

Seaspans CORP
Form 20-F
March 10, 2015
Table of Contents

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 20-F

(Mark One)

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

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014

OR

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

SHELL COMPANY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
Date of event requiring this shell company report

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 1-32591

SEASPAN CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Republic of the Marshall Islands

(Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization)

Unit 2, 2nd Floor, Bupa Centre

141 Connaught Road West

Hong Kong

China

Edgar Filing: Seaspan CORP - Form 20-F

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

Sai W. Chu

Unit 2, 2nd Floor, Bupa Centre

141 Connaught Road West

Hong Kong

China

Telephone: +852 (2540) 1686

Facsimile: +852 (2540) 1689

(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
Class A Common Shares, par value of \$0.01 per share	New York Stock Exchange
Series C Preferred Shares, par value of \$0.01 per share	New York Stock Exchange
Series D Preferred Shares, par value of \$0.01 per share	New York Stock Exchange
Series E Preferred Shares, par value of \$0.01 per share	New York Stock Exchange
6.375% Senior Unsecured Notes due 2019	New York Stock Exchange

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.

96,662,928 Class A Common Shares, par value of \$0.01 per share

13,665,531 Series C Preferred Shares, par value of \$0.01 per share

5,105,000 Series D Preferred Shares, par value of \$0.01 per share

5,400,000 Series E Preferred Shares, par value of \$0.01 per share

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

Edgar Filing: Seaspan CORP - Form 20-F

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

Yes No

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

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer

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

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

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

Item 17 Item 18

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

Yes No

Table of Contents**SEASPAN CORPORATION****INDEX TO REPORT ON FORM 20-F****PART I**

Item 1.	<u>Identity of Directors, Senior Management and Advisors</u>	3
Item 2.	<u>Offer Statistics and Expected Timetable</u>	3
Item 3.	<u>Key Information</u>	4
Item 4.	<u>Information on the Company</u>	27
Item 4A.	<u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	47
Item 5.	<u>Operating and Financial Review and Prospects</u>	47
Item 6.	<u>Directors, Senior Management and Employees</u>	76
Item 7.	<u>Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions</u>	84
Item 8.	<u>Financial Information</u>	93
Item 9.	<u>The Offer and Listing</u>	95
Item 10.	<u>Additional Information</u>	97
Item 11.	<u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	107
Item 12.	<u>Description of Securities Other than Equity Securities</u>	109

PART II

Item 13.	<u>Defaults, Dividend Arrearages and Delinquencies</u>	110
Item 14.	<u>Material Modifications to the Rights of Security Holders and Use of Proceeds</u>	110
Item 15.	<u>Controls and Procedures</u>	110
Item 16A.	<u>Audit Committee Financial Expert</u>	112
Item 16B.	<u>Code of Ethics</u>	112
Item 16C.	<u>Principal Accountant Fees and Services</u>	112
Item 16D.	<u>Exemptions from the Listing Standards for Audit Committees</u>	113
Item 16E.	<u>Purchases of Equity Securities by the Issuer and Affiliated Purchasers</u>	113
Item 16F.	<u>Change in Registrants - Certifying Accountant</u>	113
Item 16G.	<u>Corporate Governance</u>	113
Item 16H.	<u>Mine Safety Disclosure</u>	114

PART III

Item 17.	<u>Financial Statements</u>	115
Item 18.	<u>Financial Statements</u>	115
Item 19.	<u>Exhibits</u>	116

Table of Contents

PART I

Our disclosure and analysis in this Annual Report concerning our operations, cash flows, and financial position, including, in particular, the likelihood of our success in developing and expanding our business, include forward-looking statements (as such term is defined in Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended). Statements that are predictive in nature, that depend upon or refer to future events or conditions, or that include words such as expects, anticipates, intends, plans, believes, estimates, projects, forecasts, will, may, and similar expressions are forward-looking statements. Although these statements are based upon assumptions we believe to be reasonable based upon available information, including projections of revenues, operating margins, earnings, cash flow, working capital and capital expenditures, they are subject to risks and uncertainties that are described more fully in this Annual Report in the section titled Risk Factors.

These forward-looking statements represent our estimates and assumptions only as of the date of this Annual Report and are not intended to give any assurance as to future results. As a result, you are cautioned not to rely on any forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements appear in a number of places in this Annual Report. These statements include, among others:

future operating or financial results;

future growth prospects;

our business strategy and other plans and objectives for future operations;

our expectations relating to dividend payments and our ability to make such payments;

future dividends, including the amount and timing of payment, for the four quarters of 2015;

potential acquisitions, vessel financing arrangements and other investments, and our expected benefits from such transactions, including any acquisition opportunities, vessel financing arrangements and related benefits relating to our venture with Greater China Intermodal Investments LLC, or GCI;

future time charters and vessel deliveries;

estimated future capital expenditures needed to preserve our capital base, our expectations regarding future operating expenses, including ship operating expenses and general and administrative expenses;

our expectations about the availability of vessels to purchase, the time that it may take to construct new vessels, the delivery dates of new vessels, the commencement of service of new vessels under long-term time charter contracts and the useful lives of our vessels;

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

general market conditions and shipping market trends, including charter rates and factors affecting supply and demand;

Edgar Filing: Seaspan CORP - Form 20-F

our financial condition and liquidity, including our ability to borrow funds under our credit facilities, to refinance our existing facilities and to obtain additional financing in the future to fund capital expenditures, acquisitions and other general corporate activities;

our continued ability to maintain, enter into or renew primarily long-term, fixed-rate time charters with our existing customers or new customers, including one of our 10000 TEU newbuilding containerships;

the potential for early termination of long-term contracts and our potential inability to enter into, renew or replace long-term contracts;

conditions in the public equity market and the price of our shares;

our ability to leverage to our advantage our relationships and reputation in the containership industry;

Table of Contents

our expectations as to any impairment of our vessels;

the future valuation of goodwill;

changes in governmental rules and regulations or actions taken by regulatory authorities, and the effect of governmental regulations on our business;

the financial condition of our shipbuilders, customers, lenders, refund guarantors and other counterparties and their ability to perform their obligations under their agreements with us;

the economic downturn and crisis in the global financial markets and potential negative effects of any recurrence of such disruptions on our customers' ability to charter our vessels and pay for our services;

taxation of our company and of distributions to our shareholders;

our exemption from tax on our U.S. source international transportation income;

potential liability from future litigation;

discussions and negotiations of mutually acceptable terms of any transaction involving GCI, including a possible acquisition, and approval of any such transaction by the conflicts committee of our board of directors; and

other factors discussed in the section titled "Risk Factors."

Forward-looking statements in this Annual Report are estimates and assumptions reflecting the judgment of senior management and involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties. These forward-looking statements are based upon a number of assumptions and estimates that 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. Accordingly, these forward-looking statements should be considered in light of various important factors, including, but not limited to, those set forth in "Item 3 D. Risk Factors."

We do not intend to revise any forward-looking statements in order to reflect any change in our expectations or events or circumstances that may subsequently arise. We expressly disclaim any obligation to update or revise any of these forward-looking statements, whether because of future events, new information, a change in our views or expectations, or otherwise. You should carefully review and consider the various disclosures included in this Annual Report and in our other filings made with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, that attempt to advise interested parties of the risks and factors that may affect our business, prospects and results of operations.

Unless we otherwise specify, when used in this Annual Report, the terms "Seaspan," "the Company," "we," "our" and "us" refer to Seaspan Corporation and its subsidiaries. References to our Manager are to our wholly-owned subsidiary Seaspan Management Services Limited and its wholly-owned subsidiaries (including Seaspan Ship Management Ltd., or SSML), which provide us with all of our technical, administrative and strategic services.

References to shipbuilders are as follows:

Edgar Filing: Seaspans CORP - Form 20-F

Shipbuilder	Reference
CSBC Corporation, Taiwan	CSBC
Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., Ltd.	HHI
Jiangsu New Yangzi Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.	New Jiangsu
Jiangsu Yangzi Xinfu Shipbuilding Co., Ltd.	Jiangsu Xinfu

Table of Contents

References to customers are as follows:

Customer	Reference
A.P. Moller Maersk A/S	Maersk
China Shipping Container Lines (Asia) Co., Ltd. ⁽¹⁾	CSCL Asia
COSCO Container Lines Co., Ltd. ⁽²⁾	COSCON
Hanjin Shipping Co., Ltd.	Hanjin
Hapag-Lloyd AG	Hapag-Lloyd
Hapag-Lloyd USA, LLC ⁽³⁾	HL USA
Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha Ltd.	K-Line
Mediterranean Shipping Company S.A.	MSC
Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd	MOL
Norasia Container Lines Limited ⁽³⁾	Norasia
Orient Overseas Container Line Ltd.	OOCL
Yang Ming Marine Transport Corp.	Yang Ming Marine

⁽¹⁾ A subsidiary of China Shipping Container Lines Co., Ltd., or CSCL.

⁽²⁾ A subsidiary of China COSCO Holdings Company Limited.

⁽³⁾ A subsidiary of Hapag-Lloyd.

We use the term "twenty foot equivalent unit," or TEU, the international standard measure of containers, in describing the capacity of our containerships, which are also referred to as our vessels. We identify the classes of our vessels by the approximate average TEU capacity of the vessels in each class. However, the actual TEU capacity of a vessel may differ from the approximate average TEU capacity of the vessels in such vessel's class.

Item 1. Identity of Directors, Senior Management and Advisors

Not applicable.

Item 2. Offer Statistics and Expected Timetable

Not applicable.

Table of Contents**Item 3. Key Information****A. Selected Financial Data**

Our consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles, or U.S. GAAP.

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Statements of operations data (in thousands of USD):					
Revenue	\$ 717,170	\$ 677,090	\$ 660,794	\$ 565,610	\$ 407,211
Operating expenses:					
Ship operating	166,097	150,105	138,655	135,696	108,098
Depreciation and amortization	181,527	172,459	165,541	140,354	101,026
General and administrative	30,462	34,783	24,617	16,818	9,612
Operating leases	9,544	4,388	3,145		
(Gain) loss on vessels			(9,773)	16,237	
Operating earnings	329,540	315,355	338,609	256,505	188,475
Other expenses (income):					
Interest expense	88,159	60,496	71,996	50,849	28,801
Interest income	(10,653)	(2,045)	(1,190)	(854)	(60)
Undrawn credit facility fee	3,109	2,725	1,516	4,282	4,515
Amortization of deferred charges	10,342	9,477	8,574	3,421	1,933
Refinancing expenses and recoveries	70	4,038			
Change in fair value of financial instruments ⁽¹⁾	105,694	(60,504)	135,998	281,027	241,033
Equity (income) loss on investment	(256)	670	259	1,180	
Other expenses	1,828	1,470	151		
Net earnings (loss)	\$ 131,247	\$ 299,028	\$ 121,305	\$ (83,400)	\$ (87,747)
Common shares outstanding:	96,662,928	69,208,888	63,042,217	69,620,060	68,601,240
Per share data (in USD):					
Basic earnings (loss) per Class A common share	\$ 0.80	\$ 3.36	\$ 0.84	\$ (2.04)	\$ (1.70)
Diluted earnings (loss) per Class A common share	\$ 0.79	\$ 2.93	\$ 0.81	\$ (2.04)	\$ (1.70)
Dividends paid per Class A common share	\$ 1.3475	\$ 1.188	\$ 0.938	\$ 0.688	\$ 0.450
Statements of cash flows data (in thousands of USD):					
Cash flows provided by (used in):					
Operating activities ⁽²⁾	\$ 342,959	\$ 327,669	\$ 311,183	\$ 239,864	\$ 153,587
Financing activities	(79,499)	62,491	(181,364)	832,293	529,680
Investing activities ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	(538,085)	(295,158)	(229,564)	(625,253)	(782,448)

Table of Contents

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Selected balance sheet data (at year end, in thousands of USD):					
Cash and cash equivalents ⁽³⁾	\$ 201,755	\$ 476,380	\$ 381,378	\$ 481,123	\$ 34,219
Current assets ⁽³⁾	516,926	600,113	463,930	519,998	46,764
Vessels ⁽⁴⁾	5,095,723	4,992,271	4,863,273	4,697,249	4,210,872
Deferred charges	64,655	53,971	43,816	45,917	37,607
Gross investment in lease	37,783	58,953	79,821	95,798	
Goodwill	75,321	75,321	75,321		
Other assets ⁽³⁾	67,308	106,944	83,661	88,754	81,985
Fair value of financial instruments, asset	37,677	60,188	41,031		
Total assets	5,895,393	5,947,761	5,650,853	5,447,716	4,377,228
Current liabilities	416,937	520,406	180,306	189,788	58,186
Long-term deferred revenue	7,343	4,143	7,903	12,503	
Long-term debt	3,084,409	2,853,459	3,024,288	2,914,247	2,396,771
Other long-term liabilities	253,542	572,673	613,049	583,263	524,716
Fair value of financial instruments, long-term liability	387,938	425,375	606,740	564,490	407,819
Total shareholders equity	1,745,224	1,571,705	1,218,567	1,183,425	989,736
Other data:					
Number of vessels in operation at year end	77	71	69	65	55
TEU capacity at year end	474,300	414,300	405,100	352,700	265,300
Fleet utilization ⁽⁵⁾	99.0%	98.0%	98.9%	99.3%	98.7%

- (1) All of our interest rate swap agreements and swaption agreements are marked to market and the changes in the fair value of these instruments are recorded in earnings.
- (2) Certain information has been reclassified to conform with the financial statement presentation adopted for the current year.
- (3) The balance sheet and cash flow data for 2012 has been recast to separately present balances of and movement in restricted cash, included in other assets, from cash and cash equivalents. This reclassification, which is immaterial, had no impact on the consolidated statement of operations data.
- (4) Vessel amounts include the net book value of vessels in operation and vessels under construction.
- (5) Fleet utilization is based on number of operating days divided by the number of ownership days during the year.

B. Capitalization and Indebtedness

Not applicable.

C. Reasons for the Offer and Use of Proceeds

Not applicable.

Table of Contents

D. Risk Factors

Some of the following risks relate principally to the industry in which we operate and to our business in general. Other risks relate principally to the securities market and to ownership of our shares or our 6.375% senior unsecured notes due 2019, or our Notes. The occurrence of any of the events described in this section could significantly and negatively affect our business, financial condition, operating results, ability to pay dividends on our shares, ability to pay interest and principal on our Notes, redeem our preferred shares, or the trading price of our shares or Notes.

Risks Inherent in Our Business

Our ability to obtain additional debt financing for future acquisitions of vessels may depend upon the performance of our then existing charters and the creditworthiness of our customers.

The actual or perceived credit quality of our customers, and any defaults by them, may materially affect our ability to obtain funds we may require to purchase vessels in the future or for general corporate purposes, or may significantly increase our costs of obtaining such funds. Our inability to obtain additional financing at attractive rates, if at all, could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

We will be required to make substantial capital expenditures to complete the acquisition of our newbuilding containerships and any additional vessels we acquire in the future, which may result in increased financial leverage, dilution of our equity holders' interests or our decreased ability to meet our payment obligations.

As of February 28, 2015, we have contracted to purchase an additional 13 newbuilding containerships with scheduled delivery dates through October 2016. As of February 28, 2015, the total purchase price of the 13 containerships remaining to be paid was estimated to be approximately \$1.1 billion. Our obligation to purchase the 13 containerships is not conditional upon our ability to obtain financing for such purchases. We intend to significantly expand the size of our fleet beyond our existing contracted vessel program. The acquisition of additional newbuilding or existing containerships or businesses will require significant additional capital expenditures.

To fund existing and future capital expenditures, we intend to use cash from operations, incur borrowings, raise capital through the sale of additional securities, enter into other sale-leaseback or financing arrangements, or use a combination of these methods. Use of cash from operations may reduce cash available to pay dividends to our shareholders or to redeem our preferred shares. Incurring additional debt may significantly increase our interest expense and financial leverage, and issuing additional equity securities may result in significant shareholder dilution, which, subject to the relative priority of our equity securities, could negatively affect our ability to pay dividends. Our ability to obtain or access bank financing or to access the capital markets for future debt or equity financings may be limited by our financial condition at the time of any such financing or offering and covenants in our credit facilities, as well as by adverse market conditions. To the extent that we enter into newbuilding or other vessel acquisition contracts prior to entering into charters for such vessels, our ability to obtain new financing for such vessels may be limited and we may be required to fund all or a portion of the cost of such acquisitions with our existing capital resources. Our failure to obtain funds for our capital expenditures at attractive rates, if at all, could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Over the long-term, we will be required to make substantial capital expenditures to preserve the operating capacity of our fleet.

We must make substantial capital expenditures over the long-term to preserve the operating capacity of our fleet. If we do not retain funds in our business in amounts necessary to preserve the operating capacity of our fleet, over the long-term our fleet and related charter revenues may diminish and we will not be able to continue to refinance our indebtedness. At some time in the future, as our fleet ages, we will likely need to retain additional funds, on an annual basis, to provide reasonable assurance of maintaining the operating capacity of our

Table of Contents

fleet over the long-term. There are several factors that will not be determinable for a number of years, but which our board of directors will consider in future decisions about the amount of funds to be retained in our business to preserve our capital base. To the extent we use or retain available funds to make capital expenditures to preserve the operating capacity of our fleet, there will be less funds available to pay interest and principal on our Notes, pay dividends on our shares or redeem our preferred shares.

Restrictive covenants in our credit and lease facilities, our Notes and in our preferred shares impose financial and other restrictions on us, which may limit, among other things, our ability to borrow funds under such facilities and our ability to satisfy our payment obligations related to our securities.

To borrow funds under our credit facilities, we must, among other things, meet specified financial covenants. For example, under certain of our existing credit facilities, we are prohibited from incurring total borrowings in an amount greater than 65% of our total assets and we must also ensure that certain interest coverage, and interest and principal coverage ratios are met. Total borrowings and total assets are terms defined in our credit facilities and differ from those used in preparing our consolidated financial statements, which are prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP. To the extent we are not able to satisfy the requirements in our credit facilities, we may not be able to borrow additional funds under the facilities, and if we are not in compliance with specified financial ratios or other requirements, we may be in breach of the facilities, which could require us to repay outstanding amounts. We may also be required to prepay amounts borrowed under our credit facilities if we, or in certain circumstances, our customers, experience a change of control.

Our credit and lease facilities impose operating and financial restrictions on us and require us to comply with certain financial covenants. These restrictions and covenants limit our ability to, among other things:

pay dividends if an event of default has occurred and is continuing under one of our credit facilities or if the payment of the dividend would result in an event of default;

incur additional indebtedness under the credit facilities or otherwise, including through the issuance of guarantees;

create liens on our assets;

sell our vessels without replacing such vessels or prepaying a portion of our loan; or

merge or consolidate with, or transfer all or substantially all our assets to, another person.

Accordingly, we may need to seek consent from our lenders or lessors in order to engage in some corporate actions. The interests of our lenders or lessors may be different from ours, and we may be unable to obtain our lenders' or lessors' consent when and if needed. In addition, we are subject to covenants for our preferred shares. If we do not comply with the restrictions and covenants in our credit or lease facilities, our Notes or in our preferred shares, our business, results of operations and financial condition will be harmed.

We may not be able to timely repay or be able to refinance indebtedness incurred under our credit and lease facilities.

We intend to finance a substantial portion of our fleet expansion with secured indebtedness drawn under our existing and future credit and lease facilities. We have significant repayment obligations under our credit and lease facilities, both prior to and at maturity. Please read Item 5. Operating and Financial Review and Prospects A. General Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations 2014 Developments Loan and Lease Facility Transactions. If we are not able to refinance outstanding indebtedness at an interest rate or on terms acceptable to us, or at all, we will have to dedicate a significant portion of our cash flow from operations to repay such indebtedness, which could reduce our ability to satisfy payment obligations related to our securities and our credit and lease facilities or may require us to delay certain business activities or capital expenditures. If we are not able to satisfy these obligations (whether or not refinanced) under our credit or lease facilities with cash flow from operations, we may have to seek to restructure

Table of Contents

our indebtedness, undertake alternative financing plans (such as additional debt or equity capital) or sell assets, which may not be available on terms attractive to us or at all. If we are unable to meet our debt obligations, or if we otherwise default under our credit facilities, our lenders could declare all outstanding indebtedness to be immediately due and payable and foreclose on the vessels securing such indebtedness. The market value of our vessels, which fluctuates with market conditions, will also affect our ability to obtain financing or refinancing, as our vessels serve as collateral for loans. Lower vessel values at the time of any financing or refinancing may reduce the amounts of funds we may borrow.

Our substantial debt levels and vessel lease obligations may limit our flexibility in obtaining additional financing and in pursuing other business opportunities.

As of December 31, 2014, we had approximately \$3.4 billion outstanding under our credit facilities and our Notes and capital lease obligations of approximately \$214.5 million. The amounts outstanding under our credit facilities and our lease obligations will further increase following the completion of our acquisition of the 13 newbuilding containerships that we have contracted to purchase as of February 28, 2015. For the 13 newbuilding containerships that we have contracted to purchase, we have entered into additional credit facilities or lease financings for five of the vessels and plan to enter into additional credit facilities or lease obligations to finance the remaining eight vessels. Our level of debt and vessel lease obligations could have important consequences to us, including the following:

our ability to obtain additional financing, if necessary, for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions or other purposes may be impaired or such financing may not be available on favorable terms;

we may need to use a substantial portion of our cash from operations to make principal and interest payments on our debt or make our lease payments, reducing the funds that would otherwise be available for operations, future business opportunities and dividends to our shareholders;

our debt level could make us more vulnerable to competitive pressures or a downturn in our business or the economy generally than our competitors with less debt; and

our debt level may limit our flexibility in responding to changing business and economic conditions.

Our ability to service our debt and vessel lease obligations will depend upon, among other things, our financial and operating performance, which will be affected by prevailing economic conditions and financial, business, regulatory and other factors, some of which are beyond our control. If our results of operations are not sufficient to service our current or future indebtedness and vessel lease obligations, we will be forced to take actions such as reducing dividends, reducing or delaying our business activities, acquisitions, investments or capital expenditures, selling assets, restructuring or refinancing our debt, or seeking additional equity capital or bankruptcy protection. We may not be able to effect any of these remedies on satisfactory terms, or at all.

Future disruptions in global financial markets and economic conditions or changes in lending practices may harm our ability to obtain financing on acceptable terms, which could hinder or prevent us from meeting our capital needs.

Global financial markets and economic conditions were disrupted and volatile following the events of 2007 and 2008. During this time, the debt and equity capital markets became exceedingly distressed, and it was difficult generally to obtain financing and the cost of any available financing increased significantly. While markets have stabilized since this time, if global financial markets and economic conditions significantly deteriorate in the future, we may be unable to obtain adequate funding under our credit facilities because our lenders may be unwilling or unable to meet their funding obligations or we may not be able to obtain funds at the interest rate agreed in our credit facilities due to market disruption events or increased costs. Such deterioration may also cause lenders to be unwilling to provide us with new financing to the extent needed to fund our ongoing operations and growth. In addition, in recent years, the number of lenders for shipping companies has decreased

Table of Contents

and ship-funding lenders have generally lowered their loan-to-value ratios and shortened loan terms and accelerated repayment schedules. These factors may hinder our ability to access financing.

If financing or refinancing is not available when needed, or is available only on unfavorable terms, we may be unable to meet our obligations as they come due or we may be unable to implement our growth strategy, complete acquisitions or otherwise take advantage of business opportunities or respond to competitive pressures, any of which could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

The business and activity levels of many of our customers, shipbuilders and third parties with which we do business and their respective abilities to fulfill their obligations under agreements with us, including payments for the charter of our vessels, may be hindered by any deterioration in the credit markets.

Our current vessels are, and we anticipate that those that we acquire in the future will be, primarily chartered to customers under long-term time charters. Payments to us under those charters currently, and are expected to continue to, account for nearly all of our revenue. Many of our customers finance their activities through cash flow from operations, the incurrence of debt or the issuance of equity. During the recent financial and economic crises, there occurred a significant decline in the credit markets and the availability of credit and other forms of financing. Additionally, the equity value of many of our customers substantially declined during that period. The combination of a reduction of cash flow resulting from declines in world trade, a reduction in borrowing bases under reserve-based credit facilities and the limited or lack of availability of debt or equity financing potentially reduced the ability of our customers to make charter payments to us. Any recurrence of the significant financial and economic disruption of the last few years could result in similar effects on our customers or other third parties with which we do business, which in turn could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Similarly, the shipbuilders with whom we have contracted to construct newbuilding vessels may be affected by future instability of the financial markets and other market conditions, including with respect to the fluctuating price of commodities and currency exchange rates. In addition, the refund guarantors under our shipbuilding contracts (which are banks, financial institutions and other credit agencies that guarantee, under certain circumstances, the repayment of installment payments we make to the shipbuilders), may also be negatively affected by adverse financial market conditions in the same manner as our lenders and, as a result, be unable or unwilling to meet their obligations to us due to their own financial condition. If our shipbuilders or refund guarantors are unable or unwilling to meet their obligations to us, this will harm our fleet expansion and may harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

We will be paying all costs for the newbuilding vessels that we have contracted to purchase and have incurred borrowings to fund, in part, installment payments under the relevant shipbuilding contracts. If any of these vessels are not delivered as contemplated, we may be required to refund all or a portion of the amounts we borrowed.

The construction period currently required for a newbuilding containership similar to those we have ordered is approximately 18 months. For each of the newbuilding vessels that we have agreed to purchase, we are required to make certain payment installments prior to a final installment payment, which final installment payment generally is approximately 60-80% of the total vessel purchase price. We have entered into long-term credit facilities to partially fund the construction of our newbuilding vessels and plan to enter into additional credit facilities or lease obligations to fund the remaining vessels that we have contracted to purchase. We are required to make these payments to the shipbuilder and to pay the debt service cost under the credit facilities in advance of receiving any revenue under the time charters for the vessels, which commence following delivery of the vessels.

If a shipbuilder is unable to deliver a vessel or if we or one of our customers rejects a vessel, we may be required to repay a portion of the outstanding balance of the relevant credit facility. Such an outcome could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Table of Contents

We derive our revenue from a limited number of customers, and the loss of any of such customers would harm our revenue and cash flow.

The following table shows, as at December 31, 2014, the number of vessels in our operating fleet that were chartered to our then 10 customers and the percentage of our total revenue attributable to the charters with such customers for the year ended December 31, 2014:

Customer	Number of Vessels in our Operating Fleet Chartered to Such Customer	Percentage of Total Revenue for the Year Ended December 31, 2014
COSCON	18	42.3%
CSCL Asia	17	17.6%
Hapag-Lloyd ⁽¹⁾	18	10.8%
K-Line	7	10.6%
Other	17	18.7%
Total	77	100.0%

(1) Includes vessels chartered to Hapag-Lloyd, HL USA and Norasia subsequent to Hapag-Lloyd's acquisition of Norasia. The majority of our vessels are chartered under long-term time charters, and customer payments are our primary source of operating cash flow. The loss of any of these charters or any material decrease in payments thereunder could materially harm our business, results of operations, financial condition and ability to pay dividends on our shares or redeem our preferred shares.

Under some circumstances, we could lose a time charter or payments under the charter if:

the customer fails to make charter payments because of its financial inability, disagreements with us, defaults on a payment or otherwise;

at the time of delivery, the vessel subject to the time charter differs in its specifications from those agreed upon under the shipbuilding contract; or

the customer exercises certain limited rights to terminate the charter, including (a) if the ship fails to meet certain guaranteed speed and fuel consumption requirements and we are unable to rectify the situation or otherwise reach a mutually acceptable settlement and (b) under some charters, if we undertake a change of control to which the customer does not consent or if the vessel is unavailable for operation for certain reasons for a specified period of time, or if delivery of a newbuilding is delayed for a prolonged period.

Any significant financial or economic disruption could result in our customers being unable to make charter payments to us in the future or seeking to amend the terms of our charters. Any such event could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Our growth depends upon continued growth in demand for containerships.

Our growth will generally depend on continued growth and renewal in world and regional demand for containership chartering. The ocean-going shipping container industry is both cyclical and volatile in terms of charter hire rates and profitability. Fluctuations in containership charter rates result from changes in the supply and demand for vessel capacity which are driven by global fleet capacity and utilization and changes in the supply and demand for the major products internationally transported by containerships. The factors affecting the supply and demand for containerships, and the nature, timing and degree of changes in industry conditions are unpredictable.

Table of Contents

Factors that influence demand for containership capacity include, among others:

supply and demand for products suitable for shipping in containers;

changes in global production of products transported by containerships;

seaborne and other transportation patterns, including the distances over which container cargoes are transported and changes in such patterns and distances;

the globalization of manufacturing;

global and regional economic and political conditions;

developments in international trade;

environmental and other regulatory developments;

currency exchange rates; and

weather.

Factors that influence the supply of containership capacity include, among others:

the number of newbuilding orders and deliveries;

the extent of newbuilding vessel deferrals;

the scrapping rate of containerships;

newbuilding prices and containership owner access to capital to finance the construction of newbuildings;

charter rates and the price of steel and other raw materials;

changes in environmental and other regulations that may limit the useful life of containerships;

the number of containerships that are slow-steaming or extra slow-steaming to conserve fuel;

the number of containerships that are idle;

port congestion and canal closures; and

demand for fleet renewal.

Our ability to recharter our containerships upon the expiration or termination of their current time charters and the charter rates payable under any renewal or replacement charters will depend upon, among other things, the then current state of the containership market. If charter rates are low when our existing time charters expire, we may be required to recharter our vessels at reduced rates or even possibly a rate whereby we incur a loss, which would harm our results of operations. Alternatively, we may determine to leave such vessels off-charter. The same issues will exist if we acquire additional vessels and seek to charter them under long-term time charter arrangements as part of our growth strategy.

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

As of February 1, 2015, newbuilding containerships with an aggregate capacity of 3.4 million TEUs, representing approximately 18.4% of the total worldwide containership fleet capacity as of that date, were under construction. The size of the orderbook will result in the increase in the size of the world containership fleet over the next few years. An over-supply of containership capacity, combined with stability or any decline in the demand for containerships, may result in a reduction of charter hire rates. If such a reduction occurs when we seek to charter newbuilding vessels, our growth opportunities may be diminished. If such a reduction occurs upon the expiration or termination of our containerships' current time charters, we may only be able to recharter our containerships for unprofitable rates, if at all.

Table of Contents

A significant number of our vessels are chartered to Chinese customers and certain of our shipbuilders are based in China. The legal system in China is not fully developed and has inherent uncertainties that could limit the legal protections available to us, and the geopolitical risks associated with chartering vessels to Chinese customers and constructing vessels in China could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

As of February 28, 2015, a total of 17 of the 90 vessels in our current and contracted fleet were chartered to CSCL Asia, and 18 vessels are chartered to COSCON. CSCL Asia and COSCON are subsidiaries of Chinese companies. Our vessels that are chartered to Chinese customers and our five newbuilding vessels that are being constructed in China are subject to various risks as a result of uncertainties in Chinese law, including (a) the risk of loss of revenues, property or equipment as a result of expropriation, nationalization, changes in laws, exchange controls, war, insurrection, civil unrest, strikes or other political risks and (b) being subject to foreign laws and legal systems and the exclusive jurisdiction of Chinese courts and tribunals.

The Chinese legal system is based on written statutes and their legal interpretation by the standing Committee of the National People's Congress. Prior court decisions may be cited for reference but have limited precedential value. Since 1979, the Chinese government has been developing a comprehensive system of laws and regulations dealing with economic matters such as foreign investment, corporate organization and governance, commerce, taxation and trade. However, because these laws and regulations are relatively new, and because of the limited volume of published cases and their non-binding nature, interpretation and enforcement of these laws and regulations involve uncertainties.

If we are required to commence legal proceedings against a lender, a customer or a charter guarantor based in China with respect to the provisions of a credit facility, a time charter or a time charter guarantee, we may have difficulties in enforcing any judgment obtained in such proceedings in China. Similarly, our shipbuilders based in China provide warranties against certain defects for the vessels that they will construct for us and we have refund guarantees from a Chinese financial institution for installment payments that we will make to the shipbuilders. Although the shipbuilding contracts and refund guarantees are governed by English law, if we are required to commence legal proceedings against these shipbuilders or against the refund guarantor, we may have difficulties enforcing in China any judgment obtained in such proceeding.

A decrease in the level of China's export of goods or an increase in trade protectionism will harm our customers' business and, in turn, harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Most of our customers' containership business revenue is derived from the shipment of goods from the Asia Pacific region, primarily China, to various overseas export markets, including the United States and Europe. Any reduction in or hindrance to the output of China-based exporters could negatively affect the growth rate of China's exports and our customers' business. For instance, the government of China has implemented economic policies aimed at increasing domestic consumption of Chinese-made goods. This may reduce the supply of goods available for export and may, in turn, result in a decrease in shipping demand.

Our international operations expose us to the risk that increased trade protectionism will harm our business. If global economic challenges exist, governments may turn to trade barriers to protect their domestic industries against foreign imports, thereby depressing shipping demand. Specifically, increasing trade protectionism in the markets that our customers serve has caused and may continue to cause an increase in (a) the cost of goods exported from China, (b) the length of time required to deliver goods from China and (c) the risks associated with exporting goods from China. Such increases may also affect the quantity of goods to be shipped, shipping time schedules, voyage costs and other associated costs.

Any increased trade barriers or restrictions on trade, especially trade with China and Asia, would harm our customers' business, results of operations and financial condition and could thereby affect their ability to make timely charter hire payments to us and to renew and increase the number of their time charters with us. This could harm our business, results of operations, and financial condition.

Table of Contents

Adverse economic conditions, especially in the Asia Pacific region, the European Union or the United States, could harm our business, financial condition, results of operations and ability to pay dividends on our shares or redeem our preferred shares.

The global economy recently experienced disruption and volatility following adverse changes in global capital markets. The deterioration in the global economy caused, and any renewed deterioration may cause, a decrease in worldwide demand for certain goods and shipping. Economic instability could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

In particular, because a significant number of the port calls made by our vessels involves the loading or discharging of containerships in ports in the Asia Pacific region, economic turmoil in that region may exacerbate the effect of any economic slowdown on us. China has been one of the world's fastest growing economies in terms of GDP, which has increased the demand for shipping. However, China's high rate of real GDP growth is forecasted to decline during 2015. Additionally, the European Union, or the EU, and certain of its member states are facing significant economic and political challenges. Our business, results of operations, financial condition and ability to satisfy our payment obligations will likely be harmed by any significant economic downturn in the Asia Pacific region, including China, or in the EU or the United States.

Our growth and our ability to recharter our vessels depends on our ability to expand relationships with existing customers and develop relationships with new customers, for which we will face substantial competition.

We intend to acquire additional containerships as market conditions allow in conjunction with entering primarily into additional long-term, fixed-rate time charters for such ships, and to recharter our existing vessels following the expiration of their current long-term time charters to the extent we retain those vessels in our fleet. The process of obtaining new long-term time charters is highly competitive and generally involves an intensive screening process and competitive bids, and often extends for several months. Containership charters are awarded based upon a variety of factors relating to the vessel operator, including, among others:

shipping industry relationships and reputation for customer service and safety;

container shipping experience and quality of ship operations, including cost effectiveness;

quality and experience of seafaring crew;

the ability to finance containerships at competitive rates and the shipowner's financial stability generally;

relationships with shipyards and the ability to get suitable berths;

construction management experience, including the ability to obtain on-time delivery of new ships according to customer specifications;

willingness to accept operational risks pursuant to the charter, such as allowing termination of the charter for force majeure events; and

competitiveness of the bid in terms of overall price.

Competition for providing new containerships for chartering purposes comes from a number of experienced shipping companies, including direct competition from other independent charter owners and indirect competition from state-sponsored and other major entities with their own fleets. Some of our competitors have significantly greater financial resources than we do and can operate larger fleets and may be able to offer better charter rates. An increasing number of marine transportation companies have entered the containership sector, including many with strong reputations and extensive resources and experience in the marine transportation industry. This increased competition may cause greater price

Edgar Filing: Seaspac CORP - Form 20-F

competition for time charters. As a result of these factors, we may be unable to expand our relationships with existing customers or to develop relationships with new customers on a profitable basis, if at all, which would harm our business, results of operations and financial

Table of Contents

condition. These risks will be heightened to the extent that we enter into newbuilding or other vessel acquisition contracts prior to entering into charters for such vessels

If a more active short-term or spot containership market develops, we may have more difficulty entering into long-term, fixed-rate time charters and our existing customers may begin to pressure us to reduce our charter rates.

One of our principal strategies is to enter into long-term, fixed-rate time charters. As more vessels become available for the spot or short-term market, we may have difficulty entering into additional long-term, fixed-rate time charters for our vessels due to the increased supply of vessels and possibly lower rates in the spot market. As a result, our cash flow may be subject to instability in the long-term. A more active short-term or spot market may require us to enter into charters based on changing market prices, as opposed to contracts based on a fixed rate, which could result in a decrease in our cash flow in periods when the market price for containerships is depressed or insufficient funds are available to cover our financing costs for related vessels. In addition, the development of an active short-term or spot containership market could affect rates under our existing time charters as our current customers may begin to pressure us to reduce our rates.

We may be unable to make or realize expected benefits from acquisitions or investments, and implementing our growth strategy through acquisitions of existing businesses or vessels or investments in other containership businesses may harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Our growth strategy includes selectively acquiring new containerships, existing containerships, containership-related assets and containership businesses as market conditions allow. We may also invest in other containership businesses. Factors that may limit the number of acquisition or investment opportunities in the containership industry include the ability to access capital to fund such transactions, the overall economic environment and the status of global trade and the ability to secure long-term, fixed-rate charters.

Any acquisition of, or investment in, a vessel or business may not be profitable to us at or after the time we acquire or make it and may not generate cash flow sufficient to justify our investment. In addition, our acquisition growth strategy exposes us to risks that may harm our business, financial condition and results of operations, including risks that we may:

fail to realize anticipated benefits, such as new customer relationships, cost savings or cash flow enhancements;

be unable to hire, train or retain qualified shore and seafaring personnel to manage and operate our growing business and fleet;

decrease our liquidity by using a significant portion of our available cash or borrowing capacity to finance acquisitions or investments;

incur or assume unanticipated liabilities, losses or costs associated with the business or vessels acquired;

have difficulties achieving internal controls effectiveness and integrating an acquired business into our internal controls framework;

incur other significant charges, such as impairment of goodwill or other intangible assets, asset devaluation or restructuring charges; or

not be able to service our debt obligations and other payment obligations related to our securities.

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

International and U.S. accounting standard-setting organizations have proposed the elimination of operating leases. The proposals are not yet finalized. If the proposals are enacted, they would have the effect of bringing

Table of Contents

most off-balance sheet leases onto a lessee's balance sheet as liabilities. This proposed change could affect our customers and potential customers and may cause them to breach certain financial covenants. This may make them less likely to enter into time charters for our containerships, which could reduce our growth opportunities.

Under the time charters for some of our vessels, if a vessel is off-hire for an extended period, the customer has a right to terminate the charter agreement for that vessel.

Under most of our time charter agreements, if a vessel is not available for service, or off-hire, for an extended period, the customer has a right to terminate the charter agreement for that vessel. If a time charter is terminated early, we may be unable to re-deploy the related vessel on terms as favorable to us, if at all. In the worst case, we may not receive any revenue from that vessel, but be required to continue to pay financing costs for the vessel and expenses necessary to maintain the vessel in proper operating condition. Please read Item 4. Information on the Company B. Business Overview Time Charters and Bareboat Charters.

Risks inherent in the operation of ocean-going vessels could harm our business and reputation.

The operation of ocean-going vessels carries inherent risks. These risks include the possibility of:

marine disaster;

environmental accidents;

grounding, fire, explosions and collisions;

cargo and property losses or damage;

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

piracy.

Such occurrences could result in death or injury to persons, loss of property or environmental damage, delays in the delivery of cargo, loss of revenue from or termination of charter contracts, governmental fines, penalties or restrictions on conducting business, higher insurance rates, and damage to our reputation and customer relationships generally. The involvement of our vessels in an environmental disaster could harm our reputation as a safe and reliable vessel owner and operator. Any of these circumstances or events could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

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

Piracy is an inherent risk in the operation of ocean-going vessels and has historically affected vessels trading in certain regions of the world, including, among other areas, the South China Sea and the Gulf of Aden off the coast of Somalia. We may not be adequately insured to cover losses from these incidents, which could harm our business, results of operations, financial condition and ability to pay dividends on our shares or redeem our preferred shares. In addition, crew costs, including for employing onboard security guards, could increase in such circumstances. Any of these events, or the loss of use of a vessel due to piracy, may harm our customers, impairing their ability to make payments to us under our charters, which would harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Terrorist attacks and international hostilities could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Edgar Filing: Seaspan CORP - Form 20-F

Terrorist attacks such as the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, and the continuing response of the United States to these attacks, as well as the threat of future terrorist attacks, continue to cause uncertainty in the world financial markets. Conflicts in Afghanistan, the Middle East and other regions and

Table of Contents

periodic tensions between North and South Korea (where many shipbuilders are located) may lead to additional acts of terrorism, regional conflict and other armed conflict around the world, which may contribute to further economic instability in the global financial markets or in regions where our customers do business or, in the case of countries in which our shipbuilders are located, affect our access to new vessels. These uncertainties or events could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition, including our ability to obtain additional financing on terms acceptable to us or at all. In addition, terrorist attacks targeted at sea vessels in the future may negatively affect our operations and financial condition and directly affect our containerships or customers.

Our insurance may be insufficient to cover losses that may occur to our property or result from the inherent operational risks of the shipping industry.

We maintain insurance for our fleet against risks commonly insured against by vessel owners and operators. Our insurance includes hull and machinery insurance, war risks insurance and protection and indemnity insurance (which includes environmental damage and pollution insurance). We may not be adequately insured against all risks and our insurers may not pay a particular claim. Even if our insurance coverage is adequate to cover any vessel loss, we may not be able to timely obtain a replacement vessel. Our credit facilities and lease agreements restrict our use of any proceeds we may receive from claims under our insurance policies. In addition, in the future we may not be able to obtain adequate insurance coverage at reasonable rates for our fleet. We may also be subject to supplementary or additional calls, or premiums, in amounts based not only on our own claim records but also the claim records of all other members of the protection and indemnity associations, as an industry group, through which we receive indemnity insurance coverage for statutory, contractual and tort liability, due to the sharing and reinsurance arrangements stated in the insurance rules. Our insurance policies also contain deductibles, limitations and exclusions which, although we believe they are standard in the shipping industry, may directly or indirectly increase our costs.

In addition, we do not carry loss-of-hire insurance, which covers the loss of revenue during extended vessel off-hire periods, such as those that occur during an unscheduled dry-docking due to damage to the vessel from accidents. Accordingly, any loss of a vessel or extended vessel off-hire, due to an accident or otherwise, could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

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

International containership traffic is subject to security and customs inspection and related procedures in countries of origin, destination and trans-shipment points. These inspections can result in cargo seizure, delays in the loading, offloading, trans-shipment or delivery of containers and the levying of customs duties, fines or other penalties against exporters or importers and, in some cases, customers.

Since the events of September 11, 2001, U.S. and Canadian authorities have increased container inspection rates. Government investment in non-intrusive container scanning technology has grown and there is interest in electronic monitoring technology. It is unclear what changes, if any, to the existing inspection procedures will ultimately be proposed or implemented, or how any such changes will affect the industry. Such changes may impose additional financial and legal obligations on carriers and may render the shipment of certain types of goods by container uneconomical or impractical. Additional costs that may arise from current or future inspection procedures may not be fully recoverable from customers through higher rates or security surcharges. Any of these effects could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

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

The European Commission is conducting investigations of certain major container liner companies, including some of our existing customers, related to potential violations of EU competition (antitrust) rules.

Table of Contents

Although we have no basis for assessing the outcome of these investigations, it is possible that additional financial and legal obligations may be imposed on one or more of these liner companies. Such obligations may make these customers or similarly situated potential customers less likely to enter into or renew time charters for our containerships, which could reduce our growth opportunities and harm our business, results of operations, financial condition and ability to pay dividends on our shares or redeem our preferred shares. In addition, any significant financial penalties arising from these or similar investigations could reduce the ability of our customers to make charter payments to us, which likewise could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Over time, containership values may fluctuate substantially, which could adversely affect our results of operations or our ability to raise capital.

Containership values can fluctuate substantially over time due to a number of different factors, including, among others:

prevailing economic conditions in the market in which the containership trades;

a substantial or extended decline in world trade;

increases in the supply of containership capacity; and

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

If a charter terminates, we may be unable to re-deploy the vessel at attractive rates and, rather than continue to incur costs to maintain and finance the vessel, may seek to dispose of it. Our inability to dispose of the containership at a reasonable price, or at all, could result in a loss on its sale and harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

In addition, if we determine at any time that a containership's value has been impaired, we may need to recognize a significant impairment charge that will reduce our earnings and net assets. We review our containership assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of the assets may not be recoverable, which occurs when the assets' carrying value is greater than the undiscounted future cash flows the asset is expected to generate over its remaining useful life. In our experience, certain assumptions relating to our estimates of future cash flows are more predictable by their nature, including, estimated revenue under existing contract terms and remaining vessel life. Certain assumptions relating to our estimates of future cash flows require more discretion and are inherently less predictable, such as future charter rates beyond the firm period of existing contracts and vessel residual values, due to factors such as the volatility in vessel charter rates and vessel values. We believe that the assumptions used to estimate future cash flows of our vessels are reasonable at the time they are made. We can make no assurances, however, as to whether our estimates of future cash flows, particularly future vessel charter rates or vessel values, will be accurate. Vessels that are currently not considered impaired may become impaired over time if the future estimated undiscounted cash flows decline at a rate that is faster than the depreciation of our vessels.

A reduction in our net assets could result in a breach of certain financial covenants contained in our credit and lease facilities and our preferred shares, which could limit our ability to borrow additional funds under our credit and lease facilities, require us to repay outstanding amounts, or increase the dividend rate of our Series C preferred shares. Further, declining containership values could affect our ability to raise cash by limiting our ability to refinance vessels or use unencumbered vessels as collateral for new loans. This could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Table of Contents

We are subject to regulation and liability under environmental laws that could require significant expenditures and affect our operations.

Our business and the operation of our containerships are materially affected by environmental regulation in the form of international conventions, national, state and local laws and regulations in force in the jurisdictions in which our containerships operate, as well as in the countries of their registration, including those governing the management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, the cleanup of oil spills and other contamination, air emissions, water discharges, ballast water management and vessel recycling. Because such conventions, laws and regulations are often revised, we cannot predict the ultimate cost or effect of complying with such requirements or the effect thereof on the resale price or useful life of our containerships. Additional conventions, laws and regulations may be adopted that could limit our ability to do business or increase the cost of our doing business, which may harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

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

In addition, in complying with existing environmental laws and regulations and those that may be adopted, we may incur significant costs in meeting new maintenance and inspection requirements and new restrictions on air emissions from our containerships, in developing contingency arrangements for potential spills and in obtaining insurance coverage. Government regulation of vessels, particularly in the areas of safety, security and environmental requirements, can be expected to become stricter in the future and require us to incur significant capital expenditures on our vessels to keep them in compliance, or even to scrap or sell certain vessels altogether. Substantial violations of applicable requirements or a catastrophic release of bunker fuel from one of our containerships could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Compliance with safety and other vessel requirements imposed by classification societies may be costly and harm our business.

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. In addition, a vessel generally must undergo annual, intermediate and special surveys to maintain classification society certification. If any vessel does not maintain its class or fails any annual, intermediate or special survey, the vessel will be unable to trade between ports and will be unemployable and we could be in violation of certain covenants in our credit facilities and our lease agreements. This could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Delays in deliveries of our newbuilding containerships could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

We are currently under contract to purchase 13 newbuilding containerships, which are scheduled to be delivered at various times through October 2016. The delivery of these containerships, or any other containerships we may order, could be delayed, which would delay our receipt of revenue under the time charters for the containerships and, if the delay is prolonged, could permit our customers to terminate the newbuilding containership time charter. Any of such events could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Table of Contents

The delivery of the containerships could be delayed because of:

work stoppages, other labor disturbances or other events that disrupt any of the shipyards' operations;

quality or engineering problems;

changes in governmental regulations or maritime self-regulatory organization standards;

bankruptcy or other financial crisis of any of the shipyards;

a backlog of orders at any of the shipyards;

hostilities, or political or economic disturbances in Korea, Taiwan or China, where the containerships are being built;

weather interference or catastrophic event, such as a major earthquake, fire or tsunami;

our requests for changes to the original containership specifications;

shortages of or delays in the receipt of necessary construction materials, such as steel;

our inability to obtain requisite permits or approvals;

a dispute with any of the shipyards;

the failure of our banks to provide debt financing; or

a disruption to the financial markets.

In addition, each of the shipbuilding contracts for our newbuilding containerships contains force majeure provisions whereby the occurrence of certain events could delay delivery or possibly result in termination of the contract. If delivery of a containership is materially delayed or if a shipbuilding contract is terminated, it could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Due to our lack of diversification, adverse developments in our containership transportation business could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Our articles of incorporation currently limit our business to the chartering or rechartering of containerships to others and other related activities, unless otherwise approved by our board of directors.

Edgar Filing: Seaspan CORP - Form 20-F

Nearly all of our cash flow is generated from our charters that operate in the containership transportation business. Due to our lack of diversification, an adverse development in the containership industry may more significantly harm our business, results of operations and financial condition than if we maintained more diverse assets or lines of business.

Because each existing and newbuilding vessel in our contracted fleet is or will be built in accordance with standard designs and uniform in all material respects to other vessels in its TEU class, any material design defect likely will affect all vessels in such class.

Each existing and newbuilding vessel in our fleet is built, or will be built, in accordance with standard designs and uniform in all material respects to other vessels in its class. As a result, any latent design defect discovered in one of our vessels will likely affect all of our other vessels in that class. Any disruptions in the operation of our vessels resulting from these defects could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

There are greater than normal construction, delivery and operational risks with respect to our New Panamax 10000 and Neo-Panamax 14000 TEU newbuilding vessels.

Six 10000 TEU newbuilding vessels were delivered during 2014 and we have contracted to purchase an additional five new Panamax 10000 TEU vessels and eight neo-Panamax 14000 TEU vessels and may order

Table of Contents

additional vessels of these types in the future. The 10000 TEU and 14000 TEU vessels are or will be the first vessels constructed using this new design and the first vessels constructed of these sizes at some of these shipyards. As such, there may exist greater than normal construction, delivery and operational risks associated with these vessels. Deliveries of these vessels could be delayed and problems with operation of these vessels could be encountered, either of which could adversely affect our reputation, the receipt of revenue under time charters for or the operating cost of these vessels, and their future resale value.

Increased technological innovation in competing vessels could reduce our charter hire rates and the value of our vessels.

The charter hire rates and the value and operational life of a vessel are determined by a number of factors, including the vessel's efficiency, operational flexibility and physical life. Efficiency includes speed, fuel economy and the ability to be loaded and unloaded quickly. Flexibility includes the ability to enter harbors, utilize related docking facilities and pass through canals and straits. Physical life is related to the original design and construction, maintenance and the impact of the stress of operations. If new containerships are built that are more efficient or flexible or have longer physical lives than our vessels, competition from these more technologically advanced containerships could adversely affect the amount of charter hire payments we receive for our vessels once their initial charters end and the resale value of our vessels. As a result, our business, results of operations and financial condition could be harmed.

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 the applicable vessel for unsatisfied debts, claims or damages. In many jurisdictions, a maritime lienholder may enforce its lien by arresting a vessel through foreclosure proceedings. In addition, in some jurisdictions, such as South Africa, under the sister ship theory of liability, a claimant may arrest both the vessel that is subject to the claimant's maritime lien and any associated vessel, which is any vessel owned or controlled by the same owner. Claimants could try to assert sister ship liability against one vessel in our fleet for claims relating to another of our ships. The arrest or attachment of one or more of our vessels could interrupt our business and cash flow and require us to pay significant amounts to have the arrest lifted, which could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

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

The government of a ship's registry could requisition for title or seize our containerships. Requisition for title occurs when a government takes control of a ship and becomes the owner. Also, a government could requisition our containerships for hire. Requisition for hire occurs when a government takes control of a ship 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 containerships could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Exposure to currency exchange rate fluctuations may result in fluctuations in our results of operations and financial condition and ability to pay dividends on our shares or redeem our preferred shares.

All of our charter revenues are earned in U.S. dollars. Although a significant portion of our operating and general and administrative costs are incurred in U.S. dollars, we have some exposure to currencies other than U.S. dollars, including Canadian dollars, Indian Rupees, Euros and other foreign currencies. Although we monitor exchange rate fluctuations on a continuous basis, and seek to reduce our exposure in certain circumstances by denominating charter-hire revenue, ship building contracts, purchase contracts and debt obligations in U.S. dollars when practical to do so, we do not currently fully hedge movements in currency exchange rates. As a result, currency fluctuations may have a negative effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Table of Contents

Damage to our reputation or industry relationships could harm our business.

Our operational success and our ability to grow depend significantly upon our satisfactory performance of technical services (including vessel maintenance, crewing, purchasing, shipyard supervision, insurance, assistance with regulatory compliance and financial services). Our business will be harmed if we fail to perform these services satisfactorily. Our ability to compete for and to enter into new charters and expand our relationships with our customers depends upon our reputation and relationships in the shipping industry. If we suffer material damage to our reputation or relationships, it may harm our ability to, among other things:

renew existing charters upon their expiration;

obtain new charters;

successfully interact with shipyards;

dispose of vessels on commercially acceptable terms;

obtain financing on commercially acceptable terms;

maintain satisfactory relationships with our customers and suppliers; or

grow our business.

If our ability to do any of the things described above is impaired, it could harm our business, results of operations and financial condition.

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

Since our initial public offering in 2005, we have increased the size of our contracted fleet from 23 to 90 vessels. We have also agreed to provide technical management services to third and related parties, including GCI and affiliates of Dennis R. Washington for vessels they may acquire. Our current operating and financial systems may not be adequate if we further expand the size of our fleet or if we provide services to third parties and attempts to improve those systems may be ineffective. In addition, we will need to recruit suitable additional administrative and management personnel to manage any growth. We may not be able to continue to hire suitable employees in such circumstances. If a shortage of experienced labor exists or if we encounter business or financial difficulties, we may not be able to adequately staff our vessels. If we expand our fleet, or as we provide services to third parties and we are unable to grow our financial and operating systems or to recruit suitable employees, our business, results of operations and financial condition may be harmed.

Our chief executive officer does not devote all of his time to our business.

Our chief executive officer, Gerry Wang, is involved in other business activities that may result in his spending less time than is appropriate or necessary in order to manage our business successfully. Pursuant to his employment agreement with us, Mr. Wang is permitted to provide services to Tiger Management Limited, an entity owned and controlled by one of our directors, Graham Porter, or the Tiger Member, and GCI and certain of their respective affiliates, in addition to the services that he provides to us. In addition, Mr. Wang is the chairman of the board of managers of GCI. Please read Item 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions B. Related Party Transactions Certain Relationships and Transactions.

Our business depends upon certain employees, who may not necessarily continue to work for us.

Edgar Filing: Seaspan CORP - Form 20-F

Our future success depends to a significant extent upon our chief executive officer and co-chairman of our board of directors, Gerry Wang, and certain members of our senior management. Mr. Wang has substantial experience and relationships in the containership industry and has been instrumental in developing our relationships with our customers. Mr. Wang and other members of our senior management are crucial to the

Table of Contents

development of our business strategy and to the growth and development of our business. If they, and Mr. Wang in particular, were no longer to be affiliated with us, we may fail to recruit other employees with equivalent talent, experience and relationships, and our business, results of operations, financial condition and ability to pay dividends may be significantly harmed as a result. Although Mr. Wang has an employment agreement with us through the termination of our right of first refusal with GCI (which is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2016, unless earlier terminated), Mr. Wang could terminate his employment at any time. As such, it is possible that Mr. Wang will no longer provide services to us and that our business, results of operations and financial condition may be harmed by the loss of such services.

We may not achieve expected benefits from our participation in GCI.

In March 2011, we agreed to participate in GCI, which invests in containership assets, primarily newbuilding vessels strategic to the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau, or Greater China. We believe that the combined scale of our business and GCI, together with current excess capacity at shipyards, allows us to realize volume discounts for newbuilding orders and to negotiate fuel-efficient design improvements from shipyards that are attractive to our customers. To the extent excess shipyard capacity decreases, we may be unable to achieve these benefits. In addition, we may be unable to obtain more attractive vessel financing through GCI than otherwise available to us on our own.

GCI intends to compete in our markets, and its entry into the containership market may harm our business, results of operations and financial position.

The Carlyle Group, or Carlyle, which controls GCI, is a leading global alternative asset manager. GCI intends to invest equity capital in containership and other maritime assets, primarily newbuilding vessels strategic to Greater China, which is similar to our growth strategy of investing in primarily newbuilding vessels strategic to Greater China. The involvement of Carlyle in GCI and the amount of funds that GCI may invest in containerships could result in GCI becoming the owner of a significant fleet of containerships, which could compete with us for growth opportunities, subject to certain rights of first refusal in our favor that may continue up to March 31, 2016, subject to earlier termination. Please read Item 7. Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions B. Related Party Transactions Our Investment in Carlyle Containership-Focused Investment Vehicle Rights of First Refusal and First Offer. Our business, results of operations and financial condition could be harmed to the extent GCI successfully competes against us for containership opportunities.

We have reduced the fiduciary duties of Gerry Wang and Graham Porter in relation to certain growth opportunities that become subject to our right of first refusal with GCI, which may limit our rights in such growth opportunities to our rights under the right of first refusal.

Pursuant to agreements between us and each of our chief executive officer and co-chairman of our board of directors, Gerry Wang, and one of our directors, Graham Porter, we have reduced the fiduciary duties of Mr. Wang and Mr. Porter in relation to certain containership vessel and business opportunities to the extent such opportunities are subject to our right of first refusal with GCI and (a) the conflicts committee of our board of directors decides to reject such opportunity or we fail to exercise our right of first refusal to pursue such opportunity, (b) we exercise such right but fail to pursue such opportunity or (c) we do not have the right under our right of first refusal to pursue such opportunity. Our rights to such opportunities may be limited to our rights under our right of first refusal with GCI, which would be more restrictive than the rights based on fiduciary duties we otherwise would have relating to such opportunities.

Table of Contents

In order to timely exercise our right of first refusal from GCI, we may be required to enter into containership construction contracts without financing arrangements or charter contracts then being in place, which may result in financing on less favorable terms or employment of the vessels other than on long-term, fixed-rate charters, if at all.

Under our right of first refusal with GCI relating to containership acquisition opportunities, we generally must exercise our right of first refusal within 12 business days of receiving a notice from GCI of the acquisition opportunity. At the time we must exercise our right of first refusal, there may be no financing arrangement or charter commitment relating to the newbuilding or existing containership to be acquired. If we elect to acquire the vessel without a financing arrangement or charter commitment then in place, we may be unable subsequently to obtain financing or charter the vessel on a long-term, fixed-rate basis, on terms that will result in positive cash flow to us from operation of the vessel, or at all. Accordingly, our business, results of operations and financial condition may be harmed.

Certain of our officers and directors or their affiliates have separate interests in or related to GCI, which may result in conflicts of interest between their interests and those of us and our shareholders relative to GCI.

One of our directors, Graham Porter, through his interest in the Tiger Member, is an indirect investor in Greater China Industrial Investments LLC, or GC Industrial, the member with the largest capital commitment in GCI. Blue Water Commerce, LLC, or Blue Water, an affiliate of Dennis R. Washington, or the Washington Member, has an indirect interest in the Tiger Member. As a result, Mr. Porter and the Washington Member will have an indirect interest in incentive distributions received by GC Industrial from GCI. These incentive distributions will range between 20% and 30% after a cumulative compounded rate of return of 12% has been generated on all member capital contributions. Our chief executive officer, Gerry Wang, is the chairman of the board of managers of GCI. Messrs. Wang and Porter are members of GCI's transaction committee, which will be primarily responsible for approving the purchase, newbuild contracting, chartering, financing and technical management of new and existing investments for GCI. Kyle R. Washington, co-chairman of our board of directors, is a non-voting member of GCI's transaction committee. In addition, affiliates of Messrs. Wang and Porter provide certain transactional and financing services to GCI, for which they receive compensation.

As a result of these interests relating to GCI, the interests of Messrs. Wang, Porter and Kyle R. Washington may conflict with those of us or our shareholders relative to GCI.

Anti-takeover provisions in our organizational documents 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 securities.

Several provisions of our articles of incorporation and our bylaws 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, the same provisions may discourage, delay or prevent a merger or acquisition that shareholders may consider favorable.

These provisions include:

authorizing our board of directors to issue blank check preferred shares 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 at least a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote for those directors;

Table of Contents

prohibiting shareholder action by written consent unless the written consent is signed by all shareholders entitled to vote on the action;

limiting the persons who may call special meetings of shareholders;

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

restricting business combinations with interested shareholders.

We have also adopted a shareholder rights plan pursuant to which our board of directors may cause the substantial dilution of the holdings of any person that attempts to acquire us without the board's prior approval.

These anti-takeover provisions, including the provisions of our shareholder rights plan, could substantially impede a potential change in control and, as a result, may adversely affect the market price of our securities.

Substantial future sales of our preferred or common shares in the public market could cause the price of such shares to fall.

The market price of our preferred and common stock could decline due to sales of a large number of shares in the market, including sales of shares by our large shareholders, or the perception that these sales could occur. These sales could also make it more difficult or impossible for us to sell equity securities in the future at a time and price that we deem appropriate to raise funds through future share offerings. In connection with our initial public offering, our issuance of Series A preferred shares, our entry into employment or services agreements with our chief executive officer, Gerry Wang, and an affiliate of one of our directors, Graham Porter, and the acquisition of our Manager, we have granted registration rights to the holders of certain of our securities, including common shares or securities convertible into common shares. These shareholders have the right, subject to certain conditions, to require us to file registration statements covering the sale by them of such common shares. Following their sale under an applicable registration statement, any such common shares will become freely tradable. By exercising their registration rights and selling a large number of common shares, these shareholders could cause the price of our common shares to decline.

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

Our corporate affairs are governed by our articles of incorporation and bylaws and by the Marshall Islands Business Corporations Act, or BCA. The provisions of the BCA resemble provisions of the corporation laws of some 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 laws 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 United States jurisdictions. Shareholder rights may differ as well. While the BCA does specifically incorporate non-statutory law, or judicial case law, of the State of Delaware and other states with substantially similar legislative provisions, our public shareholders may have more difficulty in protecting their interests in the face of actions by management, directors or controlling shareholders than would shareholders of a corporation incorporated in a United States jurisdiction.

Because we are organized under the laws of the Marshall Islands, it may be difficult to serve us with legal process or enforce judgments against us, our directors or our management.

We are organized under the laws of the Marshall Islands, and all of our assets are located outside of the United States. Our principal executive offices are located in Hong Kong and a majority of our directors and officers are residents outside of the United States. As a result, it may be difficult or impossible for you to bring an action against us or against our directors or our management in the United States if you believe that your

Table of Contents

rights have been infringed under securities laws or otherwise. Even if you are successful in bringing an action of this kind, the laws of the Marshall Islands and of other jurisdictions may prevent or restrict you from enforcing a judgment against our assets or our directors and officers.

Our ability to pay dividends on our shares and redeem our preferred shares is limited by the requirements of Marshall Islands law.

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

We may not have sufficient cash from our operations to enable us to pay dividends on our shares or redeem our preferred shares following the payment of expenses.

We will pay quarterly dividends on our shares from funds legally available for such purpose when, as and if declared by our board of directors. We may not have sufficient cash available each quarter to pay dividends. In addition, we may have insufficient cash available to redeem our preferred shares. The amount of dividends we can pay or the amount we can use to redeem the preferred shares depends upon the amount of cash we generate from and use in our operations, which may fluctuate significantly based on, among other things:

the rates we obtain from our charters or recharterers and the ability of our customers to perform their obligations under their time charters;

the level of our operating costs;

the number of unscheduled off-hire days for our fleet and the timing of, and number of days required for, dry-docking of our containerships;

delays in the delivery of new vessels and the beginning of payments under charters relating to those ships;

prevailing global and regional economic and political conditions;

the effect of governmental regulations and maritime self-regulatory organization standards on the conduct of our business;

changes in the basis of taxation of our activities in various jurisdictions;

our ability to service and refinance our current and future indebtedness;

our ability to raise additional debt and equity to satisfy our capital needs; and

our ability to draw on our existing credit facilities and the ability of our lenders and lessors to perform their obligations under their agreements with us.

Edgar Filing: Seaspan CORP - Form 20-F

The amount of cash we have available to pay dividends on our shares or to redeem our preferred shares will not depend solely on our profitability.

The actual amount of cash we will have available to pay dividends on our shares or to redeem our preferred shares also depends on many factors, including, among others:

changes in our operating cash flow, capital expenditure requirements, working capital requirements and other cash needs;

Table of Contents

restrictions under our existing or future credit and lease facilities or any future debt securities, including existing restrictions under our credit and lease facilities on our ability to declare or pay dividends if an event of default has occurred and is continuing or if the payment of the dividend would result in an event of default;

the amount of any reserves established by our board of directors; and

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

The amount of cash we generate from our operations may differ materially from our net income or loss for the period, which is affected by non-cash items, and our board of directors in its discretion may elect not to declare any dividends. As a result of these and the other factors mentioned above, we may pay dividends during periods when we record losses and may not pay dividends during periods when we record net income.

Tax Risks

In addition to the following risk factors, you should read Item 4. Information on the Company B. Business Overview Taxation of the Company, and Item 10. Additional Information E. Taxation, for a more complete discussion of the expected material U.S. federal and non-U.S. income tax considerations relating to us and the ownership and disposition of our shares.

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. shareholders.

A non-U.S. entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes will be treated as a passive foreign investment company, or a PFIC, for such purposes in any taxable year for which either (a) at least 75% of its gross income consists of passive income or (b) at least 50% of the average value of the corporation's assets is attributable to assets that produce, or are held for the production of, passive income. For purposes of these tests, passive income includes dividends, interest, gains from the sale or exchange of investment property, rents and royalties (other than rents and royalties that are received from unrelated parties in connection with the active conduct of a trade or business) but does not include income derived from the performance of services.

There are legal uncertainties involved in determining whether the income derived from our time chartering activities constitutes rental income or income derived from the performance of services, including the decision in *Tidewater Inc. v. United States*, 565 F.3d 299 (5th Cir. 2009), which held that income derived from certain time chartering activities should be treated as rental income rather than services income for purposes of a foreign sales corporation provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the Code. However, the Internal Revenue Service, or IRS, stated in an Action on Decision (AOD 2010-01) that it disagrees with, and will not acquiesce to, the way that the rental versus services framework was applied to the facts in the *Tidewater* decision, and in its discussion stated that the time charters at issue in *Tidewater* would be treated as producing services income for PFIC purposes. The IRS's statement with respect to *Tidewater* cannot be relied upon or otherwise cited as precedent by taxpayers. Consequently, in the absence of any binding legal authority specifically relating to the statutory provisions governing PFICs, there can be no assurance that the IRS or a court would not follow the *Tidewater* decision in interpreting the PFIC provisions of the Code. Nevertheless, based on the current composition of our assets and operations (and those of our subsidiaries), we intend to take the position that we are not now and have never been a PFIC. No assurance can be given, however, that this position would be sustained by a court if contested by the IRS, or that we would not constitute a PFIC for any future taxable year if there were to be changes in our assets, income or operations.

Table of Contents

If the IRS were to find that we are or have been a PFIC for any taxable year during which a U.S. Holder (as defined below under Item 10. Additional Information E. Taxation Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations) held shares, such U.S. Holder would face adverse tax consequences. For a more comprehensive discussion regarding our status as a PFIC and the tax consequences to U.S. Holders if we are treated as a PFIC, please read Item 10. Additional Information E. Taxation Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations U.S. Federal Income Taxation of U.S. Holders PFIC Status and Significant Tax Consequences.

We, or any of our subsidiaries, may become subject to income tax in jurisdictions in which we are organized or operate, including the United States, Canada and Hong Kong, which would reduce our earnings and potentially cause certain shareholders to be subject to tax in such jurisdictions.

We intend that our affairs and the business of each of our subsidiaries will be conducted and operated in a manner that minimizes income taxes imposed upon us and our subsidiaries. However, there is a risk that we will be subject to income tax in one or more jurisdictions, including the United States, Canada and Hong Kong, if under the laws of any such jurisdiction, we or such subsidiary is considered to be carrying on a trade or business there or earn income that is considered to be sourced there and we do not or such subsidiary does not qualify for an exemption. Please read Item 4. Information on the Company B. Business Overview Taxation of the Company. In addition, while we do not believe that we are, nor do we expect to be, resident in Canada, in the event that we were treated as a resident of Canada, shareholders who are non-residents of Canada may be or become subject to tax in Canada. Please read Item 4. Information on the Company B. Business Overview Taxation of the Company Canadian Taxation and Item 10. Additional Information E. Taxation Canadian Federal Income Tax Considerations.

Item 4. Information on the Company

A. History and Development of the Company

Seaspan Corporation was incorporated in the Republic of the Marshall Islands in May 2005 to acquire all of the containership business of Seaspan Container Lines Limited. In August 2005, we completed our initial public offering. From an initial operating fleet of 10 vessels, as of February 28, 2015, we have grown to an operating fleet of 77 containerships and we have entered into contracts for the purchase of an additional 13 newbuilding containerships, which have scheduled delivery dates through October 2016. In January 2012, we acquired our Manager, which provides us with all of our technical, administrative and strategic services.

We maintain our principal executive offices at Unit 2, 2nd Floor, Bupa Centre, 141 Connaught Road West, Hong Kong, China. Our telephone number is (852) 2540-1686.

B. Business Overview

General

We are a leading independent charter owner and manager of containerships, which we charter primarily pursuant to long-term, fixed-rate time charters with major container liner companies. As of February 28, 2015 we operated a fleet of 77 containerships and have entered into contracts for the purchase of an additional 13 newbuilding containerships which have scheduled delivery dates through October 2016. Of our 13 newbuilding containerships, 12 will commence operation under long-term, fixed-rate charters upon delivery. We expect to enter into a long-term time charter contract for the remaining newbuilding containership in the near future. The average age of the 77 vessels in our operating fleet was approximately seven years as of February 28, 2015.

We primarily deploy our vessels on long-term, fixed-rate time charters to take advantage of the stable cash flow and high utilization rates that are typically associated with long-term time charters. As of February 28, 2015, the charters on the 77 vessels in our operating fleet had an average remaining term of approximately five years, excluding the effect of charterers' options to extend certain time charters.

Table of Contents

Customers for our operating fleet as at February 28, 2015 were as follows:

Customers for Current Fleet	
COSCON	
CSCL Asia	
HL USA	
Hanjin	
Hapag-Lloyd	
K-Line	
MSC	
MOL	
Norasia	
OOCL	
Customers for Additional 12 Vessel Deliveries Subject to Charter Contracts	
Maersk	
MOL	
Yang Ming Marine	

Our primary objective is to continue to grow our business through accretive vessel acquisitions as market conditions allow. Please read **Our Fleet** for more information about our vessels and time charter contracts. Most of our customers' container business revenues are derived from the shipment of goods from the Asia Pacific region, primarily China, to various overseas export markets in the United States and in Europe.

Our Fleet**Our Current Fleet**

The following table summarizes key facts regarding our 77 operating vessels as of February 28, 2015:

Vessel Name	Vessel Class (TEU)	Year Built	Charter Start Date	Charterer	Length of Charter	Daily Charter Rate (in thousands of USD)
COSCO Glory	13100	2011	6/10/11	COSCON	12 years	\$ 55.0
COSCO Pride ⁽¹⁾	13100	2011	6/29/11	COSCON	12 years	55.0
COSCO Development	13100	2011	8/10/11	COSCON	12 years	55.0
COSCO Harmony	13100	2011	8/19/11	COSCON	12 years	55.0
COSCO Excellence	13100	2012	3/8/12	COSCON	12 years	55.0
COSCO Faith ⁽¹⁾	13100	2012	3/14/12	COSCON	12 years	55.0
COSCO Hope	13100	2012	4/19/12	COSCON	12 years	55.0
COSCO Fortune	13100	2012	4/29/12	COSCON	12 years	55.0
Hanjin Buddha	10000	2014	3/25/14	Hanjin	10 years + one 2-year option	43.0 ⁽²⁾
Hanjin Namu	10000	2014	6/5/14	Hanjin	10 years + one 2-year option	43.0 ⁽²⁾
Hanjin Tabul	10000	2014	7/2/14	Hanjin	10 years + one 2-year option	43.0 ⁽²⁾
MOL Bravo ⁽¹⁾	10000	2014	7/18/14	MOL	8 years + one 2-year option	37.5 ⁽³⁾
MOL Brightness ⁽¹⁾	10000	2014	10/31/14	MOL	8 years + one 2-year option	37.5 ⁽³⁾
MOL Breeze ⁽¹⁾	10000	2014	11/14/14	MOL	8 years + one 2-year option	37.5 ⁽³⁾
CSCL Zeebrugge	9600	2007	3/15/07	CSCL Asia	12 years	34.5 ⁽⁴⁾
CSCL Long Beach	9600	2007	7/6/07	CSCL Asia	12 years	34.5 ⁽⁴⁾
CSCL Oceania	8500	2004	12/4/04	CSCL Asia	12 years + one 3-year option	29.8 ⁽⁵⁾
CSCL Africa	8500	2005	1/24/05	CSCL Asia	12 years + one 3-year option	29.8 ⁽⁵⁾
COSCO Japan	8500	2010	3/9/10	COSCON	12 years + three 1-year options	42.9 ⁽⁶⁾
COSCO Korea	8500	2010	4/5/10	COSCON	12 years + three 1-year options	42.9 ⁽⁶⁾
COSCO Philippines	8500	2010	4/24/10	COSCON	12 years + three 1-year options	42.9 ⁽⁶⁾
COSCO Malaysia	8500	2010	5/19/10	COSCON	12 years + three 1-year options	42.9 ⁽⁶⁾
COSCO Indonesia	8500	2010	7/5/10	COSCON	12 years + three 1-year options	42.9 ⁽⁶⁾

Edgar Filing: Seaspan CORP - Form 20-F

COSCO Thailand

8500

2010

10/20/10

COSCON

12 years + three 1-year options

42.9⁽⁶⁾

Table of Contents

Vessel Name	Vessel Class (TEU)	Year Built	Charter Start Date	Charterer	Length of Charter	Daily Charter Rate (in thousands of USD)
COSCO Prince Rupert	8500	2011	3/21/11	COSCON	12 years + three 1-year options	42.9 ⁽⁶⁾
COSCO Vietnam	8500	2011	4/21/11	COSCON	12 years + three 1-year options	42.9 ⁽⁶⁾
MOL Emerald	5100	2009	4/30/09	MOL	12 years	28.9
MOL Eminence	5100	2009	8/31/09	MOL	12 years	28.9
MOL Emissary	5100	2009	11/20/09	MOL	12 years	28.9
MOL Empire	5100	2010	1/8/10	MOL	12 years	28.9
MSC Veronique	4800	1989	11/25/11	MSC	5 years	14.5 ⁽⁷⁾
MSC Manu	4800	1988	11/15/11	MSC	5 years	14.5 ⁽⁷⁾
MSC Leanne	4800	1989	10/19/11	MSC	5 years	14.5 ⁽⁷⁾
MSC Carole	4800	1989	10/12/11	MSC	5 years	14.5 ⁽⁷⁾
MOL Excellence	4600	2003	6/13/13	MOL	2 years + one 1-year option	Market rate ⁽⁸⁾
MOL Efficiency	4600	2003	7/4/13	MOL	2 years + one 1-year option	Market rate ⁽⁸⁾
Bronne Bridge	4500	2010	10/25/10	K-Line	12 years + two 3-year options	34.3 ⁽⁹⁾
Brevik Bridge	4500	2011	1/25/11	K-Line	12 years + two 3-year options	34.3 ⁽⁹⁾
Bilbao Bridge	4500	2011	1/28/11	K-Line	12 years + two 3-year options	34.3 ⁽⁹⁾
Berlin Bridge	4500	2011	5/9/11	K-Line	12 years + two 3-year options	34.3 ⁽⁹⁾
Budapest Bridge	4500	2011	8/1/11	K-Line	12 years + two 3-year options	34.3 ⁽⁹⁾
Seaspan Hamburg	4250	2001	11/3/13	Hapag-Lloyd	Up to 30 months + one 8 to 12 month option	Market rate ⁽⁸⁾
Seaspan Chiwan	4250	2001	12/29/13	Hapag-Lloyd	Up to 30 months + one 8 to 12 month option	Market rate ⁽⁸⁾
Seaspan Ningbo	4250	2002	9/7/13	Hapag-Lloyd	Up to 30 months + one 8 to 12 month option	Market rate ⁽⁸⁾
Seaspan Dalian	4250	2002	7/17/13	Hapag-Lloyd	Up to 30 months + one 6 to 12 month option	Market rate ⁽⁸⁾
Seaspan Felixstowe	4250	2002	7/24/13	Hapag-Lloyd	Up to 30 months + one 6 to 12 month option	Market rate ⁽⁸⁾
CSCL Vancouver	4250	2005	2/16/05	CSCL Asia	12 years	17.0
CSCL Sydney	4250	2005	4/19/05	CSCL Asia	12 years	17.0
CSCL New York	4250	2005	5/26/05	CSCL Asia	12 years	17.0
CSCL Melbourne	4250	2005	8/17/05	CSCL Asia	12 years	17.0
CSCL Brisbane	4250	2005	9/15/05	CSCL Asia	12 years	17.0
New Delhi Express	4250	2005	10/19/05	HL USA	3 years + seven 1-year extensions + two 1-year options ⁽¹⁰⁾	18.0 ⁽¹¹⁾
Dubai Express	4250	2006	1/3/06	HL USA	3 years + seven 1-year extensions + two 1-year options ⁽¹⁰⁾	18.0 ⁽¹¹⁾
Jakarta Express	4250	2006	2/21/06	HL USA	3 years + seven 1-year extensions + two 1-year options ⁽¹⁰⁾	18.0 ⁽¹¹⁾
Saigon Express	4250	2006	4/6/06	HL USA	3 years + seven 1-year extensions + two 1-year options ⁽¹⁰⁾	18.0 ⁽¹¹⁾
Lahore Express	4250	2006	7/11/06	HL USA	3 years + seven 1-year extensions + two 1-year options ⁽¹⁰⁾	18.0 ⁽¹¹⁾
Rio Grande Express	4250	2006	10/20/06	HL USA	3 years + seven 1-year extensions + two 1-year options ⁽¹⁰⁾	18.0 ⁽¹¹⁾
Santos Express	4250	2006	11/13/06	HL USA	3 years + seven 1-year extensions + two 1-year options ⁽¹⁰⁾	18.0 ⁽¹¹⁾
Rio de Janeiro Express	4250	2007	3/28/07	HL USA	3 years + seven 1-year extensions + two 1-year options ⁽¹⁰⁾	18.0 ⁽¹¹⁾
Manila Express	4250	2007	5/23/07	HL USA	3 years + seven 1-year extensions + two 1-year options ⁽¹⁰⁾	18.0 ⁽¹¹⁾
CSAV Loncomilla	4250	2009	4/28/09	Norasia ⁽¹²⁾	6 years ⁽¹³⁾	25.9
CSAV Lumaco	4250	2009	5/14/09	Norasia ⁽¹²⁾	6 years ⁽¹⁴⁾	25.9
CSAV Lingue	4250	2010	5/17/10	Norasia ⁽¹²⁾	6 years	25.9
CSAV Lebu	4250	2010	6/7/10	Norasia ⁽¹²⁾	6 years ⁽¹⁵⁾	25.9
Madinah ⁽¹⁾	4250	2009	11/20/14	OOCL	Up to 12 months	Market rate ⁽⁸⁾
COSCO Fuzhou	3500	2007	3/27/07	COSCON	12 years	19.0
COSCO Yingkou	3500	2007	7/5/07	COSCON	12 years	19.0
CSCL Panama	2500	2008	5/14/08	CSCL Asia	12 years	16.9 ⁽¹⁶⁾
CSCL São Paulo	2500	2008	8/11/08	CSCL Asia	12 years	16.9 ⁽¹⁶⁾

Table of Contents

Vessel Name	Vessel Class (TEU)	Year Built	Charter Start Date	Charterer	Length of Charter	Daily Charter Rate (in thousands of USD)
CSCL Montevideo	2500	2008	9/6/08	CSCL Asia	12 years	16.9 ⁽¹⁶⁾
CSCL Lima	2500	2008	10/15/08	CSCL Asia	12 years	16.9 ⁽¹⁶⁾
CSCL Santiago	2500	2008	11/8/08	CSCL Asia	12 years	16.9 ⁽¹⁶⁾
CSCL San Jose	2500	2008	12/1/08	CSCL Asia	12 years	16.9 ⁽¹⁶⁾
CSCL Callao	2500	2009	4/10/09	CSCL Asia	12 years	16.8 ⁽¹⁶⁾
CSCL Manzanillo	2500	2009	9/21/09	CSCL Asia	12 years	16.8 ⁽¹⁶⁾
Guayaquil Bridge	2500	2010	3/8/10	K-Line	10 years	17.9
Calicanto Bridge	2500	2010	5/30/10	K-Line	10 years	17.9

- (1) This vessel is leased pursuant to a lease agreement, which we used to finance the acquisition of the vessel.
- (2) Hanjin has an initial charter of 10 years with a charter rate of \$43,000 per day for the initial term and \$44,500 per day during the two-year option.
- (3) MOL has an initial charter of eight years with a charter rate of \$37,500 per day for the initial term and \$43,000 per day during the two-year option.
- (4) CSCL Asia has a charter of 12 years with a charter rate of \$34,000 per day for the first six years, increasing to \$34,500 per day for the second six years.
- (5) CSCL Asia has an initial charter of 12 years with a charter rate of \$29,500 per day for the first six years, \$29,800 per day for the second six years, and \$30,000 per day during the three-year option.
- (6) COSCON has an initial charter of 12 years with a charter rate of \$42,900 per day for the initial term and \$43,400 per day for the three one-year options.
- (7) MSC has a bareboat charter of five years with a charter rate of \$10,000 per day for the first two years, increasing to \$14,500 per day after two years. MSC has agreed to purchase the vessels for \$5.0 million each at the end of the five-year bareboat charter terms. In addition, we pay a 1.25% commission to a broker on all bareboat charter payments for these charters.
- (8) Given that the term of the charter is less than three years (excluding any charterers' option to extend the term), the vessel is being chartered at current market rates.
- (9) K-Line has an initial charter of 12 years with a charter rate of \$34,250 per day for the first six years, increasing to \$34,500 per day for the second six years, \$37,500 per day for the first three-year option period and \$42,500 per day for the second three-year option period.
- (10) For these charters, the initial term was three years, which automatically extends for up to an additional seven years in successive one-year extensions unless HL USA elects to terminate the charters with two years' prior written notice. HL USA would have been required to pay a fee of approximately \$8.0 million to terminate a charter at the end of the initial term. The termination fee declines by \$1.0 million per year per vessel in years four through nine.