

Belships HOLD

Key share data	
Sector	Industrials
Reuters	BEL.OL
Bloomberg	BELCO NO
Market Cap (NOKm) Net debt (NOKm) EV (NOKm) Net debt / equity	4,961 2,956 7,918 144%
Issued shares (mill.)	253



Performance	1m	3m	12m
BELCO	47%	48%	223%
OSEBX	3%	3%	19%

Upcoming events	
2Q22 Results	May 12, 2022
3Q22 Results	August 17, 2022
4Q22 Results	November 10, 2022

Norne Securities AS is a market maker in the shares of Belships

Analyst

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It is not the 4Q results we are worried about

Belships reported its 4Q21 results last week. While we were expecting the main Shipping segment to show record-high figures, as they eventually did, the Lighthouse Navigation segment was guided by the company to be lower QoQ, yet, the segment's results were surprisingly higher. With dividends of NOK 0.9/sh proposed, extraordinary dividends for 1Q22 planned and a very high contract coverage for 2022, the single thing that can stop Belships now seems to be an armed conflict in Ukraine, as everything else points to very strong 2022-1H23 ahead. After a strong report, the estimates were raised, however, we acknowledge the highly increased risk due to uncertainties in the grain market following the war in Ukraine and, despite increasing the Target Price by more than 15%, downgrade the recommendation to Hold after the share rally.

Variations in rates, but the level remains strong

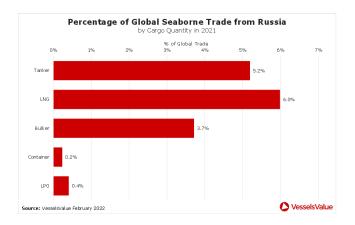
We have seen variations among the rates during the quarter, peaking towards the end of October, then sliding by the end of the year, primarily caused by China's intervention in the coal markets by capping prices and increasing domestic production, while the 1Q22 has presented yet another recovery. Overall, 2021 averaged USD 27,406 per day for Supramaxes recording the best year in a decade. Even when we expected the record-high shipping segment's figures to be reported, the posted figures were significantly stronger than predicted with EBITDA of USD 47.9m vs. our anticipated USD 37.4m. But once again the Lighthouse Navigation segment was the game changer, with guided markedly lower performance due to the drop of the spot rates, but record-high operating income reported and with an extreme EBITDA level of USD 23m, in line QoQ. All this led to NOK 0.9/sh ordinary quarterly dividends, while the company also announced plans for extraordinary dividends for 1Q22. Not sure about this, we included a conservative NOK 1/sh as an extraordinary dividend, in addition to almost NOK 0.5/sh ordinary quarterly dividend for 1Q.

Contract coverage solid until 1H23, estimates for LHN raised

Recently the sentiment in the market significantly improved and continued solid drybulk markets are expected in the near term. While the high contract coverage signals for a continuously impressive shipping performance at least in 2022 and 1H23, the Lighthouse Navigation was said to have had a strong start of 2022 as well. Thus, we did not hold back the sentiment for LHN and strongly increased our estimates.

The war in Ukraine can change the situation

The Ukraine-Russia armed conflict is the one thing that might stop Belships' growth with Ukraine being one of the top grain exporters and Russia being stripped of a significant amount of international cargo following all the sanctions. Although the grain volumes from Ukraine might be compensated by the U.S. or Australia, distances would shorten, while the additional impact of higher oil, meaning higher bunker prices, will build up the burden. Also, we should not forget that Russian vessels are or in the nearest future will not be welcome in a number of international ports. Although only 0.8% of bulkers belong to Russian companies (Vessels Value data), and adjusted for the distances the cargo travels, we see that 0.2% of the global trade is carried on "at risk" bulkers, we should be also looking at the percentage of a global seaborne trade from Russia, which is 3.7% for bulkers. Shipping brokers Arrow suggested the most exposed vessel class is the handysize sector of which around 16% of trade either loads or discharges in Russia or Ukraine, 10% being just Black Sea. A third of this trade is coal, but the rest is mainly split across grains, steel and fertilisers.



The drybulk shipping rates, however, proved to be somewhat resilient towards the news from the warzone, as can be seen in the chart below. Yet, we are following the development of the war in Ukraine extremely closely and suggest that the risk towards the case has increased significantly. The share continues its growth as well, and, despite increasing our Target Price to NOK 22/sh (NOK 19/sh previously) we downgrade our recommendation to Hold.



DCF model

DCF (USDm)	2022E	2023E	2024E	2025E
Revenues excl. JV	713	569	547	560
EBIT	153	120	92	89
Tax on EBIT	-31	-24	-18	-18
NOPLAT (+)	123	96	73	71
Depreciation & amortization (+)	33	35	35	35
Capital expenditure (-)	-41	-43	-42	-41
Change in working capital (- or +)	15	6	0	-1
Free Cash Flow to the Firm	130	93	66	64
NPV of FCFF	119	79	52	46
NPV of FCFF (NOK)	1,063	706	463	414

WACC calculation	
Debt ratio	50%
Cost of debt (after tax)	5%
Risk free rate	2.0%
Beta	1.7
Market risk premium	6.0%
Cost of equity	12.2%
WACC	8.5 %

Valuation, NOKm	
Net debt*	2,799
Net debt	2,799
Minorityinterest	279
NPV cash flow	
2022E - 2025E	2,645
2026E -	7,069
Total NPV cash flow	9,715
Equity value	6,637
Value per share, NOK	26.2

*adj. for recent vessel additions and sales

Assumptions	
L.t. growth	2.5%
Tax rate	20%
USD/NOK	8.9
#shares, m	253

Profit & Loss (USDm)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022E	2023E	2024E
Operating revenues	22	22	25	27	63	135	168	665	736	592	569
Operating expenses	-14	-12	-14	-14	-47	-102	-144	-487	-550	-438	-443
EBITDA	8	10	11	13	16	34	24	178	186	154	126
Depreciation & Amortisation	-4	-5	-5	-5	-7	-21	-27	-29	-33	-35	-35
EBIT (adj)	4	5	6	5	9	13	-3	150	153	120	92
Non-recurring items	-3	-32	-15	3	14	5	-1	11	-	-	-
EBIT	1	-27	-9	8	23	18	-5	161	153	120	92
Net interest & other financial effects	-3	-3	-6	-5	-5	-11	-13	-19	-20	-20	-20
Pre-tax profit	-2	-30	-14	7	18	7	-17	142	134	100	72
Minorityinterests	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Taxes	-0	-0	-0	-0	-0	-2	-1	-9	-27	-20	-14
Profit after tax	-2	-30	-15	6	18	5	-18	133	107	80	58
EPS rep. (USD)	-0.03	-0.64	-0.31	0.14	0.10	0.02	-0.08	0.53	0.42	0.32	0.23
EPS adj. (USD)	0.03	0.04	-0.01	0.09	0.02	0.01	-0.07	0.47	0.42	0.32	0.23
Margins											
Operating margin	19%	24%	25%	19%	14%	10%	-2%	22%	21%	20%	16%
Taxrate	-1%	-1%	-1%	4%	2%	25%	-3%	6%	20%	20%	20%
Growth rates (YoY)											
Operating revenues	-15%	0%	16%	7%	129%	116%	24%	295%	11%	-20%	-4%
EBIT (adj)	-18%	24%	23%	-17%	69%	47%	-126%	nm	3%	-22%	-23%
EPS (adj)	-40%	16%	nm	nm	-74%	-66%	-1048%	nm	nm	-25%	-28%

Balance sheet (USDm)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022E	2023E	2024E
Goodwill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deferred tax asset	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Licences, property, plant & equipment	103	92	93	92	243	321	381	585	593	601	608
Other intangible assets	2	2	3	2	2	12	8	15	15	15	15
Non-current Assets	105	94	96	94	245	333	389	600	608	616	623
Inventory	-	-	-	-	4	6	5	16	16	16	16
Receivables	1	1	1	3	12	15	30	52	37	32	32
Other current assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	24	24	24	24
Cash and cash equivalents	8	8	8	5	32	44	34	105	127	161	182
Current Assets	9	9	9	8	48	65	76	198	205	233	254
Total assets	114	103	106	102	294	398	464	798	813	849	876
Shareholders equity	65	34	20	26	121	152	144	242	257	293	320
Non-controlling interests	0	0	0	0	3	4	6	31	31	31	31
Total equity	65	35	20	26	124	156	150	273	288	324	352
Deferred tax liability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long-term interest bearing debt	41	58	74	64	133	202	247	413	413	413	413
Other long-term liabilities	2	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	2
Non-current liabilities	42	60	76	66	137	205	250	415	415	415	415
Current interest bearing debt	5	6	7	7	15	13	34	24	24	24	24
Trade payables	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other current liabilities	2	2	3	3	19	23	30	86	86	86	86
Current liabilities	7	8	9	10	33	36	64	110	110	110	110
Total liabilities	49	68	85	76	170	242	314	525	525	525	525
Total liabilities and equity	114	103	106	102	294	398	464	798	813	849	876
Working capital	1	1	1	3	16	20	36	69	54	48	48
Net IB debt	38	55	73	65	116	171	247	332	310	276	256
Capital employed	107	95	96	92	260	362	400	688	703	739	766
Net IB debt / equity	58%	161%	368%	251%	96%	113%	172%	138%	121%	94%	80%
Equity / total assets	56%	33%	19%	25%	41%	38%	31%	30%	32%	35%	37%

Share data	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022E	2023E	2024E
Shares outstanding, year end (mill.)	46.8	46.8	46.8	46.8	174.6	212.2	212.2	253.1	253.1	253.1	253.1
Share price, year end (NOK)	3.96	2.38	3.97	4.82	5.00	7.25	6.30	14.10	19.60	19.60	19.60
Market cap (NOKm)	185	111	186	226	873	1,539	1,337	3,569	4,961	4,961	4,961
Enterprise value (NOKm)	447	587	798	761	1,878	3,135	3,622	6,744	8,036	7,728	7,545
EPS rep. (USD)	-0.03	-0.64	-0.31	0.14	0.10	0.02	-0.08	0.53	0.42	0.32	0.23
EPS adj. (USD)	0.03	0.04	-0.01	0.09	0.02	0.01	-0.07	0.47	0.42	0.32	0.23
DPS. (USD)	0.007	-	-	-	0.003	0.005	-	0.21	0.31	0.16	0.11
Dividend pay-out ratio	nm	0%	0%	0%	3%	21%	0%	40%	74%	50%	50%
Valuation	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022E	2023E	2024
EV/Sales	2.9	3.1	3.7	3.4	3.6	2.6	2.4	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.5
EV/EBITDA	7.7	7.0	8.4	7.0	14.1	10.2	16.8	4.3	4.8	5.6	6.6
EV/EBIT (adj)	15.5	13.3	14.9	10.8	25.0	26.4	neg	5.2	5.8	7.2	9.2
P/E (adj)	16.9	7.1	neg	6.9	26.3	>100	neg	3.5	5.2	6.9	9.6
P/B (excl. goodwill)	0.4	0.4	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.7	2.1	1.9	1.7
Growth (YoY)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022E	2023E	2024E
Revenues	-15%	0%	16%	7%	125%	116%	25%	293%	10%	-20%	-4%
EBITDA	-9%	17%	14%	18%	19%	113%	-29%	643%	4%	-17%	-18%
Margins	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022E	2023E	2024
EBITDA	38.3 %	44.9 %	44.4 %	48.6 %	25.2 %	24.8 %	14.2 %	26.8 %	25.3 %	26.1 %	22.2 %
EBIT (adj)	19.0 %	23.6 %	25.1 %	19.3 %	14.2 %	9.6 %	-2.0 %	22.5 %	20.8 %	20.2 %	16.1 %
Pre-tax profit	nm	nm	nm	24.3 %	29.0 %	5.0 %	-10.2 %	21.4 %	18.2 %	16.9 %	12.7 %
Net profit	nm	nm	nm	23.2 %	28.4 %	3.8 %	-10.5 %	20.1 %	14.5 %	13.5 %	10.1 %

2014

2.4 %

3.8 %

1.3 %

2015

3.7 %

5.1 %

0.0 %

2016

-2.2 %

6.7 %

0.0 %

2017

17.6 %

9.2 %

0.0 %

2018

5.4 %

5.0 %

0.6 %

2019

1.2 %

4.2 %

0.6 %

2020

-10.6 %

-0.9 %

2021

61.3 %

27.5 %

2022E

43.0 %

0.0 % 13.0 % 14.3 % 7.3 %

22.1 %

2023E

29.1 %

16.6 %

2024E

18.8 %

12.2 %

5.2 %

Profitability

Dividend yield

ROE

ROCE

Recommendation, valuation, risk and sources

Recommendation and target price

Recommendation history for Belships during the last 12 months:

Date	Recommendation	Target price (NOK)
03/03/2022	HOLD	22.00
15/02/2022	BUY	19.00
18/11/2021	BUY	19.00
04/11/2021	BUY	18.00
23/08/2021	BUY	17.00
08/07/2021	BUY	16.00
27/05/2021	BUY	12.00
18/05/2021	BUY	11.00
25/02/2021	BUY	9.00

Valuation

To arrive at our share price target, we have used the DCF model and applied 15% discount

Risks

The main risks to our recommendation on Belships are the following:

- Highly cyclical and volatile nature of the shipping industry and freight market may have a material adverse effect on the Group's business, financial condition, operating result and liquidity.
- A deterioration in global economic conditions or an over-supply of dry bulk capacity may lead to reduction in charter rates and vessel values which could materially adversely affect the Group's business, financial condition and results of operations
- Increases in bunker fuel prices and other operating costs may significantly increase the Group's voyage expenses relating to the operation of its vessels on the spot market
- The Group transports cargoes and commodities across a wide variety of national jurisdictions, which exposes the Group to risks inherent in operating internationally and in politically unstable regions.
- The Group may not be able to implement its business strategy successfully or manage its growth effectively
- The Group derives a significant portion of its revenues from a limited number of customers
- Over time, vessel values may fluctuate substantially and this may result in impairment charges and the Group could also incur a loss if these values are lower at a time when the Group is attempting to dispose of a vessel
- The ageing of the fleet or unexpected repairs may result in increased operating costs in the future
- The Group is subject to international safety and environmental regulations
- Changes in taxation law or the interpretation of taxation law may impact the business, results of operations and financial condition of the Group

Sources

The sources used in the preparation of this report were: Belships, Oslo Stock Exchange, Infront and Bloomberg.

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Norne Securities' general recommendations – Buy, Hold and Sell – are based on the expected absolute return on the financial instrument within the next 12 months, which equals to an upside to the target price, in combination with a risk profile. The target price represents the price level which the analyst expects the financial instrument to trade at within the coming 12 months. The table below shows the ranges of returns under different risk levels, based on which the recommendation is being determined:

Total return next 12 months (upside to target price)									
Risk	Buy	Hold	Sell						
Low	> 10%	2% - 10%	< 2%						
Medium	> 15%	3% - 15%	< 3%						
High	> 25%	5% - 25%	< 5%						

Our risk assessments range from "high risk" to "medium risk" and "low risk" and are based on a subjective assessment of the following factors: 1) volatility in the share price, 2) liquidity in the share, 3) strength of the balance sheet, 4) absolute earnings level and trend and 5) estimate risk.

Share prices used in the report are as of market close on the last trading day if the report is being published before the stock market opening, or market price within 15 min. before the publication if the report is published during the trading hours of the Oslo Stock Exchange.

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POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Norne Securities AS is a market maker in the shares of Belships.

This report has not been presented to the issuer before dissemination for a check of factual information.

Share holdings of Norne employees in Belships:

Responsible analyst(s)	0
All Norne analysts	0
Other Norne employees	0
Norne Securities AS	0

The overview of share holdings is updated continuously. A list of total share holdings of the Norne Securities' employees and the date of last overview can be found on Compliance | Norne Securities. Shareholdings that Norne Securities AS owns as a result of own-account trading that is part of its investment services operations (such as market making) are not included in the table above.

Distribution of Norne Securities' recommendations during three months up till December 31, 2021:

	Buy	Hold	Sell
Total	69	27	1
% of total	71%	28%	1%
Corporate clients*	36	13	1
% of corporate clients*	72%	26%	2%

^{*} Includes publicly disclosed not immaterial investment banking services or issues of financial instruments where Norne Securities AS has been lead manager or co-lead manager, and market making clients during the 12 months prior to the overview date.

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