

NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LTD
Form 20-F
April 21, 2011

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 20-F

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

OR

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

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010

OR

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

For the transition period from ____ to ____

OR

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

Date of event requiring this shell company report: Not applicable

Commission file number 001-13944

NORDIC AMERICAN TANKER SHIPPING LIMITED
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

(Translation of Registrant's name into English)

BERMUDA

(Jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

LOM Building
27 Reid Street
Hamilton HM 11
Bermuda

(Address of principal executive offices)

Herbjørn Hansson, Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer,
Tel No. 1 (441) 292-7202,
LOM Building, 27 Reid Street, Hamilton HM 11, Bermuda
(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:

Common Stock, \$0.01 par value
Series A Participating Preferred Stock
Title of class

New York Stock Exchange
Name of exchange on which registered

Securities registered or to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None

Securities for which there is a reporting obligation pursuant to Section 15(d)
of the Act: None

Indicate the number of outstanding shares of each of the issuer's classes of capital or common stock as of the close of the period covered by the annual report:

As of December 31, 2010, there were 46,898,782 shares outstanding of the Registrant's common stock, \$0.01 par value per share.

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

Yes

No

If this report is an annual report 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

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

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

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Yes

No

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during this preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files)

Yes

No

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

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

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

U.S. GAAP

International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board

Other

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

Item 17

Item 18

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

Yes

No

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS | IV |
| ITEM 1. IDENTITY OF DIRECTORS, SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND ADVISERS | 3 |
| ITEM 2. OFFER STATISTICS AND EXPECTED TIMETABLE | 3 |
| ITEM 3. KEY INFORMATION | 3 |
| A. Selected Financial Data | 3 |
| B. Capitalization And Indebtedness | 5 |
| C. Reasons For The Offer And Use Of Proceeds | 5 |
| D. Risk Factors | 5 |
| ITEM 4. INFORMATION ON THE COMPANY | 20 |
| A. History And Development Of The Company | 20 |
| B. Business Overview | 21 |
| OUR CHARTERS | 22 |
| The International Tanker Market | 25 |
| C. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE | 34 |
| D. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT | 34 |
| ITEM 4A. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS | 34 |
| ITEM 5. OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REVIEW AND PROSPECTS | 34 |
| A. Operating Results | 34 |
| B. Liquidity and Capital Resources | 37 |
| Our Credit Facility | 37 |
| C. Research and Development, Patents and Licenses, Etc. | 39 |
| D. Trend Information | 39 |
| E. Off Balance Sheet Arrangements | 39 |
| F. TABULAR Disclosure Of Contractual Obligations | 39 |
| ITEM 6. DIRECTORS, SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND EMPLOYEES | 41 |
| A. Directors And Senior Management | 41 |
| B. Compensation | 44 |
| C. Board Practices | 45 |
| D. Employees | 45 |
| E. Share Ownership | 45 |
| ITEM 7. MAJOR SHAREHOLDERS AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS | 46 |
| A. Major Shareholders | 46 |
| B. Related Party Transactions | 46 |
| C. Interests Of Experts And Counsel | 47 |
| ITEM 8. FINANCIAL INFORMATION | 47 |
| A. Consolidated Statements And Other Financial Information | 47 |
| B. Significant Changes | 48 |
| ITEM 9. THE OFFER AND LISTING | 48 |
| Share History and Markets | 48 |
| ITEM 10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION | 49 |
| A. Share Capital | 49 |
| B. Memorandum And Articles Of Association | 49 |
| Memorandum of Association and Bye-Laws | 49 |

| | | |
|-----------|--|----|
| C. | Material Contracts | 51 |
| D. | Exchange Controls | 51 |
| E. | Taxation | 52 |
| F. | Dividends And Paying Agents | 60 |
| G. | Statement By Experts | 60 |
| H. | Documents On Display | 60 |
| I. | Subsidiary Information | 60 |
| ITEM 11. | QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK | 60 |
| ITEM 12. | DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES OTHER THAN EQUITY SECURITIES | 61 |
| ITEM 13. | DEFAULTS, DIVIDEND ARREARAGES AND DELINQUENCIES | 61 |
| ITEM 14. | MATERIAL MODIFICATIONS TO THE RIGHTS OF SECURITY HOLDERS AND USE OF PROCEEDS | 61 |
| ITEM 15. | CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES | 61 |
| A. | Disclosure Controls And Procedures. | 61 |
| B. | Management’s annual report on internal control over financial reporting. | 62 |
| C. | Attestation report of the registered public accounting firm. | 62 |
| D. | Changes in internal control over financial reporting. | 62 |
| ITEM 16. | RESERVED. | 62 |
| ITEM 16A. | AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT | 62 |
| ITEM 16B. | CODE OF ETHICS. | 62 |
| ITEM 16C. | PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES. | 62 |
| A. | Audit Fees | 62 |
| B. | Audit-Related Fees (1) | 63 |
| C. | Tax Fees | 63 |
| D. | All Other Fees | 63 |
| E. | Audit Committee’s Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures | 63 |
| F. | Not applicable. | 63 |
| ITEM 16D. | EXEMPTIONS FROM THE LISTING STANDARDS FOR AUDIT COMMITTEES | 63 |
| ITEM 16E. | PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES BY THE ISSUER AND AFFILIATED PERSONS. | 63 |
| ITEM 16F. | CHANGE IN REGISTRANT'S CERTIFYING ACCOUNTANT. | 63 |
| ITEM 16G. | CORPORATE GOVERNANCE | 63 |
| ITEM 17. | FINANCIAL STATEMENTS | 64 |
| ITEM 18. | FINANCIAL STATEMENTS | 64 |
| ITEM 19. | EXHIBITS | 64 |

ITEM 1. IDENTITY OF DIRECTORS, SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND ADVISERS

Not applicable

ITEM 2. OFFER STATISTICS AND EXPECTED TIMETABLE

Not applicable

ITEM 3. KEY INFORMATION

A. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The following historical financial information should be read in conjunction with our audited financial statements and related notes all of which are included elsewhere in this document and "Operating and Financial Review and Prospects". The statement of operations data for each of the three years ended December 31, 2010, 2009 and 2008 and selected balance sheet data as of December 31, 2010 and 2009 are derived from our audited financial statements included elsewhere in this document. The statements of operations data for each of the years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006 and selected balance sheet data for each of the years ended December 31, 2008, 2007 and 2006 are derived from our audited financial statements not included in this Annual Report on Form 20-F.

SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

All figures in thousands of USD except share
data

2010

2009