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**REVENUES** Operating revenues for fiscal 2007 were \$20,147,000, an increase of \$8,420,000 over fiscal 2006. Revenues increased primarily as a result of the increase the size of our fleet and the improved time charter rates, despite the deferral of time charter earnings of approximately \$3,232 that were not received during 2007 because of the M/V *Free Jupiter*'s casualty incident in September 2007.

**OPERATING EXPENSES** Vessel operating expenses, which include crew costs, provisions, deck and engine stores, lubricating oil, insurance, maintenance and repairs, totaled \$6,001,000 for fiscal 2007, as compared to \$4,483,000 for fiscal 2006. This increase of \$1,518,000 in vessel operating expenses reflects primarily the increase in the size of our fleet to five vessels at the end of fiscal 2007 from three vessels at the end of 2006. These expenses in 2007 also include approximately \$230,000 associated with two unscheduled repairs during February 2007, causing expenses beyond normal operation and maintenance costs (i.e., main engine turbocharger of the M/V *Free Envoy*; main generator of the M/V *Free Destiny*) and \$100,000 of insurance deductibles associated with the grounding casualty of the M/V *Free Jupiter* in September 2007 that were partially offset by reductions in certain operating expenses while the vessel was in dry-dock for repairs. Consequently, the total daily vessel operating expenses per vessel owned, including the management fees paid to our affiliate, Free Bulklers, was \$5,702 for fiscal 2007, as compared to \$4,587 for fiscal 2006, an increase of 24%.

**VOYAGE EXPENSES** Voyage expenses, which include bunkers, cargo expenses, port expenses, port agency fees, tugs, extra insurance and various expenses, were \$267,000 for fiscal 2007, as compared to \$689,000 for fiscal 2006. The decrease in voyage expenses reflected primarily the occurrence of only one twenty-five day voyage charter during fiscal 2007.

**DEPRECIATION AND AMORTIZATION** For fiscal 2007, depreciation expense totaled \$4,435,000, as compared to \$4,479,000 for fiscal 2006. The slight decrease in depreciation expense resulted primarily from the change of the estimated useful life of the M/V *Free Fighter* to 30 years from 27 years, based on management's re-evaluation of the useful life following the vessel's regularly scheduled fifth special survey and docking, as well as the subsequent sale of the M/V *Free Fighter* in April 2007. For fiscal 2007, amortization of dry-dockings, special survey costs and amortization of financing costs totaled \$757,000, an increase of \$315,000 from the expense reported in fiscal 2006, reflecting primarily the financing costs related to the availability of the credit facilities secured for the purchase of the new vessels.

**MANAGEMENT FEES** Management fees for fiscal 2007 totaled \$875,000, as compared to \$540,000 for fiscal 2006. The increase resulted primarily from the greater number of vessels under management during fiscal 2007 and from the fees paid in connection with the potential acquisition of the new four vessels starting on the date of the memoranda of agreement. Management fees are paid to our affiliate, Free Bulklers, for the technical management of our vessels and for accounting services related to the vessels' operations and our public financial reporting obligations. Pursuant to the management agreements related to each of our current vessels, we pay Free Bulklers a monthly management fee of \$15,000 per vessel commencing from the date of the relevant purchase memorandum of agreement and ending two months after delivery of the vessel to its new owners. In addition, we reimburse at cost the travel and other personnel expenses of the Free Bulklers staff, including the per diem paid by Free Bulklers, when Free Bulklers employees are required to attend our vessels at port, both prior to and after taking delivery. These agreements have no specified termination date. We anticipate that Free Bulklers would manage any additional vessels that we may acquire in the future on comparable terms. We believe that the management fees paid to Free Bulklers are comparable to those charged by unaffiliated management companies.

**COMMISSIONS AND GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES** For fiscal 2007, commissions paid totaled \$1,095,000, as compared to \$799,000 for fiscal 2006. These commissions represent commissions paid to Free Bulklers and unaffiliated third parties. Commissions paid to Free Bulklers equal 1.25% of freight or hire collected from the employment of our vessels. Free Bulklers has entered into a commercial sub-management agreement with Safbulk, an affiliate of FS Holdings Limited, one of our principal shareholders, pursuant to which Safbulk has agreed to perform charter and post charter management services for our fleet. Free Bulklers has agreed to pay Safbulk a fee equal to 1.25% of freight or hire collected from the employment of our vessels. The increase of \$296,000 for fiscal 2007 as compared to fiscal 2006 relate directly to the increase of operating revenues in the respective periods. General and administrative expenses, which included, among other things, international safety code compliance expenses, travel

expenses and communications expenses, totaled \$2,111,000 for fiscal 2007, as compared to \$1,925,000 for fiscal 2006. Our general and administrative expenses increased by \$186,000 due to the incurrence of \$448,891 of advisory fees to third parties in 2007, partly off-set by the reduction resulting from the departure of two of our executive officers in January 2007.



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**STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION EXPENSE** For fiscal 2007, stock-based compensation expense totaled \$96,000, as compared to \$651,000 for fiscal 2006. Compensation costs reflect non-cash, equity based compensation of our executive officers. The decrease is primarily a result of the departure of two of our executive officers in January 2007 and forfeitures of their stock options.

**INTEREST AND FINANCE COSTS** For fiscal 2007, financing costs were \$3,204,000, an increase of \$2,200,000 from the \$1,004,000 for fiscal 2006. Our financing costs represent primarily the interest paid in connection with the bank loans for our vessels. The increase in financing costs resulted from financing costs incurred to secure the financing sources related to the acquisition of new vessels.

**LOSS ON DEBT EXTINGUISHMENT** During the last quarter of 2007, we expensed the unamortized financing costs related to repaid loans of \$63,074,000 in accordance with their terms.

**CHANGE IN FAIR VALUE OF DERIVATIVES** During fiscal 2007, we entered into a swap agreement with respect to the loan from HSH Nordbank AG, which swap converted this loan into a fixed rate loan. The interest rate swap did not qualify for hedge accounting; therefore, the marked to market fair value adjustment is recorded in the statement of income. We recorded an unrealized loss of \$749,000 during fiscal 2007. We entered into a novation for this swap agreement in connection with the refinancing of the loan from HSH Nordbank with a credit facility from Credit Suisse.

**NET (LOSS)** Net loss for fiscal 2007 was \$156,000, as compared to net loss of \$3,324,000 for fiscal 2006. The significant reduction in our net loss reflected primarily the increased revenues due to increased charter rates, recognition of a gain \$1,369,000 from the sale of the M/V *Free Fighter* and somewhat decreased depreciation and amortization expense due to a change in the estimated useful live of the M/V *Free Fighter*. Additionally, there was a decrease in stock-based compensation expense of \$555,000 for fiscal 2007, as compared to the fiscal 2006.

**Liquidity and Capital Resources**

We have historically financed our capital requirements from equity provided by our shareholders, operating cash flows and long-term borrowings. We have primarily used our funds for capital expenditures to acquire and maintain our fleet, comply with international shipping standards and environmental laws and regulations, fund working capital requirements, make principal repayments on outstanding loan facilities, and payment of dividends. We expect to continue to rely upon operating cash flows, long-term borrowings, and the working capital available to us, as well as possible future equity financings, to fund our future operations and possible growth. In addition, to the extent that the options and warrants currently issued are subsequently exercised, the proceeds from those exercises would provide us with additional funds.

If we do acquire additional vessels in the future, then we will rely on funds drawn from new credit facilities, our working capital, proceeds from possible future equity offerings, and revenues from operations. Because of the recent global economic downturn that has affected the international dry bulk industry we may not be able to obtain financing either from new credit facilities or the equity markets. Therefore, in the first quarter of 2009, our board of directors has suspended the payment of dividends, so as to retain cash from operations to fund our operations, to fund possible vessel acquisitions and to service our debt, depending on market conditions and opportunities. We believe that this suspension will enhance our future flexibility by permitting cash flow that would have been devoted to dividends to be used for opportunities that may arise in the current marketplace.

On January 22, 2008, we entered into memoranda of agreement to purchase from affiliated parties the M/V *Free Impala*, a 1997-built secondhand Handysize vessel which was delivered on April 2, 2008, the M/V *Free Knight*, a 1998-built secondhand Handysize vessel which was delivered on March 19, 2008, for a total purchase price of \$76.75 million and on March 10, 2008, the M/V *Free Lady*, a 2003-built secondhand Handymax vessel which was delivered on July 07, 2008, for a purchase price of \$65.20 million. On August 7, 2008, we entered into a memorandum of agreement to purchase from an unaffiliated party the M/V *Free Maverick*, a 1998-built secondhand Handysize vessel which was delivered on September 1, 2008, for a purchase price of \$39.60 million.

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The dry bulk carriers we owned had an average age of 13.72 years as of the end of fiscal 2008. For financial statement purposes, we used an estimated useful life of 27 years for each vessel. However, economics, rather than a set number of years, determines the actual useful life of a vessel. As a vessel ages, the maintenance costs rise particularly with respect to the cost of surveys. So long as the revenue generated by the vessel sufficiently exceeds its maintenance costs, the vessel will remain in use. If the revenue generated or expected future revenue does not sufficiently exceed the maintenance costs, or if the maintenance costs exceed the revenue generated or expected future revenue, then the vessel owner usually sells the vessel for scrap.

**Cash Flows**

Cash and cash equivalents decreased to \$3,378,000 as of December 31, 2008, compared to \$63,394,000 as of December 31, 2007. We consider highly liquid investments such as time deposits with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. Cash and cash equivalents are primarily held in U.S. dollars. The decrease was attributable to the acquisition of four additional newer built vessels in 2008: the Handysize vessels the M/V *Free Knight* on March 19, 2008 for the purchase price of \$39,250,000, and the M/V *Free Impala* on April 2, 2008 for a purchase price of \$37,500,000; the Handymax vessel the M/V *Free Lady* on July 7, 2008 for a purchase price of \$65,200,000; and the Handysize vessel the M/V *Free Maverick* on September 1, 2008 for a purchase price of \$39,600,000. These acquisitions were partly financed by bank debt and the remainder of the purchase prices were paid from our available cash on hand.

**OPERATING ACTIVITIES** Net cash from operating activities increased by \$27,492,000, or 542.1%, to \$32,563,000 during fiscal 2008, as compared to \$5,071,000 during fiscal 2007. This increase was primarily attributable to the increase in charter revenues and the increase in the number of vessels in 2008. Net cash from operating activities increased by \$3,974,000, or 362.2%, to \$5,071,000 during fiscal 2007, as compared to \$1,097,000 during fiscal 2006. This increase reflected primarily the increase in charter revenues received in 2007.

**INVESTING ACTIVITIES** We used \$182,539,000 of cash in investing activities during fiscal 2008 as compared to \$86,979,000 used in investing activities during fiscal 2007. The increase was primarily a result of the purchases of the M/V *Free Knight*, the M/V *Free Impala*, the M/V *Free Lady* and the M/V *Free Maverick*. We used \$86,979,000 of cash in investing activities during fiscal 2007 as compared to no cash used in investing activities during fiscal 2006. The increase was primarily a result of the deposits placed for the purchases of the M/V *Free Hero* and the M/V *Free Jupiter*, and the anticipated purchases of two additional vessels that were subsequently cancelled, which was offset by the proceeds received from the sale of the M/V *Free Fighter*.

**FINANCING ACTIVITIES** Net cash from financing activities during fiscal 2008 was \$89,960,000 and consists of \$153,650,000 obtained from long-term loans to finance the acquisition of additional vessels, \$13,157,000 in cash dividends paid on our common stock, and \$49,600,000 of payments on bank loans. Net cash from financing activities during fiscal 2007 was \$144,930,000, \$104,743,000 from a long-term loan obtained to finance the acquisition of additional vessels, \$95,153,000 in net proceeds from our public offering of common stock in 2007, and \$14,000,000 of proceeds from a shareholder loan, which shareholder loan was repaid in full in 2007. Net cash used in financing activities in fiscal 2006 was \$3,991,000, which primarily reflects payments of \$8,250,000 of long-term debt offset by the proceeds of borrowings and the movement of a bank overdraft of \$4,330,000.

**Capital Requirements**

As discussed earlier, we acquired four additional newer built vessels in 2008: the Handysize vessels the M/V *Free Knight* on March 19, 2008 for the purchase price of \$39,250,000, and the M/V *Free Impala* on April 2, 2008 for a purchase price of \$37,500,000; the Handymax vessel the M/V *Free Lady* on July 7, 2008 for a purchase price of \$65,200,000; and the Handysize vessel the M/V *Free Maverick* on September 1, 2008 for a purchase price of \$39,600,000. These acquisitions were partly financed by bank debt and the remainder of the purchase prices were paid from our available cash on hand.

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On May 1, 2007, we, through our wholly owned subsidiaries, entered into memoranda of agreement to acquire the M/V *Free Hero* and the M/V *Free Jupiter*. We took delivery of the M/V *Free Hero* and the M/V *Free Jupiter* on July 3, 2007 and September 5, 2007, respectively.

On August 20, 2007, we entered into a memorandum of agreement pursuant to which we agreed to purchase a secondhand dry bulk carrier, the M/V *Free Goddess*, from an unaffiliated third party for a purchase price of \$25,200,000. We took delivery of the M/V *Free Goddess* in October 2007.

The M/V *Free Hero* and the M/V *Free Jupiter* were acquired for a total price of \$72,250,000 from non-affiliated parties. The M/V *Free Goddess* was acquired for a total price of \$25,200,000 from non-affiliated parties. The acquisition of the M/V *Free Hero*, the M/V *Free Jupiter* and the M/V *Free Goddess* were financed through a combination of bank debt available for this purpose, and a shareholder loan, and the remainder of the purchase prices were paid from our available cash on hand.

For financial statement purposes, we use an estimated useful life of 27 years for each of our vessels, although during 2007 we changed the estimated useful life for the M/V *Free Fighter* to 30 years.. However, economics, rather than a set number of years, determines the actual useful life of a vessel. As a vessel ages, the maintenance costs rise particularly with respect to the cost of surveys. So long as the revenue generated by the vessel sufficiently exceeds its maintenance costs, the vessel will remain in use. If the revenue generated or expected future revenue does not sufficiently exceed the maintenance costs, or if the maintenance costs exceed the revenue generated or expected future revenue, then the vessel owner usually sells the vessel for scrap.

The M/V *Free Destiny*, which is 26 years old, underwent its scheduled dry-dock and special survey in October/November 2007 and its next intermediate dry-docking is scheduled for the third quarter 2010. The M/V *Free Envoy*, which is 25 years old, completed its special survey dry-docking on June 30, 2008 and its next intermediate dry-docking is scheduled for 2011. If future dry-docking surveys do not require us to make extensive capital outlays to keep the vessels profitably operating, then the M/V *Free Destiny* and the M/V *Free Envoy* should continue in use by extending their estimated useful lives; otherwise, it is likely that they will be disposed of and replaced by newer built vessels. The M/V *Free Fighter* underwent her regularly scheduled fifth special survey and dry-docking in November and December 2006. Based on the fifth special survey and dry-docking, the estimated useful life of the M/V *Free Fighter* was changed to 30 years and was subsequently sold during the period ended June 30, 2007.

Our business is capital intensive and our future success will depend on our ability to maintain a high-quality fleet through the timely acquisition of additional vessels and the possible sale of selected vessels. Such acquisitions will be principally subject to management's expectation of future market conditions as well as our ability to acquire dry bulk carriers on favorable terms and secure partial financing at appropriate terms.

**Long-Term Debt**

See Item 4. Information on the Company Loans for Vessels for a summary of our long-term debt.

**Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements**

As of December 31, 2008, we did not have off-balance sheet arrangements as defined in Item 303(a)(4)(ii) of Regulation S-K promulgated by the SEC.

**Table of Contents****Contractual Obligations and Commercial Commitments**

The following table summarizes our contractual obligations as of December 31, 2008 and the effect such obligations and commitments are expected to have on our liquidity and cash flow in future periods:

(in thousands)	Total	Payments due by period			
		Less than 1 year	1-3 years	3-5 years	More than 5 years
Long-term debt	\$ 160,350	\$ 26,700	\$ 32,800	\$ 49,100	\$ 51,750
Interest on variable-rate debt	25,540	5,636	10,757	6,373	2,774
Total obligations	\$ 185,890	\$ 32,336	\$ 43,557	\$ 55,473	\$ 54,524

**Critical Accounting Policies**

The discussion and analysis of our financial condition and results of operations is based upon our consolidated financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America, or U.S. GAAP. The preparation of those financial statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, revenues and expenses and related disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of our financial statements. Actual results may differ from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions.

Critical accounting policies are those that reflect significant judgments or uncertainties, and potentially result in materially different results under different assumptions and conditions. We have described below what we believe are our most critical accounting policies that involve a high degree of judgment and the methods of their application.

*Impairment of long-lived assets.* We evaluate the carrying amounts and periods over which long-lived assets are depreciated to determine if events or changes in circumstances have occurred that would require modification to their carrying values or useful lives. In evaluating useful lives and carrying values of long-lived assets, we review certain indicators of potential impairment, such as undiscounted projected operating cash flows, vessel sales and purchases, business plans and overall market conditions. We determine undiscounted projected net operating cash flows for each vessel and compare it to the vessel carrying value. In the event that the undiscounted projected cash flows do not exceed the recorded amount, we would determine the fair value of the related asset and we would record a charge to operations calculated by comparing the asset's carrying value to the estimated fair market value. We estimate fair market value primarily through the use of valuations performed on an individual vessel basis.

During the fourth quarter of fiscal 2008, we concluded that events occurred and circumstances had changed, which may indicate the existence of potential impairment of our long-lived assets. These indicators included a significant decline in our stock price, continued deterioration in the spot market, and the related impact of the current worldwide economic conditions on our expectation for future revenues. As a result, we performed an interim impairment assessment of long-lived assets. Unless these indicators improve, it is likely we will be required to perform an interim impairment analysis in future quarters.

The interim testing was a review of the undiscounted projected net operating cash flows for each vessel compared to the carrying value. The significant factors and assumptions we used in our undiscounted projected net operating cash flow analysis included: earnings, depreciation, dry-docking costs, and average daily operating expenses of \$4,100 with an increase factor of 2.5% each year. Earnings assumptions were based on time charter rates, spot market rates, FFA rates through 2012 and 10 years of historical charter rates, adjusting for the current economic assumptions. The assumed charter rates ranged from \$8,000 to \$14,900 and \$23,000 for Handysize and Handymax vessels, respectively. Our assessment concluded that step two of the impairment analysis was not required and no impairment of vessels existed as of December 31, 2008, as the undiscounted projected net operating cash flows exceeded the carrying value. A material impairment charge would occur for certain vessels if the forecasted charter rates were to range from \$6,000 to \$8,000 until 2012 and were less than \$14,900 from 2013 onwards until the remaining lives of the

vessels.

Although we believe our underlying assumptions supporting this assessment are reasonable, if charter rate trends and the length of the current market downturn vary significantly from our forecasts, we may be required to perform step two of the impairment analysis in the future. Therefore, there can be no assurances that we would not have material impairment charges in the future.

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*Depreciation.* We record the value of our vessels at their cost (which includes acquisition costs directly attributable to the vessel and expenditures made to prepare the vessel for its initial voyage) less accumulated depreciation. We depreciate each of our vessels on a straight-line basis over its estimated useful life, which during fiscal 2007 was estimated to be 27 years from date of initial delivery from the shipyard for all of our vessels. We believe that a 27-year depreciable life is consistent with that of other shipping companies. During 2007, we changed the estimated useful life for the M/V *Free Fighter* to 30 years. Depreciation is based on cost less the estimated residual scrap value. Furthermore, we estimate the residual values of our vessels to be \$250 per lightweight ton as of December 31, 2008, which we believe is common in the shipping industry. An increase in the useful life of the vessel or in the residual value would have the effect of decreasing the annual depreciation charge and extending it into later periods. A decrease in the useful life of the vessel or in the residual value would have the effect of increasing the annual depreciation charge. See *Liquidity and Capital Resources* for a discussion of the factors affecting the actual useful lives of our vessels. However, when regulations place limitations on the ability of a vessel to trade on a worldwide basis, the vessel's useful life is adjusted to end at the date such regulations become effective.

*Deferred dry-dock and special survey costs.* Our vessels are required to be dry-docked approximately twice in any 60-month period for major repairs and maintenance that cannot be performed while the vessels are operating. The vessels are required to undergo special surveys every 60 months that occasionally coincide with dry-docking due dates, in which case the procedures are combined in a cost-efficient manner. We follow the deferral method of accounting for special survey and dry-docking costs, whereby actual costs incurred are deferred and amortized on a straight line basis over the period through the date the next dry-docking or special survey becomes due. If a special survey or dry-docking is performed prior to the scheduled date, the remaining unamortized balances are immediately written off.

Costs capitalized as part of the dry-dock include all work required by the vessel's classification societies, which may consist of actual costs incurred at the dry-dock yard, including but not limited to, dry-dock dues and general services for vessel preparation, coating of water ballast tanks, cargo holds, steelworks, piping works and valves, machinery work and electrical work.

All work that may be carried out during dry-dock time for routine maintenance according to our planned maintenance program and not required by the vessel's classification societies are not capitalized but expensed as incurred. Unamortized dry-docking costs of vessels that are sold are written off and included in the calculation of resulting gain or loss in the year of the vessel's sale.

*Accounting for revenues and expenses.* Revenues and expenses resulting from each time charter are accounted for on an accrual basis. Time charter revenues are recognized on a straight-line basis over the rental periods of such signed charter agreements, as service is performed, except for loss generating time charters, in which case the loss is recognized in the period when such loss is determined. Time charter revenues received in advance are recorded as a liability until charter service is rendered.

Vessel operating expenses are accounted for on an incurred basis. Certain vessel operating expenses payable by us are estimated and accrued at period end.

We generally enter into profit-sharing arrangements with charterers, whereby we may receive additional income equal to an agreed upon percentage of net earnings earned by the charterer, where those earnings are over the base rate of hire, to be settled periodically, during the term of the charter agreement. Revenues generated from profit-sharing arrangements are recognized based on the amounts settled for a respective period.

*Insurance claims.* Insurance claims comprise claims submitted and/or claims in the process of compilation or submission (claims pending) relating to hull and machinery or protection and indemnity insurance coverage. The insurance claim recoveries receivable are recorded, net of any deductible amounts, at the time when the fixed asset suffers the insured damages and the damage is quantified by the insurance adjuster's preliminary report or when crew medical expenses are incurred and management believes that recovery of an insurance claim is probable. The non-recoverable amounts are classified as operating expenses in our statement of operations. Probability of recovery of a receivable is determined on the basis of the nature of the loss or damage covered by the policy, the history of recoverability of such claims in the past and the receipt of the adjuster's preliminary report on the quantification of the loss. We pay the vendors involved in remedying the insured damage, submit claim documentation and upon collection

offset the receivable. The classification of insurance claims (if any) into current and non-current assets is based on management's expectations as to their collection dates.

**Table of Contents****Recent Accounting Pronouncements**

In September 2006, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (the FASB) issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 157 Fair Value Measurement. SFAS No. 157 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in GAAP and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. SFAS No. 157 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2007, and interim periods within those fiscal years. Earlier application is encouraged, provided that the reporting entity has not yet released financial statements for that fiscal year, including financial statements for an interim period within that fiscal year. The FASB has issued FASB staff position (FSP) No. 157-2 The Effective Date of FASB Statement 157 which confirms the partial deferral of the effective date of SFAS No. 157 Fair Value Measurements for one year for non-financial assets and non-financial liabilities that are recognized or disclosed at fair value in the financial statements. The provisions of SFAS No. 157 should be applied prospectively as of the beginning of the fiscal year in which it is initially applied except for certain cases where it should be applied retrospectively. The adoption of this Accounting Standard is not expected to have a material effect on our consolidated financial statements. This statement will be effective for U.S. companies for fiscal years beginning on January 1, 2008 for financial assets and liabilities and for the fiscal year beginning on January 1, 2009 for non-financial assets and liabilities.

In February 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 159 The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities. SFAS No. 159 permits the entities to choose to measure many financial instruments and certain other items at fair value that are not currently required to be measured at fair value. This Statement is expected to expand the use of fair value measurement, which is consistent with the Board's long-term measurement objectives for accounting for financial instruments. SFAS No. 159 is effective as of the beginning of an entity's first fiscal year that begins after November 15, 2007. Early adoption is permitted as of the beginning of a fiscal year on or before November 15, 2007, provided the entity also elects to apply the provisions of SFAS No. 157 Fair Value Measurements. We have elected not to adopt this statement prior to the required date and do not expect the adoption to have a material effect on the consolidated financial statements.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 141(R) Business Combinations, which amends principles and requirements for how the acquirer of a business recognizes and measures in its financial statements the identifiable assets acquired, the liabilities assumed and any non-controlling interest in the acquiree. The statement also amends guidance for recognizing and measuring the goodwill acquired in the business combination and determines what information to disclose to enable users of the financial statements to evaluate the nature and financial effects of the business combination. SFAS No. 141(R) will be effective for any business combinations commenced after January 1, 2009. Accordingly, any business combinations we engage in will be recorded and disclosed following existing U.S. GAAP until December 31, 2008.

In December 2007, the FASB issued SFAS No. 160, Non-controlling Interests in Consolidated Financial Statement-amendments of ARB No. 51. SFAS No. 160 states that accounting and reporting for minority interests will be recharacterized as non-controlling interests and classified as a component of equity. The Statement also establishes reporting requirements that provide sufficient disclosures that clearly identify and distinguish between the interests of the parent and the interests of the non-controlling owners. SFAS No. 160 applies to all entities that prepare consolidated financial statements, except not-for-profit organizations, but will affect only those entities that have an outstanding non-controlling interest in one or more subsidiaries or that deconsolidate a subsidiary. This Statement is effective as of the beginning of an entity's first fiscal year beginning after December 15, 2008, which corresponds to our year beginning January 1, 2009. We are currently evaluating the expected impact, if any, of the adoption of SFAS No. 160 on our consolidated financial statements.

In January 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 144 Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets. This Statement addresses financial accounting and reporting for the impairment or disposal of long-lived assets. This Statement supersedes SFAS No. 121 Accounting for the Impairment of Long-Lived Assets and for Long-Lived Assets to Be Disposed Of, and the accounting and reporting provisions of APB Opinion No. 30 Reporting the Results of Operations-Reporting the Effects of Disposal of a Segment of a Business, and Extraordinary, Unusual and Infrequently Occurring Events and Transactions, for the disposal of a segment of a business (as previously defined in that Opinion). This Statement also amends ARB No. 51 Consolidated Financial Statements, to eliminate the



exception to consolidation for a subsidiary for which control is likely to be temporary.

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In March 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 161 Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities an amendment of FASB Statement No. 133. SFAS 161 changes the disclosure requirements for derivative instruments and hedging activities. Entities are required to provide enhanced disclosures about (a) how and why and entity uses derivative instruments, (b) how derivative instruments and related hedged items are accounted for under Statement 133 and its related interpretations, and (c) how derivative instruments and related hedged items affect an entity's financial position, financial performance, and cash flows. This statement is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after November 15, 2008, with early application encouraged. This statement encourages, but does not require, comparative disclosures for earlier periods at initial adoption. We are currently evaluating the expected impact, if any, of the adoption of SFAS No. 161 on our consolidated financial statements.

In April 2008, FASB issued FASB FSP No. 142-3 Determination of the useful life of intangible assets. This FSP amends the factors that should be considered in developing renewal or extension assumptions used to determine the useful life of a recognized intangible asset under FASB Statement No. 142, Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets. The intent of this FSP is to improve the consistency between the useful life of a recognized intangible asset under Statement 142 and the period of expected cash flows used to measure the fair value of the asset under SFAS No. 141 (R), Business Combinations, and other U.S. GAAP. This FSP will be effective for FreeSeas for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2008, and interim periods within those fiscal years. Early adoption is prohibited. The adoption of FSP No. 142-3 is not expected to have a material effect on the consolidated financial statements of FreeSeas.

In May 2008, the issued SFAS No. 162 The Hierarchy of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. The new standard is intended to improve financial reporting by identifying a consistent framework, or hierarchy, for selecting accounting principles to be used in preparing financial statements that are presented in conformity with U.S. GAAP for nongovernmental entities. SFAS No. 162 is effective 60 days following the SEC's approval of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board Auditing amendments to AU Section 411, The Meaning of Present Fairly in Conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. The adoption of SFAS No. 162 is not expected to have material effect on the consolidated financial statements of FreeSeas.

In October 2008, the FSP No. 157-3, which clarifies the application of SFAS No. 157, Fair Value Measurements in a market that is not active and provides an example to illustrate key considerations in determining the fair value of a financial asset when the market for that asset is not active. This FSP applies to financial assets within the scope of accounting pronouncements that require or permit fair value measurements in accordance with SFAS No. 157. The FSP shall be effective upon issuance, including prior periods for which financial statements have not been issued. Revisions resulting from a change in the valuation technique or its application shall be accounted for as a change in accounting estimate ( FASB Statement No. 154 Accounting changes and Error Corrections, paragraph 19). The disclosure provisions of SFAS No. 154 for a change in accounting estimate are not required for revisions resulting from a change in valuation technique or its application. The application of FSP No. 157-3 does not have a material effect on the consolidated financial statements of FreeSeas.

**Table of Contents****ITEM 6. DIRECTORS, SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYEES****A. Directors and Senior Management**

The following sets forth the names of the members of our Board of Directors and our senior management. Generally, each member of the Board of Directors serves for a three-year term. Additionally, the directors are divided among three classes, so the term of office of a certain number of directors expires each year. Consequently, the number of directors who stand for re-election each year may vary. Our executive officers are appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the Board of Directors.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Director Class</b>
Ion G. Varouxakis	38	Chairman of the Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officer and President	C
Dimitrios K. Filippas	31	Interim Chief Financial Officer	
Kostas Koutsoubelis	54	Director, Vice President and Treasurer	A
Alexis Varouxakis	32	Secretary	
Didier Salomon	63	Director	A
Focko H. Nauta	51	Director	B
Dimitrios Panagiotopoulos	48	Director	C

**Ion G. Varouxakis** is one of our founders and is the Chairman of our Board of Directors. He also serves as our President and Chief Executive Officer. Prior to forming FreeSeas, Mr. Varouxakis co-founded Free Bulkers in 2003. From 2000 to 2003, Mr. Varouxakis was a managing director of Free Ships S.A., a ship management company, and Free Holdings S.A., a dry bulk ship operating company. From 1997 to 2000, Mr. Varouxakis was a director of Vernicos Maritime, a ship management company managing a fleet of dry bulk carriers. Mr. Varouxakis holds a candidature degree in law from the Catholic University of Saint Louis in Brussels and a bachelor of science degree in economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Mr. Varouxakis is an officer of the reserves of the Hellenic Army. Mr. Varouxakis is the brother of Alexis Varouxakis, our Secretary.

**Dimitrios K. Filippas** became our interim Chief Financial Officer in December 2008. Mr. Filippas joined us in July 2007, as the assistant to our Chief Financial Officer. Prior to joining FreeSeas, from February 2006 to June 2007, he was a financial accountant at Top Ships, Inc., a NASDAQ-listed company. From January 2004 to January 2006, Mr. Filippas was employed as a financial accountant at Roswell Navigation Corp., a private ship management company. Mr. Filippas holds a BSc in Banking and International Finance from Cass Business School and a Masters in Shipping Business from London Guildhall University.

**Kostas Koutsoubelis** joined our Board of Directors in 2007 and serves as our Vice President and Treasurer. In addition, Mr. Koutsoubelis is the group financial director of the Restis Group of Companies and also the chairman of Golden Energy Marine Corp. Furthermore, he is a member of the board of directors in First Business Bank, South African Marine Corp. S.A. and Swissmarine Corporation Ltd. Before joining the Restis Group, he served as head of shipping of Credit Lyonnais Greece. After graduating from St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri, he held various positions in Mobil Oil Hellas S.A. and after his departure he joined International Reefer Services, S.A., a major shipping company, as financial director. In the past he has also served as director of Egnatia Securities S.A., a stock exchange company, and Egnatia Mutual Fund S.A. He is a governor in the Propeller Club Port of Piraeus and member of the Board of the Association of Banking and Financial Executives of Hellenic Shipping.

**Alexis Varouxakis** is our Secretary. Mr. Varouxakis holds a bachelor in science degree in economics from City University, London, and a master in arts degree in art management from City University, London. From 2001 to 2004, he was involved in the entertainment industry and produced a number of feature films, award winning short movies, and television commercials. Between 2002 and 2004, Mr. Varouxakis was a member of the board of directors of the New Producers Alliance, UK's national membership and training organization for producers and filmmakers. From 2005 to 2006, he was general manager of Aello MCPY, a company specializing in the luxury yacht charter business. In 2007, he joined Free Bulkers S.A. as assistant operations manager. Mr. Varouxakis is the brother of Ion Varouxakis, our chairman, chief executive officer and president.



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**Didier Salomon** joined the board in 2008. He has spent fourteen years as head of global shipping at BNP Paribas. Prior to that, he held similar positions at Banque Louis-Dreyfus, Banque Bruxelles Lambert and Credit Naval. Mr. Salomon holds a diploma in political science (Sciences Po Paris), a degree in law (Paris Assas) and a post graduate diploma in banking (Centre d Etudes Superieures de Banque). For many years he has been a lecturer on the economy and capital markets at the Conservatoire des Arts et Metiers in Paris.

**Focko H. Nauta** has been one our directors since 2005. Since September 2000, he has also been a director of FinShip SA, a ship financing company. He assisted us in arranging debt financing with Hollandsche-Bank Unie N.V. From 1997 through 1999, Mr. Nauta served as a managing director of Van Ommereen Shipbroking, a London-based ship brokering company. Prior to 1997, he was a general manager of a Fortis Bank branch. Mr. Nauta holds a degree in law from Leiden University in the Netherlands.

**Dimitrios Panagiotopoulos** joined our Board of Directors in 2007. In addition, he is the head of shipping and corporate banking of Proton Bank, a Greek private bank, where he has served since April 2004. From January 1997 to March 2004, he served as deputy head of the Greek shipping desk of BNP Paribas and before that for four years as senior officer of the shipping department of Credit Lyonnais Greece. From 1990 to 1993, he was working as chief accountant in Ionia Management, a Greek shipping company. Mr. Panagiotopoulos also serves on the Board of Directors of Seanergy Maritime Holdings Corp., a NASDAQ-listed company in the dry bulk industry. He holds a degree in economics from Athens University and a masters of science in shipping, trade and finance from City University of London. He served his obligatory military duty as an officer of the Greek Special Forces and today is a captain of the reserves of Hellenic Army.

Messrs. Ion and Alexis Varouxakis are brothers. There are no other family relationships among our directors and executive officers.

**B. Compensation**

The total gross compensation paid in 2008 to our executive officers and directors as a group was \$377,722 Commencing October 1, 2008, in connection with the execution of our amended and restated services agreement with Free Bulkers, our executive officers received salaried compensation from Free Bulkers, which receives a monthly management fee from us to provide overall executive and commercial management of its affairs. See Item 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions.

**Board Practices**

The term of our Class A directors expires in 2009, the term of our Class B directors expires in 2010 and the term of our Class C directors expires in 2011. Mr. Nauta was appointed to the Board of Directors on December 16, 2005. Each of Messrs. Koutsoubelis and Panagiotopoulos were elected to the Board on January 5, 2007. Mr. Salomon was appointed to the Board of Directors on October 31, 2008.

There are no agreements between us and any director that provide for benefits upon termination or retirement.

We have established an Audit Committee comprising three board members who will be responsible for reviewing our accounting controls and recommending to the Board of Directors the engagement of our outside auditors. Each member is an independent director. The members of the Audit Committee are Messrs. Nauta, Salomon and Panagiotopoulos.

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We have established a Compensation Committee comprising of three members, which are responsible for establishing executive officers' compensation and benefits. The members of the Compensation Committee are Messrs. Salomon, Nauta and Panagiotopoulos.

**Employees**

We currently have no employees. Free Bulkers, our ship manager, is responsible for employing all of the executive officers and staff to execute and supervise our operations based on the strategy devised by the board of directors and subject to the approval of our board of directors and for recruiting, and employing, either directly or through a crewing agent, the senior officers and all other crew members for our vessels.

**E. Share Ownership**

The following table sets out certain information regarding the beneficial ownership of our common stock as of the date of filing this report by each of our officers and directors, all of our officers and directors as a group, and each person or group of affiliated persons who is currently known to us to be the beneficial owner of 5% or more of the shares of our common stock.

Unless otherwise indicated, we believe that all persons named in the table have sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares of beneficially owned by them.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Number of Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned</b>	<b>Percentage of Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned<sup>(1)</sup></b>
Ion G. Varouxakis	2,314,697 <sup>(2)</sup>	10.9%
Dimitrios K. Filippas		*
Focko H. Nauta	15,000 <sup>(3)</sup>	*
Dimitrios Panagiotopoulos	15,000 <sup>(3)</sup>	*
Kostas Koutsoubelis	15,000 <sup>(3)</sup>	*
Didier Salomon		
Alexis Varouxakis	21,000 <sup>(3)</sup>	*
All directors and executive officers as a group (seven persons)	2,504,697 <sup>(4)</sup>	11.8%

\* Less than 1%.

- (1) For purposes of computing the percentage of outstanding shares of common stock held by each person named above, any shares that the named person has the right to acquire within 60 days under warrants or

options are deemed to be outstanding for that person, but are not deemed to be outstanding when computing the percentage ownership of any other person.

- (2) Reflects 2,314,697 shares owned by The Midas Touch S.A., a Marshall Islands corporation wholly owned by Mr. Varouxakis; Does not include 40,000 shares owned by V Estates S.A., which is controlled by Mr. Varouxakis father, and 30,600 shares owned by Mr. Varouxakis mother, as to which shares he disclaims beneficial ownership.

- (3) Reflects 6,000 shares owned by Edifice Holding, S.A. a Marshall Islands corporation wholly owned by Mr. Alexis Varouxakis and 5,000 shares underlying fully vested options.

(4)

Includes an  
aggregate of  
125,000 shares  
underlying fully  
vested options.

**Amended and Restated 2005 Stock Incentive Plan**

Our Amended and Restated 2005 Stock Incentive Plan was implemented for the purpose of furthering our long-term stability, continuing growth and financial success by retaining and attracting key employees, officers and directors through the use of stock incentives. Our shareholders approved the plan on December 19, 2006. Awards may be granted under the plan in the form of incentive stock options, non-qualified stock options, stock appreciation rights, dividend equivalent rights, restricted stock, unrestricted stock, restricted stock units and performance shares. Pursuant to the plan, we have reserved 1,500,000 shares of our common stock for awards.



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All of our officers, directors and executive, managerial, administrative and professional employees are eligible to receive awards under the plan. Our Board of Directors has the power and complete discretion, as provided in the plan, to select which persons will receive awards and to determine for each such person the terms, conditions and nature of the award, and the number of shares to be allocated to each individual as part of each award.

**Employment of Our Executive Officers**

In 2005, we had entered into an employment agreement with Ion G. Varouxakis. The agreement was for an initial term of three years, with additional two-year renewal terms so long as we do not give notice of termination at least 30 days before the expiration of the current term. Mr. Varouxakis' salary was subject to increases as may be approved by our Board of Directors and he was entitled to receive performance or merit bonuses as determined from time to time by our board or a committee of the board and the reimbursement of expenses and other employee benefits as may be implemented. Effective October 1, 2008, in connection with the execution of an amended and restated services agreement with Free Bulkers, Mr. Varouxakis' employment agreement was terminated by mutual consent of the parties and all service of Mr. Varouxakis and our chief financial officer are provided to us under the amended services agreement with Free Bulkers.

**ITEM 7. MAJOR SHAREHOLDERS AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS****A. Major Shareholders**

The following table sets out certain information with respect to each person or group of affiliated persons who is currently known to us to be the beneficial owner of 5% or more of the shares of our common stock as of the date of filing of this annual report.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Number of Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned</b>	<b>Percentage of Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned<sup>(1)</sup></b>
Ion G. Varouxakis	2,314,697 <sup>(2)</sup>	10.9%
FS Holdings Limited	3,240,653 <sup>(3)</sup>	15.3%

- (1) For purposes of computing the percentage of outstanding shares of common stock held by each person named above, any shares that the named person has the right to acquire within 60 days under warrants or options are deemed to be outstanding for that person, but

are not deemed to be outstanding when computing the percentage ownership of any other person.

- (2) Reflects 2,314,697 shares owned by The Mida s Touch S.A., a Marshall Islands corporation wholly owned by Mr. Varouxakis; Does not include 40,000 shares owned by V Estates S.A., which is controlled by Mr. Varouxakis father, and 30,600 shares owned by Mr. Varouxakis mother, as to which shares he disclaims beneficial ownership.

- (3) Reflects 2,808,782 shares owned by FS Holdings Limited, a Marshall Islands corporation, and 431,811 shares owned by Benbay Limited, a Republic of Cyprus corporation, each of which is controlled by the Restis Family.

All shares owned by the shareholders listed in the table above have the same voting rights as other shares of our common stock.

To the best of our knowledge, except as disclosed in the table above, we are not owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by another corporation or by any foreign government.

To the best of our knowledge, there are no agreements in place that could result in a change of control of us.

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As of April 6, 2009, 15,977,250 shares of our common stock, or 75.5%, were held of record by four persons with U.S. addresses of record, including (i) 2,078,223 shares beneficially owned by one of our executive officers whose shares are held in an account in the United States, and (ii) 15,976,450 shares owned of record is CEDE & Co., a nominee of The Depository Trust Company. We believe that the shares held by CEDE & Co., as nominee, include shares of common stock beneficially owned by both holders in and outside the United States.

**B. Related Party Transactions**

Each of our vessel-owning subsidiaries has entered into a management contract with Free Bulkters, a company owned and operated by Mr. Varouxakis. Pursuant to the management contracts, Free Bulkters is responsible for all aspects of technical management and maintenance for each of the vessels. Each agreement calls for a monthly technical management fee of \$15,000 (based on \$1.30 per Euro). FreeSeas also pays Free Bulkters a fee equal to 1.25% of the gross freight or hire from the employment of FreeSeas vessels and a 1% commission to be paid to Free Bulkters on the gross purchase price of any new vessels acquired or the gross sales price of any vessels sold by FreeSeas with the assistance of Free Bulkters. FreeSeas also reimburses, at cost, the travel and other personnel expenses of the Free Bulkters staff, including the per diem paid by Free Bulkters to its staff, when they are required to attend FreeSeas vessels at port. FreeSeas believes that it pays Free Bulkters industry standard fees for these services.

Free Bulkters has entered into a commercial sub-management agreement with Safbulk, an affiliate of FS Holdings Limited, one of our principal shareholders. Safbulk and FS Holdings Limited are controlled by the Restis family. Safbulk has agreed to perform charter and post-charter management services for our fleet, including obtaining and negotiating vessel employment and related services, freight calculations, correspondence with charterers, and employment of charter brokers. Free Bulkters has agreed to pay to Safbulk the 1.25% fee on hire or freight to be received from us for our vessels chartered through Safbulk, except for the M/V *Free Hero* and the M/V *Free Maverick* where the fee is 0.625%, commencing with the charters secured by it for the M/V *Free Envoy* and the M/V *Free Destiny* in March 2007. This agreement is for an initial one-year term and renews automatically until terminated by either party, with or without cause, upon one month's notice.

On October 1, 2008, we entered into an amended and restated services agreement with Free Bulkters pursuant to which the annual fee of \$500,000 was increased to \$1,200,000. An additional fee of \$300,000 was paid to Free Bulkters as partial contribution for the refurbishment of our offices. Under the amended service agreement, Free Bulkters is responsible for executing and supervising all of our operations based on the strategy devised by the board of directors and subject to the approval of our board of directors. Free Bulkters is responsible, among other things, for with general administrative, office and support services necessary for our operations and our fleet, including technical and clerical personnel, communication, accounting, and data processing services; advising our board of directors when opportunities arise to purchase, including through newbuildings, or to sell any vessels; and negotiating all borrowings, deposits and lending arrangements for us. The agreement is for an initial term of 10 years but may be terminated by either party upon written notice in certain circumstances. If the agreement is terminated by Free Bulkters upon a change in control as defined in the agreement, Free Bulker is entitled to a termination fee equal to: (i) the total aggregate of the rental fee due for the Company's office from the date of such termination to the end of the term of the agreement; plus (ii) 25 multiplied by the sum of (a) the annualized aggregate ship management fees to which the Free Bulkters would be entitled under the ship management agreements, based on the monthly ship management fees in effect on the date of termination, and (b) the annualized management fee to which the Free Bulkters would be entitled under the agreement, based on the monthly management fee in effect on the date of termination; plus (iii) 25 multiplied by the average of the bonuses previously paid to the Free Bulkters under the agreement (with the dollar value of any bonus paid in shares or other securities of the Company based on the aggregate fair market value of such shares or securities on the date such bonus was awarded).

The expenses related to the technical management fee and the services from Free Bulkters under the amended and restated services agreement are reflected in the accompanying condensed consolidated statements of operations as Management and Other Fees to a Related Party. The total amounts paid for the twelve month periods ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 amounted to \$2,634,000, \$875,000 and \$540,000, respectively. The balance due from or (to) related party as of December 31, 2008 and December 31, 2007 was \$1,622,000 and \$1,037,000, respectively. Amounts paid to related parties for office space during the twelve month period ended December 31,

2008 were \$ 210 (Euro 139) and for the same periods in 2007 and 2006 the amounts were \$67 (Euro 48), and \$ nil respectively.

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Prior to entering into the amended services agreement, Free Bulkers provided us with our office space at no rental cost to us until February 2007. In February 2007, and in conjunction with moving into new office space, we entered into an agreement with Free Bulkers pursuant to which we agreed to pay Free Bulkers one-half of the rents due from Free Bulkers to the lessor of our current office space commencing on January 1, 2007. During 2007, the amount paid under that agreement totaled approximately \$67,000 ( 48,200 based on the exchange rate of \$1.39 to 1.00). Beginning on January 1, 2008 and in conjunction with a further expansion of our office space, we agreed to pay Free Bulkers one half of the monthly rent of \$15,525 ( 9,703 based on the exchange rate of \$1.60 to 1.00) plus one half of the apportioned common expenses charged by the lessor. Reimbursement of rental and common expenses continue on the same basis under our amended services agreement with Free Bulkers.

In September 2007, we entered into an additional agreement with Free Bulkers pursuant to which Free Bulkers provided us services related to our accounting and financial reporting obligations, including our internal controls assessment and reporting obligations. Free Bulkers' fee for the foregoing services for 2007 was \$300,000, payable quarterly, and the fee was increased to \$500,000 per year for 2008 through the date of the amended services agreement in order to cover increased costs for staff, installation of a new accounting software and our internal controls reporting requirements. This agreement was for an initial term of one year and has been amended and superseded by the amended service agreement.

On May 7, 2007, FS Holdings Limited, agreed to loan us up to \$14,000,000 pursuant to an unsecured promissory note for the purpose of financing the acquisition of four new vessels. The loan was fully drawn as of June 2007. The note accrued interest on the then-outstanding principal balance at the annual rate of 12.0%, payable upon maturity of the loan. The loan was due at the earlier of (i) May 7, 2009, (ii) the date of a Capital Event, which is defined as any event in which we raise gross proceeds of not less than \$40,000,000 in an offering of our common stock or other equity securities or securities convertible into or exchangeable for our equity securities or (iii) the date of acceleration due to a default of the amounts due under the note. The loan was prepayable by us, upon 30 days' prior written notice to FS Holdings Limited, in whole or in part, in increments of not less than \$500,000. In connection with this loan, we agreed to issue to FS Holdings Limited, for every \$1,000,000 (or pro rata portion thereof) drawn under the loan, warrants to purchase 50,000 shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$5.00 per share. We issued warrants to acquire a total of 700,000 shares of our common stock, and FS Holdings Limited exercised these warrants in full on November 14, 2007. We used a portion of the net proceeds of the October 2007 offering to repay all the amounts outstanding under this loan.

During 2007, we had outstanding two loans from our principal shareholders. These loans were made in August and September 2004 in connection with the purchases of the M/V *Free Destiny* and the M/V *Free Envoy*, respectively. The loans had principal balances at origination of \$1,579,447 and \$2,554,737, respectively, and were interest-free. In April 2005 and October 2005, the loans were modified to provide for a repayment schedule for each loan of eight equal quarterly installments of \$125,000 each in 2006 and 2007, with balloon payments of the balance due on each loan on January 1, 2008. Additionally, the amended terms provide that the loans will become immediately due and payable in the event that we raise additional capital of at least \$12,500,000. On January 5, 2007, the shareholder loans due to one of our corporate shareholders were sold to The Mida's Touch, a corporation controlled by Mr. Varouxakis, for the principal amount outstanding. The Mida's Touch subsequently sold a portion of such loans to FS Holdings Limited. In November 2007, we used a portion of the net proceeds of the October 2007 offering to repay all the amounts outstanding under these loans.

In January 2007, V Capital S.A., a Marshall Islands corporation wholly owned by Ion G. Varouxakis, purchased from the two other co-founding shareholders an aggregate of 2,812,250 shares of our common stock for cash at a price of \$3.268 per share and pre-existing promissory notes in the aggregate principal amount of \$1,308,500 executed by us for consideration equal to the principal amount of the notes. Simultaneously V Capital S.A. sold 70,600 shares to Mr. Varouxakis' family members and 2,108,782 shares to FS Holdings Limited. V Capital S.A. also sold 305,921 shares to an institutional investor and sold 327,197 shares to The Mida's Touch S.A., another Marshall Islands corporation wholly owned by Mr. Varouxakis. All of these sales were for cash at \$3.268 per share. In addition, V Capital S.A. transferred \$1,108,500 of the principal amount of the shareholder loans to FS Holdings Limited for consideration equal to the principal amount transferred.



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We obtained a loan from FBB in the aggregate amount of \$26,250,000 to partially finance the acquisition of the M/V *Free Impala*, which as of December 31, 2008 has an outstanding balance of \$24,750,000. FS Holdings Limited, one of our principal shareholders, is also a principal shareholder of FBB.

Mr. Constantinos Varouxakis, the brother of Mr. Ion Varouxakis, our chairman, chief executive officer and president, is associated with a ship-brokering company. Free Bulkers and Safbulk use such brokering company, from time to time, as one of the shipping brokers for our fleet. This shipping brokerage firm received commissions of approximately \$112,000 during the twelve month period ended December 31, 2008, which represents 3.4%, respectively, of the \$3.3 million of total commissions paid in the same period. This compares to \$114,000 of commissions paid to this firm during the same period in 2007 which represent 10.40% of the \$1,095,000 of total commissions paid in the same period. During the twelve month period ended December 31, 2006 the total commissions paid to this firm were \$nil.

**C. Interest of Experts and Counsel**

Not applicable.

**ITEM 8. FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**A. Consolidated Statements and Other Financial Information**

Please see Item 18. Financial Statements for a list of the financial statements filed as part of this annual report.

**B. Significant Changes**

Not applicable.

**ITEM 9. THE OFFER AND LISTING**

**A. Offer and Listing Details**

Not applicable.

**B. Plan of Distribution**

Not applicable.

**C. Markets**

Our common stock, Class W warrants and Class Z warrants began trading on The NASDAQ Global Market on November 8, 2007 under the trading symbols FREE, FREEW and FREEZ, respectively. Prior to that time, the Company's common stock, Class W warrants and Class Z warrants were traded on The NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbols FREE, FREEW and FREEZ, respectively.



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The closing high and low sales prices of our common stock, Class W warrants and Class Z warrants as reported by The NASDAQ Stock Market, for the quarters and months indicated, are as follows:

For the Years Ended:	Common Stock		Class W Warrants		Class Z Warrants	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
December 31, 2007	\$ 10.24	\$ 2.76	\$ 5.14	\$ 0.25	\$ 5.20	\$ 0.48
December 31, 2008	7.97	0.90	3.05	0.02	3.35	0.05

For the Quarters Ended:	Common Stock		Class W Warrants		Class Z Warrants	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
March 31, 2007	\$ 5.15	\$ 2.76	\$ 1.29	\$ 0.25	\$ 1.15	\$ 0.48
June 30, 2007	7.63	4.55	2.65	0.81	2.76	1.00
September 30, 2007	9.35	6.77	3.30	1.82	3.35	2.10
December 31, 2007	10.24	5.12	5.14	1.68	5.20	1.73
March 31, 2008	6.09	4.49	2.45	1.06	2.45	1.40
June 30, 2008	7.97	5.90	3.05	1.85	3.35	1.85
September 30, 2008	7.07	3.95	2.24	0.97	2.65	1.25
December 31, 2008	4.01	0.90	1.15	0.02	1.46	0.05
March 31, 2009	1.88	0.54	0.24	0.04	0.33	0.08

For the Months Ended:	Common Stock		Class W Warrants		Class Z Warrants	
	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
October 31, 2008	\$ 4.01	\$ 1.99	\$ 1.15	\$ 0.24	\$ 1.46	\$ 0.25
November 30, 2008	2.50	0.90	0.24	0.02	0.50	0.05
December 31, 2008	2.02	1.11	0.18	0.03	0.29	0.12
January 31, 2009	1.88	1.28	0.24	0.10	0.33	0.16
February 28, 2009	1.67	1.21	0.14	0.09	0.21	0.16
March 31, 2009	1.48	0.54	0.15	0.04	0.15	0.08

**D. Selling Shareholders**

Not applicable.

**E. Dilution**

Not applicable.

**F. Expenses of the Issue**

Not applicable.

**ITEM 10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION****A. Share Capital**

Not applicable.

**B. Memorandum and Articles of Incorporation**

The information required herein was provided in the Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-145203) previously filed by us with the Securities and Exchange Commission and is incorporated herein by reference.

One million shares of our preferred stock have been designated Series A Participating Preferred Stock in connection with our adoption of a shareholder rights plan as described below under Shareholder Rights Plan.

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**Shareholder Rights Plan**

***General***

Each share of our common stock includes a right that entitles the holder to purchase from us a unit consisting of one-thousandth of a share of our Series A participating preferred stock at a purchase price of \$18.00 per unit, subject to specified adjustments. The rights are issued pursuant to a rights agreement between us and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC, as rights agent. Until a right is exercised, the holder of a right will have no rights to vote or receive dividends or any other shareholder rights.

The rights may have anti-takeover effects. The rights will cause substantial dilution to any person or group that attempts to acquire us without the approval of our board of directors. As a result, the overall effect of the rights may be to render more difficult or discourage any attempt to acquire us. Because our board of directors can approve a redemption of the rights or a permitted offer, the rights should not interfere with a merger or other business combination approved by our board of directors.

We have summarized the material terms and conditions of the rights agreement and the rights below. For a complete description of the rights, we encourage you to read the rights agreement, which we have filed as an exhibit to this annual report.

***Detachment of the Rights***

The rights are attached to all certificates representing our outstanding common stock and will attach to all common stock certificates we issue prior to the rights distribution date that we describe below. The rights are not exercisable until after the rights distribution date and will expire at the close of business on the tenth anniversary date of the adoption of the rights plan, unless we redeem or exchange them earlier as described below. The rights will separate from the common stock and a rights distribution date will occur, subject to specified exceptions, on the earlier of the following two dates:

10 days following a public announcement that a person or group of affiliated or associated persons or an acquiring person has acquired or obtained the right to acquire beneficial ownership of 15% or more of our outstanding common stock; or

10 business days following the start of a tender or exchange offer that would result, if closed, in a person becoming an acquiring person.

Existing shareholders and their affiliates are excluded from the definition of acquiring person for purposes of the rights, and therefore their ownership or future share acquisitions cannot trigger the rights. Specified inadvertent owners that would otherwise become an acquiring person, including those who would have this designation as a result of repurchases of common stock by us, will not become acquiring persons as a result of those transactions.

Our board of directors may defer the rights distribution date in some circumstances, and some inadvertent acquisitions will not result in a person becoming an acquiring person if the person promptly divests itself of a sufficient number of shares of common stock.

Until the rights distribution date:

our common stock certificates will evidence the rights, and the rights will be transferable only with those certificates; and

any new shares of common stock will be issued with rights and new certificates will contain a notation incorporating the rights agreement by reference.

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As soon as practicable after the rights distribution date, the rights agent will mail certificates representing the rights to holders of record of common stock at the close of business on that date. After the rights distribution date, only separate rights certificates will represent the rights.

We will not issue rights with any shares of common stock we issue after the rights distribution date, except as our board of directors may otherwise determine.

***Flip-In Event***

A flip-in event will occur under the rights agreement when a person becomes an acquiring person. If a flip-in event occurs and we do not redeem the rights as described under the heading "Redemption of Rights" below, each right, other than any right that has become void, as described below, will become exercisable at the time it is no longer redeemable for the number of shares of common stock, or, in some cases, cash, property or other of our securities, having a current market price equal to two times the exercise price of such right.

If a flip-in event occurs, all rights that then are, or in some circumstances that were, beneficially owned by or transferred to an acquiring person or specified related parties will become void in the circumstances the rights agreement specifies.

***Flip-Over Event***

A flip-over event will occur under the rights agreement when, at any time after a person has become an acquiring person:

we are acquired in a merger or other business combination transaction; or

50% or more of our assets, cash flows or earning power is sold or transferred.

If a flip-over event occurs, each holder of a right, other than any right that has become void as we describe under the heading "Flip-In Event" above, will have the right to receive the number of shares of common stock of the acquiring company having a current market price equal to two times the exercise price of such right.

***Antidilution***

The number of outstanding rights associated with our common stock is subject to adjustment for any stock split, stock dividend or subdivision, combination or reclassification of our common stock occurring prior to the rights distribution date. With some exceptions, the rights agreement does not require us to adjust the exercise price of the rights until cumulative adjustments amount to at least 1% of the exercise price. It also does not require us to issue fractional shares of our preferred stock that are not integral multiples of one one-hundredth of a share, and, instead we may make a cash adjustment based on the market price of the common stock on the last trading date prior to the date of exercise. The rights agreement reserves us the right to require, prior to the occurrence of any flip-in event or flip-over event that, on any exercise of rights, that a number of rights must be exercised so that we will issue only whole shares of stock.

***Redemption of Rights***

At any time until 10 days after the date on which the occurrence of a flip-in event is first publicly announced, we may redeem the rights in whole, but not in part, at a redemption price of \$0.01 per right. The redemption price is subject to adjustment for any stock split, stock dividend or similar transaction occurring before the date of redemption. At our option, we may pay that redemption price in cash, shares of common stock or any other consideration our board of directors may select. The rights are not exercisable after a flip-in event until they are no longer redeemable. If our board of directors timely orders the redemption of the rights, the rights will terminate on the effectiveness of that action.

**Table of Contents*****Exchange of Rights***

We may, at our option, exchange the rights (other than rights owned by an acquiring person or an affiliate or an associate of an acquiring person, which have become void), in whole or in part. The exchange must be at an exchange ratio of one share of common stock per right, subject to specified adjustments at any time after the occurrence of a flip-in event and prior to:

any person other than our existing shareholders becoming the beneficial owner of common stock with voting power equal to 50% or more of the total voting power of all shares of common stock entitled to vote in the election of directors; or

the occurrence of a flip-over event.

***Amendment of Terms of Rights***

While the rights are outstanding, we may amend the provisions of the rights agreement only as follows:

to cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency;

to make changes that do not adversely affect the interests of holders of rights, excluding the interests of any acquiring person; or

to shorten or lengthen any time period under the rights agreement, except that we cannot change the time period when rights may be redeemed or lengthen any time period, unless such lengthening protects, enhances or clarifies the benefits of holders of rights other than an acquiring person.

At any time when no rights are outstanding, we may amend any of the provisions of the rights agreement, other than decreasing the redemption price.

**C. Material Contracts****Amended Credit Agreement dated August 12, 2008 among Adventure Two, Adventure Three, Adventure Seven and Adventure Eleven with Hollandsche Bank Unie N.V.; Term sheet dated March 20, 2009**

On August 12, 2008, the Company amended the credit facility of January 21, 2008 with the Hollandsche Bank Unie ( HBU ), and was granted a new credit facility of \$34,600,000 in addition to the then-outstanding facility of \$32,125,000. The breakdown of the facility amount of \$66,725,000 is as follows: (i) the pre-existing overdraft facility I in the outstanding amount of \$2,500,000; (ii) an unused overdraft facility II in the amount of \$1,375,000, the availability of which will be reduced quarterly by \$125,000 beginning three months after the first draw down date; (iii) an overdraft facility III in the amount of \$3,000,000, which can be drawn down when the overdraft facility IV has been repaid and, except for earlier alteration the limit of the overdraft facility III, will be reduced to zero on April 1, 2016; (iv) an overdraft facility IV in the amount of \$34,600,000, which has been used to finance a portion of the purchase price of the M/V *Free Maverick*; and (v) the then-outstanding amount of \$25,250,000 of the rollover eight-year loan facility which was used to finance a portion of the purchase price of the M/V *Free Knight*, the principal amount of which was \$27,000,000.

All facilities are secured by a first preferred mortgage on the M/V *Free Maverick*, first and second preferred mortgages on the M/V *Free Knight* and first, second and third preferred mortgages on the M/V *Free Destiny* and the M/V *Free Envoy*, a FreeSeas guarantee, a manager's undertaking and pledges of (1) the rights and earnings under time charter contracts present or future, and (2) rights under insurance policies. In addition, the loan agreement contains certain affirmative and negative covenants including the maintenance of certain financial covenants regarding our leverage ratio, EBITDA, and minimum liquidity.

On March 20, 2009, HBU agreed to waive any breach of the 70% loan to value ratio in our existing credit agreements during the period from October 1, 2008 through July 1, 2010. A new value to loan covenant will be added in the existing credit agreement, as well as the credit agreement for the new \$27,100,000 loan, and will be as follows:

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100% commencing July 1, 2010

110% commencing July 1, 2011

120% commencing July 1, 2012

125% commencing December 31, 2012

In addition, commencing March 1, 2009, interest due on the continuing term loan and overdraft facilities will increase from 1.30% above LIBOR to 2.25% above LIBOR. Interest will decrease to 1.30% above LIBOR at such time as we meet the originally agreed loan to value ratio of 70%.

**Memorandum of Agreement dated August 7, 2008 for the M/V Free Maverick**

On August 7, 2008, we entered into a memorandum of agreement with an unaffiliated third party pursuant to which we agreed to purchase the M/V *Free Maverick*, a 1998-built secondhand Handysize vessel for a total purchase price of \$39.60 million. The M/V *Free Maverick* was delivered on September 1, 2008.

**Supplemental Agreement dated June 26, 2008 to the Facility Agreement dated December 24, 2007, entered into between FreeSeas Inc. as borrower and Credit Suisse as lender; Supplemental Agreement dated March 23, 2009 to the Facility Agreement dated December 24, 2007 between FreeSeas Inc. and Credit Suisse**

On June 26, 2008, we entered into a supplemental agreement to the facility agreement dated December 27, 2007, entered into between FreeSeas Inc. as borrower and Credit Suisse as lender for the purpose of increase of the original facility from \$87,000,000 to \$91,000,000 and for the purpose of amending and restating the facility agreement. This agreement now sets out the terms and conditions upon which Credit Suisse shall, at the request of the Borrower, provide its consent to (inter alia): (a) the increase of the Commitment by the amount of \$4,000,000 to a total amount of \$91,000,000; (b) the consolidation of the additional tranches into one additional tranche and the increase of the aggregate amount of such additional tranche by the amount of \$4,000,000 to a total amount of \$42,300,000; and (c) certain other amendments to the principal agreement.

On March 23, 2009, Credit Suisse agreed to waive any breach of the 135% value to loan covenant from October 1, 2008 until March 31, 2010. In consideration of the waiver, we have agreed to a prepayment of \$5,000,000 on July 31, 2009. In addition, from March 23, 2009 until March 31, 2010, the interest payable on the loan shall increase to 2.25% above LIBOR from 1.25% above LIBOR.

**Loan Agreement dated March 31, 2008 between Adventure Nine, S.A. and First Business Bank; First Preferred Mortgage on the M/V Free Impala; Deed of Covenants dated April 2, 2008 between Adventure Nine and First Business Bank; First Supplemental Agreement dated March 17, 2009 to Loan Agreement dated March 31, 2008 with First Business Bank**

On March 31 2008, we entered into a loan agreement with FBB to finance a portion of the purchase price of the M/V *Free Impala*. The loan is in the principal amount of \$26,250,000 to our subsidiary, Adventure Nine, S.A., matures in seven years and bears interest at the rate of LIBOR plus 1.375% per annum. The loan is payable in 28 quarterly installments of \$750,000 plus interest with a balloon payment of \$5,250,000 due with the 28<sup>th</sup> installment. The loan is secured by a first preferred mortgage on the M/V *Free Impala*, a FreeSeas guarantee, a manager's undertaking and pledges of (1) the rights and earnings under time charter contracts present or future, and (2) rights under insurance policies.

In addition, the loan agreement contains certain affirmative and negative covenants including the maintenance of certain financial covenants regarding our leverage ratio, EBITDA, and minimum liquidity.

On March 17, 2009, FBB agreed to waive any breach of the 130% value to loan covenant for the mortgaged vessel and any breach of our ratio of total liabilities to total assets from January 1, 2009 until January 1, 2010. Further, FBB has confirmed that no event of default had occurred as of December 31, 2008. Effective as January 1, 2009, the interest payable increased from 1.375% above LIBOR to 2.00% above LIBOR.

**Table of Contents****Memorandum of Agreement dated March 10, 2008 for the M/V Free Lady**

On March 10, 2008, we entered into a memorandum of agreement with an unaffiliated third party pursuant to which we agreed to purchase the M/V *Free Lady*, a 2003-built secondhand Handymax vessel for a total purchase price of \$62.50 million. The M/V *Free Lady* was delivered on July 07, 2008.

**Memorandum of Agreement dated January 22, 2008 for the M/V Free Impala**

On January 22, 2008, we entered also into a memorandum of agreement with an affiliated third party pursuant to which we agreed to purchase the M/V *Free Impala*, a 1997-built secondhand Handysize vessel for a total purchase price of \$37,500,000. The M/V *Free Impala* was delivered on April 2, 2008.

**Memorandum of Agreement dated January 22, 2008 for the M/V Free Knight**

On January 22, 2008, we entered into a memorandum of agreement with an affiliated third party pursuant to which we agreed to purchase the M/V *Free Knight*, a 1998-built secondhand Handysize vessel for a total purchase price of \$39.25 million. The M/V *Free Knight* was delivered on March 19, 2008.

**Credit Agreement dated January 21, 2008 among Adventure Two, Adventure Three and Adventure Seven with Hollandsche Bank Unie N.V.; Short term Loan Agreement among Adventure Two, Adventure Three, Adventure Seven and Hollandsche Bank Unie N.V.; Rollover Loan Agreement dated April 3, 2008 among Adventure Two, Adventure Three, Adventure Seven and Hollandsche Bank Unie N.V.; First Preferred Mortgage dated March 19, 2008 on the M/V Free Knight; Deed of Covenants between Adventure Seven and Hollandsche Bank Unie N.V.; Second Preferred Mortgage on the M/V Free Destiny; Second Preferred Mortgage on the M/V Free Envoy**

In connection with the purchase of the M/V *Free Knight*, we, through our subsidiaries, Adventure Seven, S.A., Adventure Two S.A. and Adventure Three S.A., as co-borrowers, entered into a credit agreement pursuant to which HBU made available to us (i) the existing facility in the outstanding amount of \$3,100,000 described above, (ii) a new credit facility in the amount of \$1,500,000, which is to be reduced by \$125,000 quarterly beginning three months after the first draw down date; (iii) a new credit facility in the amount of \$3,000,000, which will be reduced to zero by April 1, 2016; and (iv) a rollover loan facility in the amount of \$27,000,000, which was used to finance a portion of the purchase price of the M/V *Free Knight*. The loan matures on January 1, 2016 and is repayable in four quarterly installments of \$1,750,000, 26 quarterly installments of \$750,000 and one balloon payment of \$500,000 on final maturity commencing three months from draw down. All four facilities, totaling \$34,600,000, bear interest at the rate of 1.30% over LIBOR per annum. All four facilities are secured by a first preferred mortgage on the M/V *Free Knight* and first and second preferred mortgages on the M/V *Free Envoy* and the M/V *Free Destiny*, a FreeSeas guarantee, a manager's undertaking and pledges of (1) the rights and earnings under time charter contracts present or future, and (2) rights under insurance policies. In addition, the loan agreement contains certain affirmative and negative covenants including the maintenance of certain financial covenants regarding our leverage ratio, EBITDA, and minimum liquidity.

**Facility Agreement date December 24, 2007 between FreeSeas Inc. and Credit Suisse; First Preferred Mortgage on the M/V Free Hero; First Preferred Mortgage on the M/V Free Goddess; First Preferred Mortgage on the M/V Free Jupiter**

On December 24, 2007, we entered into a *reducing revolving credit facility from Credit Suisse in the aggregate amount of \$87,000,000, consisting of a \$48,700,000 loan to refinance up to 50% of the purchase price of the M/V Free Hero, the M/V Free Jupiter and the M/V Free Goddess and a \$38,300,000 facility to finance up to 75% of the purchase price of additional vessels. Upon each drawdown under the \$38,300,000 facility the aggregate amount outstanding under the total \$87,000,000 facility may not exceed 60% of the aggregate market value of the M/V Free Hero, the M/V Free Jupiter, the M/V Free Goddess and any additional vessels financed under the facility.*

The secured revolving term loan facility matures eight years from the date of the initial draw down. The maximum amount available under the \$48,700,000 facility will be reduced by 32 quarterly reductions of \$1,250,000 plus a final reduction of \$8,700,000 on the final maturity date. The first reduction is due by the earlier to occur of three months after the first drawdown or January 31, 2008. Each advance under the \$38,300,000 facility will be reduced quarterly based on a 18 year repayment profile for vessels acquired with such facility beginning three months after each respective drawdown. The security for the facilities include a first preferred mortgage on the M/V *Free Hero*, the M/V

*Free Jupiter* and the *M/V Free Goddess* as well as any additional vessels purchased with the \$38,300,000 facility, first preferred assignment of all earnings from such vessels and first preferred assignment of insurances. In addition, the loan agreement contains certain affirmative and negative covenants including the maintenance of certain financial covenants regarding our leverage ratio, EBITDA, and minimum liquidity. The loan agreement permits payments of dividends to our shareholders provided we are in compliance with certain loan covenants.

**Table of Contents****Memorandum of Agreement dated August 20, 2007 for the M/V Free Goddess**

On August 20, 2007, we entered into a memorandum of agreement with an unaffiliated third party pursuant to which we agreed to purchase the M/V *Free Goddess*, a 1995-built secondhand Handysize vessel for a total purchase price of \$25.20 million. The M/V *Free Goddess* was delivered on October 30, 2007.

**Loan Agreement between FreeSeas Inc. and HSH Nordbank; Loan Agreement between FreeSeas Inc. and BTMU Capital Corporation; Amendment to Loan Agreement between FreeSeas Inc. and HSH Nordbank**

On June 27, 2007, we, through our subsidiaries, Adventure Five S.A., Adventure Six S.A., Adventure Seven S.A. and Adventure Eight S.A, entered into a senior loan agreement with HSH Nordbank AG that provides for borrowings of up to \$68,000,000 for the purpose of financing part of the cost of the M/V *Free Hero*, the M/V *Free Jupiter* and two other specified secondhand dry bulk carriers. The aggregate amount of the loan may not exceed the lower of (1) \$67,000,000, (2) 59% of the aggregate market value of certain specified ships and (3) such amount that when added to the amount drawn down under the BTMU Capital Corporation junior loan will not exceed \$88,500,000. The amount of the loan may be increased, depending on our aggregate charter rates and other terms of our charters, so as not to exceed the lower of (1) \$68,000,000, (2) 59% of the aggregate market value of certain specified ships and (3) such amount that when added to the amount drawn down under the BTMU Capital Corporation junior loan will not exceed \$89,500,000. The loan agreement provides for the payment of interest in respect of one month, three month or six month interest periods. Amounts drawn under the loan agreement generally bear interest at an annual rate of LIBOR for the interest period plus 1.5% per annum, provided that the margin decreases to 1.3% per annum after the prepayment of the loan following a successful offering (as defined in the loan agreement), and certain mandatory costs. The loan is payable in 32 installments. Assuming the loan is drawn down in full, the amount of each of the first to eighth installments would be \$3,125,000, the amount of each of the ninth to twelfth installments would be \$2,250,000, the amount of each of the thirteenth to thirty-first installments would be \$1,000,000 and the amount of the final installment would be between \$14,000,000 and \$15,000,000. The amount of the installments will be proportionately reduced if we drawdown less than the full amount available under the loan. The amount of the installments will also be reduced following prepayment of a portion of the loan. The loan agreement provided for the mandatory prepayment of the BTMU Capital Corporation junior loan and any portion of the HSH Nordbank AG senior loan following the October 2007 offering of our common stock. Amounts drawn under the loan agreement are secured by, among other things, a first priority mortgage on the applicable vessel, a corporate guarantee and certain account pledges. The loan agreement also requires that we enter into interest rate swaps or other derivative transactions to ensure that a part of the loan is hedged against interest rate fluctuations.

In addition, on June 27, 2007, we, through our subsidiaries, Adventure Five S.A., Adventure Six S.A., Adventure Seven S.A. and Adventure Eight S.A, entered into a junior loan agreement with BTMU Capital Corporation that provides for borrowings of up to \$21,500,000 for the purpose of financing part of the cost of the M/V *Free Hero*, the M/V *Free Jupiter* and two other specified secondhand dry bulk carriers. The aggregate amount of the loan may not exceed the lower of (1) \$21,500,000, (2) 80% of the aggregate market value of certain specified ships and (3) such amount when added to the amount drawn down under the HSH Nordbank AG senior loan will not exceed \$89,500,000. The loan agreement provides for the payment of interest in respect of one month, three month or six month interest periods. Amounts drawn under the loan agreement generally bear interest at an annual rate of LIBOR for the interest period plus 2.75% per annum, provided that the margin increases to 3.50% per annum on June 27, 2008 and 4.25% per annum on June 27, 2009. The loan is due no later than June 27, 2010, provided, however, that the loan agreement provided that we will prepay an amount of the loan from the proceeds of the October 2007 offering of our common stock equal to the lower of (1) the total amount of the loan outstanding and (2) the offering proceeds. Amounts drawn under the loan agreement are secured by, among other things, a second priority mortgage on the applicable vessel financed under the loan, a second priority mortgage on each of the M/V *Free Destiny* and the M/V *Free Envoy*, a corporate guarantee and certain second priority account pledges.

**Memoranda of Agreement dated May 1, 2007 regarding vessel acquisitions**

On May 1, 2007, we entered into memoranda of agreement pursuant to which we agreed to purchase four secondhand dry bulk carriers from non-affiliated parties for approximately US \$114 million. The expected delivery dates of the vessels are June through August 2007. We will contribute up to US \$11 million in cash towards the



purchase of these vessels and we are obtaining financing in the form of a US \$67 million to US \$68 million senior loan from HSH Nordbank, a US \$21.5 million junior loan from Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi, and up to US \$14 million in the form of a new non-amortizing, unsecured shareholder loan.

**Table of Contents****Promissory Note dated May 7, 2007 from FreeSeas Inc. to FS Holdings Limited**

We entered into an unsecured promissory note in the aggregate principal amount of US \$14 million in connection with the financing of our pending vessel acquisitions described above. The note accrues interest at the annual rate of 12.0%, payable upon maturity of the loan. The loan can be drawn by us in tranches of at least US \$250,000 per draw. The note accrues interest on the then-outstanding principal balance at the annual rate of 12.0%, payable upon maturity of the loan. The loan is due at the earlier of (i) May 7, 2009, (ii) the date of a Capital Event, which is defined as any event in which we raise gross proceeds of not less than US \$40 million in an offering of our Common Stock or other equity securities or securities convertible into or exchangeable for our equity securities, or (iii) the date of acceleration of the amounts due under the note. The loan is prepayable by us, upon 30 days prior written notice to the lender, in whole or in part, in increments of not less than \$500,000. Additionally, we will issue to the shareholder providing the loan, FS Holdings Limited, for every US \$1.0 million drawn under the loan, 50,000 warrants to purchase shares of our Common Stock at an exercise price of US \$5.00 per share.

**D. Exchange Controls and Other Limitations Affecting Security Holders**

Under Marshall Islands law, there are currently no restrictions on the export or import of capital, including foreign exchange controls or restrictions that affect the remittance of dividends, interest or other payments to non-resident holders of our shares.

**E. Taxation**

The following is a discussion of the material Marshall Islands and United States federal income tax consequences relevant to an investment decision by a U.S. Holder, as defined below, with respect to the common stock. This discussion does not purport to deal with the tax consequences of owning common stock to all categories of investors, some of which, such as dealers in securities, investors whose functional currency is not the United States dollar and investors that own, actually or under applicable constructive ownership rules, 10% or more of the voting power of our stock, may be subject to special rules. This discussion deals only with holders who purchase common stock in connection with this offering and hold the common stock as a capital asset. You are encouraged to consult your own tax advisors concerning the overall tax consequences arising in your own particular situation under United States federal, state, local or foreign law of the ownership of common stock.

**Marshall Islands Tax Consequences**

We are incorporated in the Marshall Islands. Under current Marshall Islands law, we are not subject to tax on income or capital gains, and no Marshall Islands withholding tax will be imposed upon payments of dividends by us to our stockholders provided such stockholders are not residents of the Marshall Islands.

**United States Federal Income Tax Consequences**

The following are the material United States federal income tax consequences to us of our activities and to U.S. Holders and Non-U.S. Holders, each as defined below, of the ownership and disposition of our common stock. The following discussion of United States federal income tax matters is based on the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the Code, judicial decisions, administrative pronouncements, and existing and proposed regulations issued by the United States Department of the Treasury, all of which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect. This discussion is based, in part, upon Treasury Regulations promulgated under Section 883 of the Code. The discussion below is based, in part, on the description of our business as described in Business above and assumes that we conduct our business as described in that section. References in the following discussion to we and us are to Euroseas and its subsidiaries on a consolidated basis.

**Table of Contents****United States Federal Income Taxation of Our Company*****Taxation of Operating Income: In General***

Unless exempt from United States federal income taxation under the rules discussed below, a foreign corporation is subject to United States federal income taxation in respect of any income that is derived from the use of vessels, from the hiring or leasing of vessels for use on a time, voyage or bareboat charter basis, from the participation in a shipping pool, partnership, strategic alliance, joint operating agreement, code sharing arrangements or other joint venture it directly or indirectly owns or participates in that generates such income, or from the performance of services directly related to those uses, which we refer to as shipping income, to the extent that the shipping income is derived from sources within the United States. For these purposes, 50% of shipping income that is attributable to transportation that begins or ends, but that does not both begin and end, in the United States constitutes income from sources within the United States, which we refer to as U.S.-source shipping income.

Shipping income attributable to transportation that both begins and ends in the United States is considered to be 100% from sources within the United States. We are not permitted to engage in transportation that produces income which is considered to be 100% from sources within the United States.

Shipping income attributable to transportation exclusively between non-U.S. ports will be considered to be 100% derived from sources outside the United States. Shipping income derived from sources outside the United States will not be subject to any United States federal income tax.

In the absence of exemption from tax under Section 883, our gross U.S.-source shipping income would be subject to a 4% tax imposed without allowance for deductions as described below.

***Exemption of Operating Income from United States Federal Income Taxation***

Under Section 883 of the Code, we will be exempt from United States federal income taxation on our U.S.-source shipping income if:

we are organized in a foreign country (our country of organization ) that grants an equivalent exemption to corporations organized in the United States; and

either

more than 50% of the value of our stock is owned, directly or indirectly, by qualified stockholders, individuals (i) who are residents of our country of organization or of another foreign country that grants an equivalent exemption to corporations organized in the United States and (ii) who comply with certain documentation requirements, which we refer to as the 50% Ownership Test, or

our stock is primarily and regularly traded on one or more established securities markets in our country of organization, in another country that grants an equivalent exemption to United States corporations, or in the United States, which we refer to as the Publicly-Traded Test.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands, the jurisdiction where we and our shipowning subsidiaries are incorporated, grants equivalent exemptions to United States corporations. Therefore, we will be exempt from United States federal income taxation with respect to our U.S.-source shipping income if we satisfy either the 50% Ownership Test or the Publicly-Traded Test.

It is not clear whether we will be entitled to the benefits of Section 883 for 2006 and 2007. We do not anticipate, however, that a material amount of United States federal tax would be owed in the event that we do not qualify for the benefits of Section 883 for such years.

For 2008 and subsequent years, we anticipate that we will need to satisfy the Publicly-Traded Test in order to qualify for benefits under Section 883. Our ability to satisfy the Publicly-Traded Test is discussed below.

The regulations provide, in pertinent part, that the stock of a foreign corporation will be considered to be primarily traded on an established securities market in a 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 common stock, our sole class of our issued and outstanding stock, is primarily traded on the NASDAQ Global Market.

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Under the regulations, our stock will be considered to be regularly traded if one or more classes of our stock representing 50% or more of our outstanding shares, by total combined voting power of all classes of stock entitled to vote and total value, is listed on one or more established securities markets which we refer to as the listing threshold. Our common stock, our sole class of issued and outstanding stock, is listed on the NASDAQ Global Market and, accordingly, we will satisfy the listing requirement.

It is further required that with respect to each class of stock relied upon to meet the listing requirement: (i) such class of the stock is traded on the 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 (ii) the aggregate number of shares of such class of stock traded on such market is at least 10% of the average number of shares of such class of stock outstanding during such year or as appropriately adjusted in the case of a short taxable year. We believe we will satisfy the trading frequency and trading volume tests. Even if this were not the case, the regulations provide that the trading frequency and trading volume tests will be deemed satisfied by a class of stock if, as we expect to be the case with our common stock, such class of stock is traded on an established market in the United States and such class of stock is regularly quoted by dealers making a market in such stock.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the regulations provide, in pertinent part, a class of stock will not be considered to be regularly traded on an established securities market for any taxable year in which 50% or more of the outstanding shares of such class of stock are owned, actually or constructively under specified stock attribution rules, on more than half the days during the taxable year by persons who each own 5% or more of such class of stock, which we refer to as the 5% Override Rule. The 5% Override Rule shall not apply to us, however, if we can establish that our qualified shareholders own sufficient shares in our closely-held block of stock to preclude the shares in the closely-held block that are not so owned from representing 50% or more of the value of such class of stock for more than half of the number of days during the taxable year, which we refer to as the 5% Override Rule Exception. Establishing such ownership by qualified shareholders will depend upon the status of our direct and indirect individual shareholders as residents of qualifying jurisdictions and whether they own shares through bearer share arrangements and will require compliance with ownership certification procedures by individual shareholders that are residents of qualifying jurisdictions and by each intermediary or other person in the chain of ownership between us and such individuals.

For purposes of being able to determine the persons who own, actually or constructively, 5% or more of a class our stock, or 5% Shareholders, the regulations permit us to rely on Schedule 13G and Schedule 13D filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission to identify persons who have a 5% or more beneficial interest in a class of our stock. The regulations further provide that an investment company which is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, will not be treated as a 5% Stockholder for such purposes.

There can be no assurance regarding whether we will be subject to the 5% Override Rule for any year or whether in circumstances where it would otherwise apply we will be able to qualify for the 5% Override Rule Exception. For this and other reasons, there can be no assurance that we or any of our subsidiaries will qualify for the benefits of Section 883 of the Code for any year.

***Taxation in Absence of Exemption***

To the extent the benefits of Section 883 are unavailable, our U.S. source shipping income, to the extent not considered to be effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business, as described below, would be subject to a 4% tax imposed by Section 887 of the Code on a gross basis, without the benefit of deductions. Since under the sourcing rules described above, no more than 50% of our shipping income would be treated as being derived from U.S. sources, the maximum effective rate of U.S. federal income tax on our shipping income would never exceed 2% under the 4% gross basis tax regime.

To the extent the benefits of the Section 883 exemption are unavailable and our U.S.-source shipping income is considered to be effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business, as described below, any such effectively connected U.S.-source shipping income, net of applicable deductions, would be subject to the U.S. federal corporate income tax currently imposed at rates of up to 35%. In addition, we may be subject to the 30% branch profits taxes on earnings effectively connected with the conduct of such trade or business, as determined after allowance for certain adjustments, and on certain interest paid or deemed paid attributable to the conduct of its U.S. trade or business.



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Our U.S.-source shipping income would be considered effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business only if:

we have, or are considered to have, a fixed place of business in the United States involved in the earning of shipping income; and

substantially all of our U.S.-source shipping income is attributable to regularly scheduled transportation, such as the operation of a vessel that follows a published schedule with repeated sailings at regular intervals between the same points for voyages that begin or end in the United States.

We do not intend to have, or permit circumstances that would result in having any vessel operating to the United States on a regularly scheduled basis. Based on the foregoing and on the expected mode of our shipping operations and other activities, we believe that none of our U.S.-source shipping income will be effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business.

***United States Taxation of Gain on Sale of Vessels***

Regardless of whether we qualify for exemption under Section 883, we will not be subject to United States federal income taxation with respect to gain realized on a sale of a vessel, provided the sale is considered to occur outside of the United States under United States federal income tax principles. In general, a sale of a vessel will be considered to occur outside of the United States for this purpose if title to the vessel, and risk of loss with respect to the vessel, pass to the buyer outside of the United States. It is expected that any sale of a vessel by us will be considered to occur outside of the United States.

**United States Federal Income Taxation of U.S. Holders**

As used herein, the term U.S. Holder means a beneficial owner of common stock that is a United States citizen or resident, United States corporation or other United States entity taxable as a corporation, an estate the income of which is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source, or a trust if a court within the United States is able to exercise primary jurisdiction over the administration of the trust and one or more United States persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust.

If a partnership holds our common stock, the tax treatment of a partner will generally depend upon the status of the partner and upon the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner in a partnership holding our common stock, you are encouraged to consult your tax advisor.

***Distributions***

Subject to the discussion of passive foreign investment companies below, any distributions made by us with respect to our common stock to a U.S. Holder will generally constitute dividends, which may be taxable as ordinary income or qualified dividend income as described in more detail below, to the extent of our current or accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under United States federal income tax principles. Distributions in excess of our earnings and profits will be treated first as a nontaxable return of capital to the extent of the U.S. Holder's tax basis in his common stock on a dollar-for-dollar basis and thereafter as capital gain. Because we are not a United States corporation, U.S. Holders that are corporations will not be entitled to claim a dividends received deduction with respect to any distributions they receive from us. Dividends paid with respect to our common stock will generally be treated as passive category income or, in the case of certain types of U.S. Holders, general category income for purposes of computing allowable foreign tax credits for United States foreign tax credit purposes.

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Dividends paid on our common stock to a U.S. Holder who is an individual, trust or estate (a U.S. Individual Holder ) will generally be treated as qualified dividend income that is taxable to such U.S. Individual Holders at preferential tax rates (through 2010) provided that (1) we are not a passive foreign investment company for the taxable year during which the dividend is paid or the immediately preceding taxable year (which we do not believe we are, have been or will be), (2) our common stock is readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States (such as the NASDAQ Global Market), and (3) the U.S. Individual Holder has owned the common stock for more than 60 days in the 121-day period beginning 60 days before the date on which the common stock becomes ex-dividend. There is no assurance that any dividends paid on our common stock will be eligible for these preferential rates in the hands of a U.S. Individual Holder. Legislation has been introduced that, if enacted in its present form, would preclude our dividends from qualifying for such preferential rates prospectively from the date of the enactment. Any distributions treated as dividends paid by us which are not eligible for these preferential rates will be taxed as ordinary income to a U.S. Individual Holder.

Special rules may apply to any extraordinary dividend generally, a dividend in an amount which is equal to or in excess of ten percent of a stockholder's adjusted basis (or fair market value in certain circumstances) in a share of our stock paid by us. If we pay an extraordinary dividend on our stock that is treated as qualified dividend income, then any loss derived by a U.S. Individual Holder from the sale or exchange of such stock will be treated as long-term capital loss to the extent of such dividend.

***Sale, Exchange or Other Disposition of Common Stock***

Assuming we do not constitute a passive foreign investment company for any taxable year, a U.S. Holder generally will recognize taxable gain or loss upon a sale, exchange or other disposition of our common stock in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized by the U.S. Holder from such sale, exchange or other disposition and the U.S. Holder's tax basis in such stock. Such gain or loss will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder's holding period is greater than one year at the time of the sale, exchange or other disposition. Such capital gain or loss will generally be treated as U.S.-source income or loss, as applicable, for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes. A U.S. Holder's ability to deduct capital losses is subject to certain limitations.

***Passive Foreign Investment Company Status and Significant Tax Consequences***

Special United States federal income tax rules apply to a U.S. Holder that holds stock in a foreign corporation classified as a passive foreign investment company for United States federal income tax purposes. In general, we will be treated as a passive foreign investment company with respect to a U.S. Holder if, for any taxable year in which such holder held our common stock, either:

at least 75% of our gross income for such taxable year consists of passive income (e.g., dividends, interest, capital gains and rents derived other than in the active conduct of a rental business); or

at least 50% of the average value of the assets held by the corporation during such taxable year produce, or are held for the production of, passive income.

For purposes of determining whether we are a passive foreign investment company, we will be treated as earning and owning our proportionate share of the income and assets, respectively, of any of our subsidiary corporations in which we own at least 25% of the value of the subsidiary's stock. Income earned, or deemed earned, by us in connection with the performance of services would not constitute passive income. By contrast, rental income would generally constitute passive income unless we were treated under specific rules as deriving our rental income in the active conduct of a trade or business.

Based on our current operations and future projections, we do not believe that we are, nor do we expect to become, a passive foreign investment company with respect to any taxable year. Although there is no legal authority directly on point, and we are not relying upon an opinion of counsel on this issue, our belief is based principally on the position that, for purposes of determining whether we are a passive foreign investment company, the gross income we derive or are deemed to derive from the time chartering and voyage chartering activities of our wholly owned subsidiaries should constitute services income, rather than rental income. Correspondingly, such income should not constitute passive income, and the assets that we or our wholly-owned subsidiaries own and operate in connection with the production of such income, in particular, the vessels, should not constitute passive assets for purposes of determining whether we are a passive foreign investment company. We believe there is substantial legal authority

supporting our position consisting of case law and Internal Revenue Service pronouncements concerning the characterization of income derived from time charters and voyage charters as services income for other tax purposes. However, in the absence of any legal authority specifically relating to the statutory provisions governing passive foreign investment companies, the Internal Revenue Service or a court could disagree with our position. In addition, although we intend to conduct our affairs in a manner to avoid being classified as a passive foreign investment company with respect to any taxable year, we cannot assure you that the nature of our operations will not change in the future.



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As discussed more fully below, if we were to be treated as a passive foreign investment company for any taxable year, a U.S. Holder would be subject to different taxation rules depending on whether the U.S. Holder makes an election to treat us as a Qualified Electing Fund, which election we refer to as a QEF election. As an alternative to making a QEF election, provided that our common shares are listed on the NASDAQ Global Market and are treated as regularly traded on such market for the year in which the election is made, a U.S. Holder should be able to make a mark-to-market election with respect to our common stock, as discussed below.

***Taxation of U.S. Holders Making a Timely QEF Election***

If a U.S. Holder makes a timely QEF election, which U.S. Holder we refer to as an Electing Holder, the Electing Holder must report each year for United States federal income tax purposes his pro rata share of our ordinary earnings and our net capital gain, if any, for our taxable year that ends with or within the taxable year of the Electing Holder, regardless of whether or not distributions were received from us by the Electing Holder. The Electing Holder's adjusted tax basis in the common stock will be increased to reflect taxed but undistributed earnings and profits. Distributions of earnings and profits that had been previously taxed will result in a corresponding reduction in the adjusted tax basis in the common stock and will not be taxed again once distributed. An Electing Holder would generally recognize capital gain or loss on the sale, exchange or other disposition of our common stock. A U.S. Holder would make a QEF election with respect to any year that our company is a passive foreign investment company by filing IRS Form 8621 with his United States federal income tax return. If we were aware that we were to be treated as a passive foreign investment company for any taxable year, we would provide each U.S. Holder with all necessary information in order to make the QEF election described above.

***Taxation of U.S. Holders Making a Mark-to-Market Election***

Alternatively, if we were to be treated as a passive foreign investment company for any taxable year and our common stock is treated as marketable stock, a U.S. Holder would be allowed to make a mark-to-market election with respect to our common stock, provided the U.S. Holder completes and files IRS Form 8621 in accordance with the relevant instructions and related Treasury Regulations. Since our stock is listed on the NASDAQ Global Market, our common stock will be treated as marketable stock for this purpose, provided that our common stock is regularly traded on such market in accordance with applicable Treasury regulations. If that election is made, the U.S. Holder generally would include as ordinary income in each taxable year the excess, if any, of the fair market value of the common stock at the end of the taxable year over such holder's adjusted tax basis in the common stock. The U.S. Holder would also be permitted an ordinary loss in respect of the excess, if any, of the U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in the common stock over its 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. A U.S. Holder's tax basis in his common stock would be adjusted to reflect any such income or loss amount. Gain realized on the sale, exchange or other disposition of our common stock would be treated as ordinary income, and any loss realized on the sale, exchange or other disposition of the common stock would be treated as ordinary loss to the extent that such loss does not exceed the net mark-to-market gains previously included by the U.S. Holder.

**Table of Contents*****Taxation of U.S. Holders Not Making a Timely QEF or Mark-to-Market Election***

Finally, if we were to be treated as a passive foreign investment company for any taxable year, a U.S. Holder who does not make either a QEF election or a mark-to-market election for that year, whom we refer to as a Non-Electing Holder, would be subject to special rules with respect to (1) any excess distribution (i.e., the portion of any distributions received by the Non-Electing Holder on our common stock in a taxable year in excess of 125 percent of the average annual distributions received by the Non-Electing Holder in the three preceding taxable years, or, if shorter, the Non-Electing Holder's holding period for the common stock), and (2) any gain realized on the sale, exchange or other disposition of our common stock. Under these special rules:

the excess distribution or gain would be allocated ratably over the Non-Electing Holders' aggregate holding period for the common stock;

the amount allocated to the current taxable year and any taxable year before we became a passive foreign investment company would be taxed as ordinary income; and

the amount allocated to each of the other taxable years would be subject to tax at the highest rate of tax in effect for the applicable class of taxpayer for that year, and an interest charge for the deemed deferral benefit would be imposed with respect to the resulting tax attributable to each such other taxable year.

These penalties would not apply to a pension or profit sharing trust or other tax-exempt organization that did not borrow funds or otherwise utilize leverage in connection with its acquisition of our common stock. If a Non-Electing Holder who is an individual dies while owning our common stock, such holder's successor generally would not receive a step-up in tax basis with respect to such stock.

**United States Federal Income Taxation of Non-U.S. Holders**

A beneficial owner of common stock that is not a U.S. Holder is referred to herein as a Non-U.S. Holder.

***Dividends on Common Stock***

Non-U.S. Holders generally will not be subject to United States federal income tax or withholding tax on dividends received from us with respect to our common stock, unless that income is effectively connected with the Non-U.S. Holder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States. If the Non-U.S. Holder is entitled to the benefits of a United States income tax treaty with respect to those dividends, that income is taxable only if it is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the Non-U.S. Holder in the United States.

***Sale, Exchange or Other Disposition of Common Stock***

Non-U.S. Holders generally will not be subject to United States federal income tax or withholding tax on any gain realized upon the sale, exchange or other disposition of our common stock, unless:

the gain is effectively connected with the Non-U.S. Holder's conduct of a trade or business in the United States. If the Non-U.S. Holder is entitled to the benefits of an income tax treaty with respect to that gain, that gain is taxable only if it is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by the Non-U.S. Holder in the United States; or

the Non-U.S. Holder is an individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year of disposition and other conditions are met.

If the Non-U.S. Holder is engaged in a United States trade or business for United States federal income tax purposes, the income from the common stock, including dividends and the gain from the sale, exchange or other disposition of the stock that is effectively connected with the conduct of that trade or business will generally be subject to regular United States federal income tax in the same manner as discussed in the previous section relating to the taxation of U.S. Holders. In addition, if you are a corporate Non-U.S. Holder, your earnings and profits that are attributable to the effectively connected income, which are subject to certain adjustments, may be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a rate of 30%, or at a lower rate as may be specified by an applicable income tax treaty.

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### ***Backup Withholding and Information Reporting***

In general, dividend payments, or other taxable distributions, made within the United States to you will be subject to information reporting requirements. Such payments will also be subject to backup withholding tax if you are a non-corporate U.S. Holder and you:

- fail to provide an accurate taxpayer identification number;
- are notified by the Internal Revenue Service that you have failed to report all interest or dividends required to be shown on your federal income tax returns; or
- in certain circumstances, fail to comply with applicable certification requirements.

Non-U.S. Holders may be required to establish their exemption from information reporting and backup withholding by certifying their status on Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN, W-8ECI or W-8IMY, as applicable.

If you sell your stock to or through a United States office or broker, the payment of the proceeds is subject to both United States backup withholding and information reporting unless you certify that you are a non-U.S. person, under penalties of perjury, or you otherwise establish an exemption. If you sell your stock through a non-United States office of a non-United States broker and the sales proceeds are paid to you outside the United States then information reporting and backup withholding generally will not apply to that payment. However, United States information reporting requirements, but not backup withholding, will apply to a payment of sales proceeds, even if that payment is made to you outside the United States, if you sell your stock through a non-United States office of a broker that is a United States person or has some other contacts with the United States.

Backup withholding tax is not an additional tax. Rather, you generally may obtain a refund of any amounts withheld under backup withholding rules that exceed your income tax liability by filing a refund claim with the Internal Revenue Service.

We encourage each stockholder to consult with his, her or its own tax advisor as to particular tax consequences to it of holding and disposing of our shares, including the applicability of any state, local or foreign tax laws and any proposed changes in applicable law.

### **F. Dividends and Paying Agents**

Not applicable.

### **G. Statement by Experts**

Not applicable.

### **H. Documents on Display**

We file annual reports and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any report or document we file, including the exhibits, at the SEC's public reference room located at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Such materials can also be obtained on the SEC's site on the internet at <http://www.sec.gov>.

We will also provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner, upon written or oral request of that person, a copy of any and all of the information that has been incorporated by reference in this annual report. Please direct such requests to Ion G. Varouxakis, Chief Executive Officer, FreeSeas Inc., 89 Akti Miaouli & Mavrokordatou, Piraeus, Greece, telephone number +30-210-4528770 or facsimile number +30-210-4291010.

### **I. Subsidiary Information**

Not applicable.

**Table of Contents****ITEM 11. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK*****Interest Rate Fluctuation***

The international dry bulk industry is a capital-intensive industry, requiring significant amounts of investment. Much of this investment is provided in the form of long-term debt. Our debt usually contains interest rates that fluctuate with LIBOR. Increasing interest rates could adversely impact future earnings. To mitigate this risk, we have entered into two interest rate swap contracts (see Note 8 to our Consolidated Financial Statement filed under Item 18 hereof).

Our interest expense is affected by changes in the general level of interest rates. As an indication of the extent of our sensitivity to interest rate changes, an increase of 100 basis points would have decreased our net income and cash flows in the 2008 fiscal year by approximately \$ 1,138,909 based upon our debt level during the period in 2008 during which we had debt outstanding.

The following table sets forth for a period of five years the sensitivity of the loans on each of the vessels owned by us during fiscal 2008 in U.S. dollars to a 100-basis-point increase in LIBOR.

<b>Vessel Name</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Free Impala	\$ 272,966	201,604	171,188	141,188	110,354
Free Knight	200,000	167,444	137,028	106,938	76,194
Free Hero/Free Goddess/Free Jupiter	390,546	347,351	296,656	246,676	195,267
Free Maverick	281,856	249,447	225,114	219,506	
Free Lady	348,012	298,177	267,760	238,025	206,927

Please see Item 4. Information on the Company Loans for Vessels for a full description of each of these loans.

***Foreign Exchange Rate Risk***

We generate all of our revenues in U.S. dollars, but incur a portion of our expenses in currencies other than U.S. dollars. For accounting purposes, expenses incurred in Euros are converted into U.S. dollars at the exchange rate prevailing on the date of each transaction. At December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006, approximately 21.2%, 18% and 43.3%, respectively, of our outstanding accounts payable was denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar (mainly in the Euro). As an indication of the extent of our sensitivity to foreign exchange rate changes, an increase of an additional 10% in the value of other currencies against the dollar would have decreased our net income and cash flows in 2008 by approximately \$122,881 based upon the accounts payable we had denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar as of December 31, 2008.

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

Not applicable.

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**PART II**

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

There has been no default of any indebtedness nor is there any arrearage in the payment of dividends.

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

There have been no changes to the instruments defining the rights of the holders of any class of registered securities, and the rights of holders of the registered securities have not been altered by the issuance or modification of any other class of securities, with the exception of the adoption of our Shareholders Rights Plan adopted in January 2008 (see Item 10. Additional Information B. Memorandum and Articles of Incorporation ) for a description of this plan). There are no restrictions on working capital and no removal or substitution of assets securing any class of our registered securities.

**ITEM 15. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES**

(a) Disclosure Controls and Procedures. Under the supervision and with the participation of our management, including our chief executive officer and interim chief financial officer, we conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ). Based on this evaluation, our chief executive officer and interim chief financial officer concluded that as of December 31, 2008 our disclosure controls and procedures were effective at a reasonable assurance level and, accordingly, provide reasonable assurance that (i) the information required to be disclosed in our reports filed under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms, and (ii) information is accumulated and communicated to management including our chief executive officer and interim chief financial officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures.

(b) Management's Annual Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, as such term is defined in Rule 13a-15(f) of the Exchange Act. Our internal control over financial reporting is a process designed under the supervision of our chief executive officer and interim chief financial officer to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of our financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Management has conducted an assessment of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008 based on the criteria described in Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). Based on this assessment, management has concluded that the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2008 was effective.

(c) Attestation Report of the Registered Public Accounting Firm. PricewaterhouseCoopers S.A., which has audited the consolidated financial statements of the Company for the year ended December 31, 2008, has also audited the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over the financial reporting as stated in their audit report which is incorporated into Item 18 of this Form 20-F from page F-2 hereof.

(d) Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting.

There were no changes in internal control over financial reporting during the year ended December 31, 2008 that have materially affected or are reasonably likely to materially affect the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

**Table of Contents****ITEM 16A. AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT**

Our audit committee is made up of the three independent directors. We believe that Mr. Focko Nauta meets the definition of an audit committee financial expert, as defined for the purposes of Item 16A of Form 20-F, and accordingly serves as our financial expert. Mr. Nauta is independent, as such term is defined in 17 CFR 240.10A-3. We have determined that the number of directors that make up the audit committee reflects the appropriate level of governance for a company of this type and size. All of the audit committee members have experience with the financial management of a company and are familiar with the reports that are provided by management for the purpose of reporting the financial position of the business.

**ITEM 16B. CODE OF ETHICS**

We have adopted a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics that applies to our employees, officers and directors. Our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is available on the Corporate Governance section of our website at [www.freeseas.gr](http://www.freeseas.gr). We will also provide a paper copy of our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics free of charge upon written request of a shareholder. Shareholders may direct their requests to the attention of Ion G. Varouxakis, Chief Executive Officer.

**ITEM 16C. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES**

The aggregate fees billed for the last two fiscal years for professional services rendered by our auditor are as follows:

	<b>2007(1)</b>	<b>2008(1)</b>
Audit fees	\$ 1,078,000	\$ 749,000

- (1) Audit fees represent fees for professional services related to the audit of our financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2008, which include for 2007 fees for professional services related to the filing of our registration statement with the SEC for our 2007 public offering.

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

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

Not applicable.

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

Not applicable.

**ITEM 16F. CHANGES IN REGISTRANT'S CERTIFYING ACCOUNTANT**

Not applicable.

**ITEM 16G. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

As a foreign private issuer, we can elect to be exempt from many of the corporate governance requirements of The NASDAQ Stock Market other than the requirements regarding the disclosure of a going concern audit opinion, notification of material non-compliance with NASDAQ corporate governance practices, the establishment and composition of an audit committee that complies with SEC Rule 10A-3 and a formal audit committee charter. At the present time, however, we have not made such an election, although there can be no assurances that our board of directors may not do so in the future.

As a foreign private issuer, we are not required to solicit proxies or provide proxy statements to NASDAQ pursuant to NASDAQ corporate governance rules or Marshall Islands law. Consistent with Marshall Islands law and as provided in our bylaws, we notify our shareholders of meetings between 15 and 60 days before the meeting. This notification contains, among other things, information regarding business to be transacted at the meeting. In addition, our bylaws provide that shareholders must give us between 150 and 180 days advance notice to properly introduce any business at a meeting of shareholders.

**Table of Contents****PART III****ITEM 17. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Not applicable.

**ITEM 18. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The following financial statements are filed as part of this annual report.

	<b>Page Number</b>
Index to Consolidated Financial Statements	F-1
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Consolidated Statements of Operations	F-4
Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows	F-5
Consolidated Statements of Shareholders' Equity	F-7
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	F-8

**ITEM 19. EXHIBITS**

1.1	Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of FreeSeas Inc. (formerly known as Adventure Holdings S.A.)	Exhibit 3.1 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on May 11, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
1.2	Amended and Restated By-Laws of FreeSeas Inc. (formerly known as Adventure Holdings S.A.)	Exhibit 3.2 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on May 11, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
1.3	First Amendment to the Amended and Restated Bylaws of FreeSeas Inc.	Exhibit 3.3 to Amendment No. 1 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-145203) filed on October 15, 2007 and incorporated herein by reference
2.1	Specimen Common Stock Certificate	Exhibit 4.1 to Amendment No. 1 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on July 22, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
2.2	Form of Class A Warrant	Exhibit 4.2 to Amendment No. 1 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on July 22, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
2.3	Warrant dated as of May 8, 2007 issued to FS Holdings Limited	Exhibit 4.3 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-3 filed on August 3, 2007 and incorporated herein by reference



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2.4	Warrant dated as of June 22, 2007 issued to FS Holdings Limited	Exhibit 4.4 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-3 filed on August 3, 2007 and incorporated herein by reference
2.5	Form of Class W Warrant	Exhibit 4.3 to Amendment No. 1 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on July 22, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
2.6	Form of Class Z Warrant	Exhibit 4.4 to Amendment No. 1 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on July 22, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference

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2.7	Warrant Clarification Agreement dated May 10, 2007 between FreeSeas Inc. and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company	Exhibit 4.27 to Registrant's Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2006 and incorporated herein by reference
2.8	Form of Management Stock Option Agreement	Exhibit 4.5 to Amendment No. 2 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on October 11, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
2.9	Shareholder Rights Agreement entered into effective as of January 14, 2009 by and between FreeSeas Inc. and American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC	Filed herewith
4.1	Employment Agreement between Ion G. Varouxakis and FreeSeas Inc.	Exhibit 10.2 to Amendment No. 1 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No 333-124825) filed on July 22, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
4.2	Employment Agreement between Dimitris D. Papadopoulos and FreeSeas Inc.	Exhibit 10.2 to Amendment No. 1 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-145203) filed on October 15, 2007 and incorporated herein by reference
4.3	2005 Amended and Restated Stock Incentive Plan	Annex A to Registrant's Form 6-K filed on December 1, 2006 and incorporated herein by reference
4.4	Credit Agreement dated June 24, 2004 between Adventure Three S.A. and Hollandsche Bank-Unie N.V.	Exhibit 10.7 to Amendment No. 1 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on July 22, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
4.5	Mortgage dated September 29, 2004 by Adventure Three S.A. in favor of Hollandsche Bank-Unie N.V.	Exhibit 10.8 to Amendment No. 1 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on July 22, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
4.6	Deed of Assignment dated September 29, 2004 between Adventure Three S.A. and Hollandsche Bank-Unie N.V.	Exhibit 10.9 to Amendment No. 1 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on July 22, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference

reference

- 4.7 Short-Term Loan Agreement in Euros and Optional Currencies dated July 8, 2004 between Adventure Three S.A. and Hollandsche Bank-Unie N.V. Exhibit 10.10 to Amendment No. 1 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on July 22, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
- 4.8 Standard Ship Management Agreement dated July 1, 2004 between Free Bulkers S.A. and Adventure Two S.A. Exhibit 10.11 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on May 11, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
- 4.9 Amendment No. 1 of July 22, 2005 to the Shipman 98 Agreement dated July 1, 2004 between Adventure Two S.A. and Free Bulkers S.A. Exhibit 10.20 to Amendment No. 1 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on July 22, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference

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4.10	Standard Ship Management Agreement dated July 1, 2004 between Free Bulkers S.A. and Adventure Three S.A.	Exhibit 10.12 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on May 11, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
4.11	Amendment No. 1 of July 22, 2005 to the Shipman 98 Agreement dated July 1, 2004 between Adventure Three S.A. and Free Bulkers S.A.	Exhibit 10.13 to Amendment No. 1 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-145203) filed on October 15, 2007 and incorporated herein by reference
4.12	Loan Agreement dated August 2, 2004 among Adventure Holdings S.A. (now known as FreeSeas Inc.), G. Bros S.A., and V Capital S.A., regarding the M/V Free Destiny	Exhibit 10.13 to Amendment No. 1 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on July 22, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
4.13	First Amendment to Loan Agreement dated effective as of April 25, 2005 among Adventure Holdings S.A. (now known as FreeSeas Inc.), G. Bros S.A., and V Capital S.A., regarding the M/V Free Destiny	Exhibit 10.14 to Amendment No. 1 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on July 22, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
4.14	Loan Agreement dated September 20, 2004 among Adventure Holdings S.A. (now known as FreeSeas Inc.), G. Bros S.A., and V Capital S.A., regarding the M/V Free Envoy	Exhibit 10.15 to Amendment No. 1 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on July 22, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
4.15	First Amendment to Loan Agreement dated effective as of April 25, 2005 among Adventure Holdings S.A. (now known as FreeSeas Inc.), G. Bros S.A., and V Capital S.A., regarding the M/V Free Envoy	Exhibit 10.16 to Amendment No. 1 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on July 22, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
4.16	Credit Agreement dated September 23, 2005 between Adventure Two S.A. and Hollandsche Bank-Unie N.V.	Exhibit 10.22 to Amendment No. 2 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on October 11, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
4.17	Credit Agreement dated September 23, 2005 between Adventure Three S.A. and Hollandsche Bank-Unie N.V.	Exhibit 10.23 to Amendment No. 2 of Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on October 11, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference

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4.18	Second Amendment to Loan Agreement dated effective as of October 7, 2005 among FreeSeas Inc., G. Bros S.A., and V Capital regarding the M/V Free Destiny	Exhibit 10.24 to Amendment No. 2 to Registrant s Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on October 11, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
4.19	Second Amendment to Loan Agreement dated effective as of October 7, 2005 among FreeSeas Inc., G. Bros S.A., and V Capital regarding the M/V Free Envoy	Exhibit 10.25 to Registrant s Registration Statement of Amendment No. 2 of Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) dated October 11, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
4.20	Mortgage dated October 24, 2005 by Adventure Two S.A. in favor of Hollandsche Bank-Unie N.V.	Exhibit 4.22 to Registrant s Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
4.21	Deed of Assignment dated October 24, 2005 between Adventure Two S.A. and Hollandsche Bank-Unie N.V.	Exhibit 4.23 to Registrant s Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference

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4.22	Amendment dated January 23, 2006 to Credit Agreement dated September 23, 2005 between Adventure Two S.A. and Hollandsche Bank-Unie N.V.	Exhibit 4.27 to Registrant's Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
4.23	Amendment dated January 23, 2006 to Credit Agreement dated September 23, 2005 between Adventure Three S.A. and Hollandsche Bank-Unie N.V.	Exhibit 4.28 to Registrant's Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
4.24	Loan Agreement dated September 2006 among Adventure Four, S.A. and First Business Bank S.A.	Exhibit 4.24 to Registrant's Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2006 and incorporated herein by reference
4.25	Deed of Assignment dated September 2006 between Adventure Four, S.A. in favor of First Business Bank S.A.	Exhibit 4.25 to Registrant's Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2006 and incorporated herein by reference
4.26	Mortgage dated September 2006 by Adventure Four S.A. in favor of First Business Bank S.A.	Exhibit 4.26 to Registrant's Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2006 and incorporated herein by reference
4.27	Promissory Note dated May 7, 2007 from Free Seas Inc. in favor of FS Holdings Limited	Exhibit 4.28 to Registrant's Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2006 and incorporated herein by reference
4.28	Loan Agreement between FreeSeas Inc. and HSH Nordbank	Exhibit 10.30 to Amendment No. 2 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on October 11, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
4.29	Loan Agreement between FreeSeas Inc. and BTMU Capital Corporation	Exhibit 10.31 to Amendment No. 2 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on October 11, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
4.30	Credit Agreement dated May 7, 2007 among Adventure Two S.A., Adventure Three S.A. and Hollandsche Bank Unie N.V.	Exhibit 10.32 to Amendment No. 2 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on October 11, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference

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4.31	Memorandum of Agreement dated May 1, 2007 for the M/V <i>Free Hero</i>	Exhibit 10.34 to Amendment No. 2 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on October 11, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
4.32	Memorandum of Agreement dated May 1, 2007 for the M/V <i>Free Jupiter</i>	Exhibit 10.35 to Amendment No. 2 to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on October 11, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
4.33	Memorandum of Agreement dated August 20, 2007 for the M/V <i>Free Goddess</i>	Exhibit 10.36 to Amendment No. 2 to Registrant's Registration's Statement on Form F-1 (File No. 333-124825) filed on October 11, 2005 and incorporated herein by reference
4.34	Supplemental Agreement with HSH Nordbank dated December 28, 2007	Exhibit 4.34 to Registrant's Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2007 and incorporated herein by reference

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4.35	Memorandum of Agreement dated January 2
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