

Hunter Group ASASecond quarter 2021 results

26 August 2021



Highlights

Financial highlights

- Total revenues of USD 11.50m
 - Spot pool revenues of USD 1.50m
 - Time charter revenues of USD 7.23m
- Total operating expenses of USD 6.6m
 - Vessel opex incl. insurance of USD 2.50m
 - Voyage exp. and commissions of USD 0.43m
 - G&A expenses of 0.38m
 - USD 0.37m administrative expenses
 - USD 0.01m legal expenses
- EBITDA of USD 8.18m
- Net profit of USD 2.38m
- Average daily earnings of USD 24,000
 - Avg. daily spot earnings of USD 15,500¹
 - Avg. daily time charter earnings of USD 26,500
- Opex incl. insurance of USD 6,750 per day per vessel
- 364 available earnings days and 371 opex days
 - 91 pool spot days
 - 273 time charter days
- Current pro forma cash flow breakeven of approx. USD 21,500 per day

Key events in Q2 2021

- The sale of Hunter Atla for USD 84.5m was concluded in April 2021. and the vessel was successfully delivered to her new owners. The sale resulted in a net gain of approx. USD 2.6m
- The Company announced an offer to buy back up to 50 million of it's own shares at a price of NOK 3.0 per share, of which 3 million shares were acquired
- The Annual General Meeting was held on 3 June 2021, and all resolutions were passed in accordance with the previously announced proposals, including, inter alia, authorizations to acquire own shares and issue new shares
- The board of directors of the Company proposed a NOK 0.50 per share dividend as a reduction of the Company's share premium

Subsequent events

- NOK 0.50 per share distributed to shareholders as a reduction in the Company's share premium
- As of the date of this report, 95% of days in the third quarter of 2021 have been booked at an average est. dayrate of USD 19,100
 - 88% of spot days booked at an avg. est. dayrate of USD 13,300¹
 - Average Q3 TC dayrates of USD 22,250

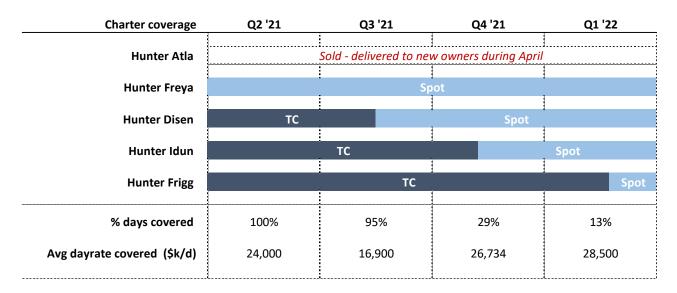


Management update

For the second quarter of 2021, the Company achieved an average dayrate of approx. USD 24,000 per day through a combination of spot and time charters. Achieved spot rates for the quarter were USD 15,500 per day, (only Hunter Freya operated in the spot market). While these rates are clearly lower than we would like to see, rates for non-scrubber, non-eco vessels achieved negative USD 900 per day for the quarter and scrubber fitted, non-eco, vessels averaged about 6,500 per day. This clearly shows how earnings vary across the segment depending on fleet quality and efficiency. Having a relatively small fleet has enabled us to continue to actively manage our fleet by switching from spot exposure to TC when we find it prudent in order to maximize our earnings potential. We took advantage of this flexibility during the pandemic induced boom last year and secured strong TCs for a large portion of our fleet. Many of these TCs have later been renewed at premium rates compared with the broader market, covering most of the recent weak period affected by oil inventory draws and low tanker cargo volumes. Now, as oil demand continues to increase, global oil inventories are approaching pre pandemic levels and OPEC+ is preparing to gradually reverse production cuts we are continue to believe that we should see a significant improvement in rates for the second half of 2021. Consequently, we are shifting our exposure from longer to shorter TCs and spot charters. Furthermore, two of our vessels are currently "clean", meaning they are able to carry petroleum products as well as crude oil. This further increases our options and flexibility.

During the quarter a second dividend of NOK 0.50 per share was decided by the board, bringing total shareholder distributions to NOK 1.5 per share following payment in July (close to USD 100m). Additionally, we launched an accretive share buy back offer of 50 million shares at NOK 3 per share in order to take advantage the share discount, but as expected only three million shares were tendered, bringing total shares owned by the Company to approx. 11 million.

Charter coverage





Second guarter market review

Standard VLCC spot rates1 averaged around negative 900 per day for the second quarter of 2021, down from approximately USD 9,000 per day during the previous quarter. Although worldscale rates have increased slightly, the TCEs (time charter equivalent) is slightly down primarily due to higher bunker prices. The low rates are a reflection of reduced seaborne oil trade flow. With OPEC+ cuts still in force, there were 110-120 VLCC loadings in the Middle East Gulf per month during the second quarter. Pre-pandemic loading figures were typically around 150, implying a 20-30% reduction in demand for VLCCs. With more than 20 VLCCs delivered during the first half of the year (~40 since the pandemic began) and no increase in oil shipments, the law of supply and demand suggests that rates should be under pressure. Despite this, modern scrubber fitted tonnage have mostly managed to secure spot rates of around cash breakeven. Older less efficient vessels however, have at times been booked at worldscale rates resulting in negative TCEs. Owners of these vessels have thus been bleeding cash for around a year. With a historically high scrap steel price, an old VLCC would be worth about USD 25m compared with USD ~15m not so long ago, this leaves the puzzle of why there has been limited scrapping. With only six VLCCs scrapped so far this year, the fleet remains asymmetrical with regards to age with over 20% of the VLCC fleet being 15 years old or more. Although tanker rates have remained relatively weak during the year, fundamentals have improved dramatically since the beginning of the year. Global oil demand averaged 97mbd for the second quarter, compared with 101mbd on average for 2019. Although there is a ~4mbd difference, demand has increased significantly from the April 2020 trough of ~80mbd and consequently removed around 75% of the inventory build from 2020. The reason behind the reduction in VLCC demand is not primarily that oil demand is low, but rather that the world is drawing oil from inventories that rapidly increased during the outset of the pandemic. At some point oil inventories will have to be restocked, and when that happens at the same time as consumption increases tanker rates are bound to improve.

Market outlook

Although the recovery of the tanker market has been pushed forward due to new variants of the Covid-19 virus, we firmly believe that the bottom is behind us and that the inflection point for improving rates is approaching sooner rather than later. Cargo volumes have risen in recent months as inventories are approaching pre pandemic levels, and further increases are needed in the near future. Most likely through reversal of the remaining OPEC+ cuts, but also from non-OPEC production hikes. Major forecasting agencies are now expecting production to reach 100mbd by December, and ~103mbd during 2022. Global production during July this year was around 97mbd. OPEC+ is expected to drive most of the increase during the current year, while the US will become increasingly important next year with a potential production increase of around 1.5mbd.

Looking further out, the view surrounding an oil supply crunch in late 2022 or 2023 following years of underinvestment is becoming increasingly established. Should this bear out we could very well see importers scrambling for tonnage to secure supply during next year. Another potential trigger is the reentry of Iran to the global oil markets. This has so far been postponed, but is still a joker in the oil trade. This would be positive in two ways. Firstly, added production and export volumes would increase demand for seaborne transportation and, secondly, it would likely eliminate the "black market" for older tonnage that is being paid premium rates to transfer sanctioned barrels.

Fleet growth will continue to ease during the remainder of 2021, as the delivery schedule for the year was front end loaded. Of the remaining scheduled deliveries for 2021, most are scheduled to arrive in December and have potential to slip into 2022. Scrapping should continue to pick up too, with increasingly scrap steel prices in some areas of USD 600 per ton or more. A VLCC is typically around 42,000 tons of steel, implying a scrap price of USD 25m. This is about double what you should expect over the long run. Increasing steel and newbuilding prices, combined with uncertainties in relation to future fuel technologies, should further restrain fleet growth through a less ordering of new vessels.

Source: EIA, Fearnleys, Company

1) Approx. ten year old VLCC without scrubber



Responsibility Statement

The Board of Directors and the CEO confirm that to the best of our knowledge the condensed set of financial statements (unaudited) as of 30 June 2021 and the first half year of 2021, which have been prepared in accordance with IAS 34 - Interim Financial Reporting, gives a true and fair view on the Group's consolidated assets, liabilities, financial position and results of the operation for the period, and that the interim management report includes a fair review of the information required under the requirements in the Norwegian Securities Trading Act.

Oslo, 25 August 2021
The board of directors and Chief Executive Director
Hunter Group ASA

Henrik August Christensen
Chaiman of the board

Arne Helge Fredly
Board member

Kristin Hellebust
Board member

Erik A. S. Frydendal CEO



Condensed consolidated financial statements for 2Q 2021

Consolidated income statement

	Quarters		Year t	Year		
(Unaudited figures in USD 1 000)	2Q 2021	2Q 2020	Note	30.06.2021	30.06.2020	31.12.2020
Revenues						
Pool revenues	1 501	14 780		4 633	34 710	48 567
Time charter revenues	7 225	14 840		16 508	15 691	60 037
Other income	207	0		280	0	0
Net gain on sale of assets	2 567	0	5	2 567	0	2 492
Total Revenues	11 500	29 620		23 988	50 401	111 096
Operating expenses	2 500	2.462		F 442	4 202	12 101
Vessel operating expenses	2 509	2 463		5 112	4 383	12 404
Voyage expenses and commissions	429	326	1	764	915	2 912
Depreciation and amortisation expense	3 242	3 313	6	7 260	5 849	16 325
General and administrative expenses	382	334	4	811	637	1 649
Total operating expenses	6 562	6 436		13 947	11 784	33 291
Operating profit (loss)	4 938	23 184		10 041	38 617	77 806
Net financial income (loss)	-2 554	-4 344		-5 072	-8 011	-14 723
, ,						
Profit (loss) before taxes	2 384	18 840		4 969	30 606	63 083
Tax on ordinary result	0	0		0	0	0
Net profit (loss)	2 384	18 840		4 969	30 606	63 083
Earning per share	0,00	0,03		0,01	0,05	0,11
Earnings per share diluted	0,00	0,03		0,01	0,05	0,11
	Quar	ters				
(Unaudited figures in USD 1 000)	2Q 2021	2Q 2020		30.06.2021	30.06.2020	31.12.2020
Net profit (loss)	2 384	18 840		4 969	30 606	63 083
Other comprehensive income, items to be reclassified to profit & los	ss					
Translation differences	0	0		0	0	0
Comprehensive income for the period	2 384	18 840		4 969	30 606	63 083
Total comprehensive income attributable to:						
Equity holders of the parent	2 384	18 840		4 969	30 606	63 083
Total comprehensive income	2 384	18 840		4 969	30 606	63 083



Consolidated balance sheet

(Unaudited figures in USD 1 000)	Note	30.06.2021	31.03.2021	30.06.2020	31.12.2020
NON-CURRENT ASSETS					_
VLCC vessels	5, 6	338 962	423 257	423 239	427 249
VLCC vessels under construction	5, 6	0	0	71 825	0
Other tangible assets	6	145	192	212	210
Total tangible assets		339 107	423 449	495 277	427 459
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		339 107	423 449	495 277	427 459
CURRENT ASSETS					
Trade and other receivables		8 542	7 208	12 201	5 416
Other short-term financial assets		0	40	0	0
Other short-term assets		7 113	1 864	4 630	1 539
Total current assets		15 655	9 111	16 831	6 956
Cash and cash equivalents		56 138	28 271	17 135	95 146
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		71 793	37 383	33 966	102 101
TOTAL ASSETS		410 900	460 831	529 242	529 560
Equity and Liabilities					
EQUITY					
Share capital (575 362 013 shares)	2	82 625	82 625	82 625	82 625
Own shares	2	-1 660	-1 197	0	-1 121
Share premium	2	46 695	47 318	114 989	113 364
Other equity		81 714	79 330	44 272	76 745
TOTAL EQUITY		209 374	208 076	241 886	271 614
LIABILITIES					
Interest-bearing debt	6	186 563	237 367	269 430	237 954
Total non-current liabilities		186 563	237 367	269 430	237 954
Trade payables		556	810	2 936	2 124
Accrued public charges and indirect taxes		53	30	55	68
Current portion of interest-bearing debt		13 436	13 463	14 762	16 605
Other current liabilities		916	1 085	172	1 195
Total current liabilities		14 962	15 388	17 925	1992
-					
TOTAL LIABILITIES		201 524	252 754	287 355	257 946
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		410 900	460 831	529 242	529 560



Consolidated cash flow statement

	Quarters			Year t	o date	Year to date
(Unaudited figures in USD 1 000)	2Q 2021	2Q 2020	Note	30.06.2021	30.06.2020	31.12.2020
Profit (loss) before tax	2 384	18 840		4 969		63 083
Depreciation	3 242	3 313	6	7 260		
Gain on sale of VLCC	-2 567	0	5	-2 567		-2 492
Financial income	-101	0		-101	-102	
Financial expenses	2 529	4 403	6	4 912	7 979	
Change in working capital items	-7 788	-2 817		-11 335	-8 527	
Net cash flow from operating activities	-2 302	23 738		3 136	35 805	90 844
Investments in VLCC newbuilds and PP & E	0	-88 322	5, 6	-8	-166 973	-273 805
Sale of VLCC	84 500	0	5	84 500	0	168 400
Investments/sale of other financial investments	40	0		0	0	0
Net cash flow to investment activities	84 540	-88 322		84 493	-166 973	-105 405
		_				
Interest received	101	0		101	102	
Interest paid	-2 529	-4 403	6	-4 912		
New interest-bearing debt	0	50 954	6	0		
Installment interest-bearing debt	-50 808	0	6	-54 513	0	
Installment leasing-debt (IFRS 16)	-22	-23		-47	-42	-93
Capital contribution	0	0	2	0	0	0
Purchase of own shares	-1 114	0	2	-1 267	0	-3 010
Dividend paid	0	0	2	-65 999	0	0
Net cash flow from financing activities	-54 372	46 529		-126 636	95 848	57 252
Total net changes in cash flow	27 866	-18 055		-39 007	-35 320	42 690
Currency effect on cash	0	0		0	0	0
Cash and cash equivalents beginning of period	28 272	35 189		95 145	52 455	52 455
Cash and cash equivalents end of period	56 138	17 135		56 138	17 135	95 145



Consolidated statement of changes in equity

		Share	Own	Share	Currency	Retained	Total
(Unaudited figures in USD 1 000)	Note	Capital	Shares	premium	translation	earnings	equity
Equity as of 01.01.2020		82 625	0	114 914	-2 289	15 953	211 204
Net profit H1 2020				0	0	30 606	30 606
Other comprehensive income				0	0	0	0
Total comprehensive income H1 2020			_	0	0	30 606	30 606
Option plan payment				75	0	0	75
Equity as of 30.06.2020		82 625	0	114 989	-2 289	46 560	241 886
Net profit H2 2020					0	32 477	32 477
Other comprehensive income					0	0	0
Total comprehensive H2 2020			_	0	0	32 477	32 477
Purchase of own shares			-1 121	-1 889	0	0	-3 010
Option plan payment				264	0	0	264
Equity as of 31.12.2020		82 625	-1 121	113 364	-2 289	79 034	271 614
Net profit H1 2021				0	0	4 969	4 969
Other comprehensive income				0	0	0	0
Total comprehensive income H2 2021			_	0	0	4 969	4 969
Dividend paid				-65 999	0	0	-65 999
Purchase of own shares			-539	-728	0	0	-1 267
Option plan payment				57	0	0	57
Equity as of 30.06.2021	_	82 625	-1 660	46 695	-2 289	84 003	209 374



Notes to the Hunter Group condensed consolidated financial statements for 2Q 2021

1. Accounting principles

These condensed interim financial statements of Hunter Group where authorized for issue by the Board of Directors on 25 August 2021.

The interim condensed consolidated financial statements for the three and six months ending 30 June 2021 have been prepared in accordance with IAS 34 Interim Financial Reporting. The interim condensed consolidated financial statements do not include all the information and disclosures required in the annual financial statements and should be read in conjunction with the Group's annual consolidated financial statements as at 31 December 2020.

The accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the interim condensed consolidated financial statements are consistent with those followed in the preparation of the Group's annual consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Vessels and equipment

The net cost of the VLCCs (less estimated residual value) is the basis for a straight-line depreciation over the estimated remaining economic useful lives (25 years). Other equipment (excluding vessel upgrades) are depreciated over its estimated remaining useful life (5 years). The estimated residual value for the VLCCs is calculated by multiplying the lightweight tonnage with the market price of scrap per ton. Residual values are reviewed annually.

Voyage expenses relates to fuel and other costs incurred before the vessel joins the Tankers International pool.

2. Equity transactions

On 15 December 2020, Hunter Group ASA purchased 7,691,404 of its own shares at NOK 3.35 per share.

3. Segment information

The management monitors the operating results in 1 segment which develops and operates the VLCCs.

4. Transactions with related parties

The following table provides the total amount of transactions with related parties controlled by the members of the executive management of Hunter Group for 2021. All related party transactions have been entered into on an arm's length basis.

Transactions with related parties

30.06.2021 31.12.2020

36

Purchased services in USD 1 000

The Group has used the services of the law firm Ro Sommernes DA for legal advice in 2020 and 2021; USD 38t in 2020 and USD 36t as per 30.06.2021. The Company's chairman Henrik Christensen is a partner in Ro Sommernes DA.

From 1 November 2018 the Company rents office space from Dronningen Eiendom AS. The rental agreement is for 36 months. One of the Company's shareholder is also a shareholder of Dronningen Eiendom AS.

The Group entered into a sale and leaseback transaction and acquired a dry bulk vessel during the quarter for approx. USD 6.5,m. The vessel and leasing agreements were subsequently novated to Apollo Asset Limited for a consideration of approx. USD 5.8m, with the difference reflecting received deposits and amortization payments. The transactions resulted in interest revenues of approx. USD 0.1m for the Group.



5. VLCC under construction

All VLCC were completed and delivered by 2020, and the acquisition cost of the delivered VLCCs were transferred from VLCC under construction to VLCC vessels.

6. Property, plant & equipment

(Unaudited figures in USD 1 000)	IFRS 16	Other tan-		
Per 30 June 2021	PP&E	gible assets	VLCC vessels	Total
Cost at 1 January 2021	273	10	439 102	439 462
Additions in the period	0	8	0	8
Sale of VLCC	-25	0	-81 075	-81 100
Cost at 30 June 2021	248	17	358 027	358 293
Accumulated depreciations at 30 June 2021	-112	-8	-19 065	-19 185
Book value at 30 June 2021	137	9	338 962	339 107
This period's depreciation	46	2	7 212	7 260

Hunter Saga and Hunter Laga were sold in 2020 for an en-bloc price of USD 168.4 million, with a gain of USD 2.5 million. Hunter Atla was sold in 2Q 2021 for an en-bloc price of USD 84.5 million, with a gain of USD 2.6 million.

7. Subsequent events

NOK 0.50 per share distributed to shareholders as a reduction in the Company's share premium

As of the date of this report, 95% of days in the third quarter of 2021 have been booked at an average est. dayrate of USD 19,100

- 88% of spot days booked at an avg. est. dayrate of USD 13,3001
- Average Q3 TC dayrates of USD 22,250

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