

Scorpio Tankers Inc.

LR-2 rates jump to \$70,000/day; Volatility highlights rising tightness; PO to \$72

Reiterate Rating: NEUTRAL | PO: 72.00 USD | Price: 65.28 USD

LR-2 time charter-equivalent rates jump up to \$70k/day

Red Sea disruptions are lifting product tanker charter rates higher as ton-mile demand continues to scale. Long-Range 2 (LR-2) product tanker rates (2015-built, scrubber-fitted) increased to \$70,000/day according to Clarksons, consistent with Scorpio Tankers President Bugbee's view on our Hoexter's 20-min [Product Tanker update call](#) last Friday. The 75% week-week jump in tanker rate is indicative of incremental demand and tighter supply impacting the already tight product tanker market. Top operators are now actively diverting freight away from the Suez Canal, which accounted for 15% of product tanker traffic globally. Medium Range (MR) rates were up a more modest 27% week-week, to \$37,000/day from \$29,000/day. Nevertheless, MR rates may have upside potential as demand for capacity shifts to smaller vessel classes. We view this as supportive of our [2024 Year Ahead](#) thesis as rates ramp higher on longer sailing days and re-routing.

Strong rates drive cashflow; Contract opportunities limited

Scorpio Tankers aims to achieve a net debt below its market scrap value before ramping its dividend payout. We estimate a fleet scrap value of approximately \$850 mil and believe Scorpio can generate ~\$450 mil in free cash/quarter if fleet TCE rates were to average \$60,000/day. Based on its net debt of \$1.3 billion at the end of 3Q23, we believe the increased charter rates could accelerate its returns and lead it to potentially achieve its net debt target ahead of its projected schedule of 2Q24. The company also highlighted an increased focus on charter-out contracts in the elevated rate backdrop, yet noted that long-term opportunities (3-years and above) are limited with an uncertain demand view from charterers into 2027. We believe the rising product tanker orderbook (12% from 6% in 2023) could also be negatively impacting refiner's appetite for multi-year contracts given the rising view of new vessel deliveries in the next few years.

PO to \$72 on a rising rates potential

We maintain a Neutral rating on STNG's shares given a rising orderbook in the product tanker group, yet increase our PO to \$72 (from \$70) as we hold a 6.0x target multiple on our revised 2024e EBITDA. We increase our 2024 EBITDA estimate 4% on increased fleet charter rates. However, we lower our 2023 EPS estimate 2%, to \$10.50 (from \$10.70), as 4Q buybacks were below target, and we match the company's expected off-hire days. We increase our 2024 and 2025 EPS estimates 2% and 3%, to \$9.20 and \$7.95, from \$9.05 and \$7.75, respectively.

Estimates (Dec) (US\$)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
EPS	-4.17	11.42	10.50	9.20	7.95
GAAP EPS	(4.29)	11.49	10.46	9.20	7.95
EPS Change (YoY)	NM	NM	-8.1%	-12.4%	-13.6%
Consensus EPS (Bloomberg)			10.40	10.74	10.71
DPS	0.40	0.40	1.05	1.80	2.20
Valuation (Dec)					
P/E	NM	5.7x	6.2x	7.1x	8.2x
Dividend Yield	0.6%	0.6%	1.6%	2.8%	3.4%
EV / EBITDA*	26.8x	3.8x	4.4x	5.3x	6.2x
Free Cash Flow Yield*	0.6%	22.6%	25.9%	20.8%	18.7%

* For full definitions of *IQmethod*SM measures, see page 5.

23 January 2024

Equity

Key Changes

(US\$)	Previous	Current
Price Obj.	70.00	72.00

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Stock Data

Price	65.28 USD
Price Objective	72.00 USD
Date Established	23-Jan-2024
Investment Opinion	C-2-7
52-Week Range	40.34 USD - 67.40 USD
Mrkt Val (mn) / Shares Out (mn)	3,258 USD / 49.9
Free Float	87.1%
Average Daily Value (mn)	85.72 USD
BofA Ticker / Exchange	STNG / NYS
Bloomberg / Reuters	STNG US / STNG.N
ROE (2023E)	22.5%
Net Dbt to Eqty (Dec-2022A)	49.2%
ESGMeter TM	Medium

ESGMeter is not indicative of a company's future stock price performance and is not an investment recommendation or rating. ESGMeter is independent of BofA Global Research's equity investment rating, volatility risk rating, income rating, and price objective for that company. For full details, refer to ["BofA ESGMeter Methodology"](#).

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Timestamp: 23 January 2024 08:06AM EST

iQprofileSM Scorpio Tankers Inc.

iQmethodSM – Bus Performance*

(US\$ Millions)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
Return on Capital Employed	-1.7%	17.5%	16.8%	13.7%	11.5%
Return on Equity	-11.7%	33.2%	22.5%	16.8%	12.7%
Operating Margin	-16.8%	54.5%	53.1%	47.1%	41.7%
Free Cash Flow	21	735	844	678	608

iQmethodSM – Quality of Earnings*

(US\$ Millions)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
Cash Realization Ratio	NM	1.1x	1.5x	1.6x	1.7x
Asset Replacement Ratio	0.2x	0.2x	0.2x	0.1x	0x
Tax Rate	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM
Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio	144.5%	49.2%	28.8%	12.6%	0.4%
Interest Cover	-0.6x	5.4x	4.3x	4.3x	4.4x

Income Statement Data (Dec)

(US\$ Millions)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
Sales	541	1,563	1,343	1,160	1,057
% Change	-41.0%	189.0%	-14.1%	-13.6%	-8.9%
Gross Profit	541	1,563	1,343	1,160	1,057
% Change	-41.0%	189.0%	-14.1%	-13.6%	-8.9%
EBITDA	150	1,058	917	751	645
% Change	-70.6%	607.8%	-13.3%	-18.1%	-14.1%
Net Interest & Other Income	(138)	(149)	(140)	(96)	(79)
Net Income (Adjusted)	(228)	722	573	450	362
% Change	NM	NM	-20.6%	-21.4%	-19.7%

Free Cash Flow Data (Dec)

(US\$ Millions)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)	(235)	726	571	450	362
Depreciation & Amortization	240	207	204	205	205
Change in Working Capital	14	(176)	73	0	0
Deferred Taxation Charge	0	0	0	0	4
Other Adjustments, Net	53	12	31	46	43
Capital Expenditure	(52)	(34)	(34)	(23)	(5)
Free Cash Flow	21	735	844	678	608
% Change	-91.4%	NM	14.9%	-19.7%	-10.4%
Share / Issue Repurchase	0	(161)	(478)	(300)	(210)
Cost of Dividends Paid	(18)	(185)	(534)	(384)	(306)
Change in Debt	(57)	(849)	107	(135)	(400)

Balance Sheet Data (Dec)

(US\$ Millions)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
Cash & Equivalents	230	377	431	590	493
Trade Receivables	38	277	193	193	193
Other Current Assets	17	34	28	28	28
Property, Plant & Equipment	3,842	3,089	3,426	3,222	3,017
Other Non-Current Assets	887	783	246	246	246
Total Assets	5,014	4,559	4,324	4,278	3,977
Short-Term Debt	235	32	148	148	148
Other Current Liabilities	293	442	559	559	559
Long-Term Debt	2,649	1,579	1,028	793	359
Other Non-Current Liabilities	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Liabilities	3,177	2,052	1,734	1,500	1,065
Total Equity	1,837	2,507	2,589	2,779	2,911
Total Equity & Liabilities	5,014	4,559	4,324	4,278	3,977

* For full definitions of iQmethodSM measures, see page 5.

Company Sector

Shipping

Company Description

Scorpio Tankers (STNG) provides seaborne transport of refined petroleum products worldwide, such as gasoline, heating oil, and fuel oil. Product tankers move refined products from global refineries to points near consuming markets. STNG operates the world's largest, youngest, and most modern fleet of publicly traded product tankers consisting of 110 owned product tankers. STNG largely operates in the spot shipping markets.

Investment Rationale

We believe Scorpio Tankers will benefit from rising rates in the aftermath of the recent Red Sea disruptions, yet remain cautious on the rising product tanker orderbook negatively impacting our view of capacity. However, with 110 product tanker vessels (post sale) generating robust cash flow, shares could also see support from its high FCF yield. We thus maintain a balanced view on STNG shares with our Neutral rating.

Stock Data

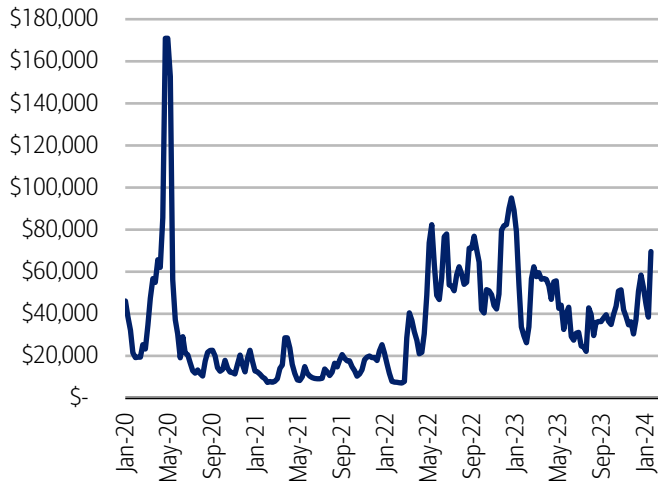
Average Daily Volume 1,313,082

Quarterly Earnings Estimates

	2022	2023
Q1	-0.15A	3.31A
Q2	3.13A	2.41A
Q3	4.29A	1.91A
Q4	4.24A	2.79E

Exhibit 1: Product Tanker LR-2 Time Charter Equivalent Rates

LR-2 rates have jumped to \$70,000/day last week from \$40,000/day.

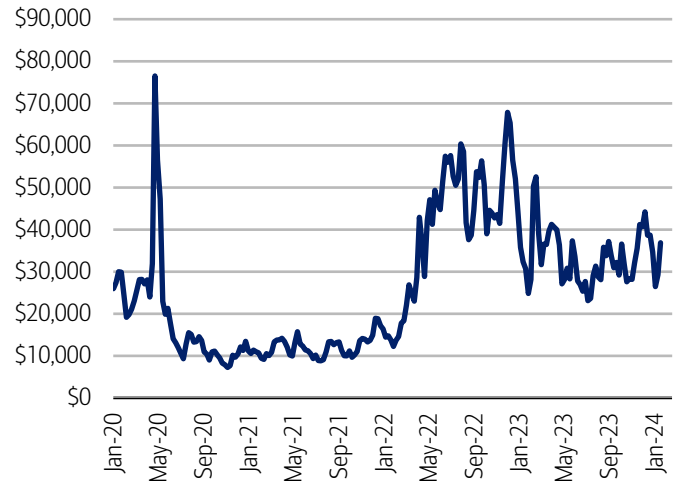


Source: BofA Global Research and Clarksons.

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Exhibit 2: Product Tanker MR Time-Charter Equivalent Rates

MR rates have increased to \$37,000/day last week, up 27% week-week.

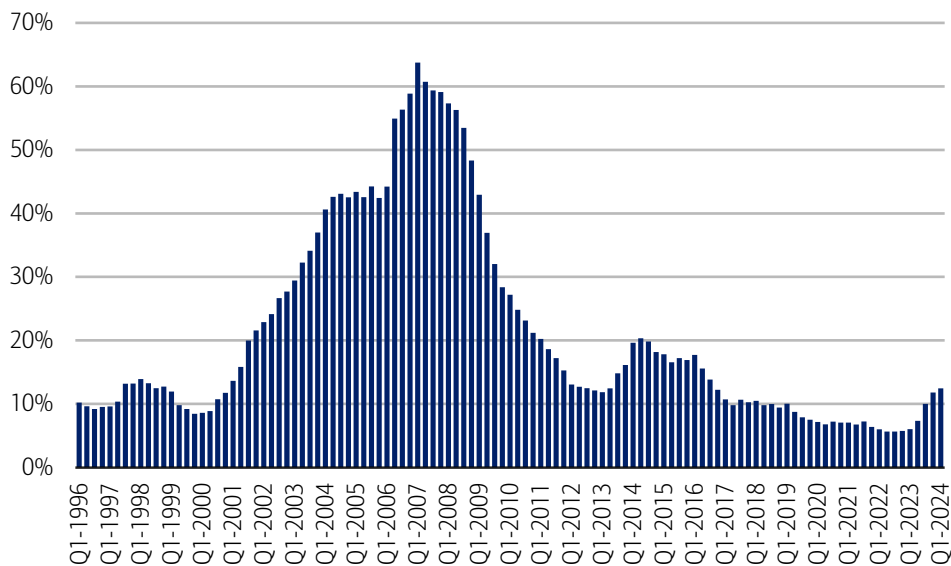


Source: BofA Global Research and Clarksons.

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Exhibit 3: Product Tanker Orderbook to Fleet Ratio

Product tanker orderbook to fleet ratio has increased to 12% in 1Q24 from 6% in 1Q23.



Source: BofA Global Research and Clarksons.

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Price objective basis & risk

Scorpio Tankers Inc. (STNG)

Our \$72 price objective is based on an 6.0x EV/EBITDA multiple on our 2024 EBITDA estimate. Our valuation multiple is near the bottom of its 5x-9x historical trading range given we are at historically high product tanker rates, as global mobility strengthens, pricing rebounds as inventories reach decade-lows, orderbook remains at historic-lows, and ton mile demand is rising. The negative impacts from COVID disruptions are fading (North America and Europe stronger, Asia stabilizing) though softening economic outlook may weaken demand for refined products. Our multiple is below the bottom end of its range as earnings are set to significantly compound.

Upside risks to our PO are volatile charter rates, better-than-expected spot product tanker rates in 2022-23, lower-than-expected vessel deliveries in 2022-24, a spike in global oil demand, and higher-than-expected levels of scrapping in the market.

Downside risks to our PO are drop off in mobility (return of lockdowns, war disruptions, which have shown to increase ton mile demand), liquidity risk given rolling debt through 2024 versus cash generation (which depends on day rates rising above the daily fixed cost base), a weaker-than-expected rate environment, overcapacity due to greater-than-expected vessel deliveries and lower-than-expected scrapping rates, and weaker global demand for refined products.

Analyst Certification

I, Ken Hoexter, hereby certify that the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect my personal views about the subject securities and issuers. I also certify that no part of my compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or view expressed in this research report.

US - Transportation Coverage Cluster

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
BUY				
	Canadian Pacific Kansas City Ltd	CP	CP US	Ken Hoexter
	CSX Corporation	CSX	CSX US	Ken Hoexter
	FedEx Corp.	FDX	FDX US	Ken Hoexter
	J.B. Hunt Transport Services	JBHT	JBHT US	Ken Hoexter
	Kirby Corp	KEX	KEX US	Ken Hoexter
	Knight-Swift Transportation Holdings Inc	KNX	KNX US	Ken Hoexter
	Norfolk Southern	NSC	NSC US	Ken Hoexter
	Old Dominion Freight Line	ODFL	ODFL US	Ken Hoexter
	RXO, Inc.	RXO	RXO US	Ken Hoexter
	Saia Inc.	SAIA	SAIA US	Ken Hoexter
	Teekay Tankers Limited	TNK	TNK US	Ken Hoexter
	Union Pacific	UNP	UNP US	Ken Hoexter
	Wabtec Corp.	WAB	WAB US	Ken Hoexter
	XPO, Inc.	XPO	XPO US	Ken Hoexter
NEUTRAL				
	Canadian National	CNI	CNI US	Ken Hoexter
	Schneider National	SNDR	SNDR US	Ken Hoexter
	Scorpio Tankers Inc.	STNG	STNG US	Ken Hoexter
	TFI International	TFII	TFII US	Ken Hoexter
	TFI International	YTFII	TFII CN	Ken Hoexter
	UPS	UPS	UPS US	Ken Hoexter
UNDERPERFORM				
	ArcBest Corporation	ARCB	ARCB US	Ken Hoexter
	C.H. Robinson	CHRW	CHRW US	Ken Hoexter
	The Greenbrier Companies	GBX	GBX US	Ken Hoexter
	Werner Enterprises	WERN	WERN US	Ken Hoexter

US - Transportation Coverage Cluster

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
	World Kinect	WKC	WKC US	Ken Hoexter

iQmethodSM Measures Definitions**Business Performance**

Return On Capital Employed

Return On Equity
Operating Margin
Earnings Growth
Free Cash Flow

Quality of Earnings

Cash Realization Ratio
Asset Replacement Ratio
Tax Rate
Net Debt-To-Equity Ratio
Interest Cover

Valuation Toolkit

Price / Earnings Ratio
Price / Book Value
Dividend Yield
Free Cash Flow Yield
Enterprise Value / Sales

EV / EBITDA

Numerator

NOPAT = (EBIT + Interest Income) × (1 – Tax Rate) + Goodwill Amortization

Net Income
Operating Profit
Expected 5 Year CAGR From Latest Actual
Cash Flow From Operations – Total Capex

Numerator

Cash Flow From Operations
Capex
Tax Charge
Net Debt = Total Debt – Cash & Equivalents
EBIT

Numerator

Current Share Price
Current Share Price
Annualised Declared Cash Dividend
Cash Flow From Operations – Total Capex
EV = Current Share Price × Current Shares + Minority Equity + Net Debt +
Other LT Liabilities
Enterprise Value

Denominator

Total Assets – Current Liabilities + ST Debt + Accumulated Goodwill
Amortization
Shareholders' Equity
Sales
N/A
N/A

Denominator

Net Income
Depreciation
Pre-Tax Income
Total Equity
Interest Expense

Denominator

Diluted Earnings Per Share (Basis As Specified)
Shareholders' Equity / Current Basic Shares
Current Share Price
Market Cap = Current Share Price × Current Basic Shares
Sales

Basic EBIT + Depreciation + Amortization

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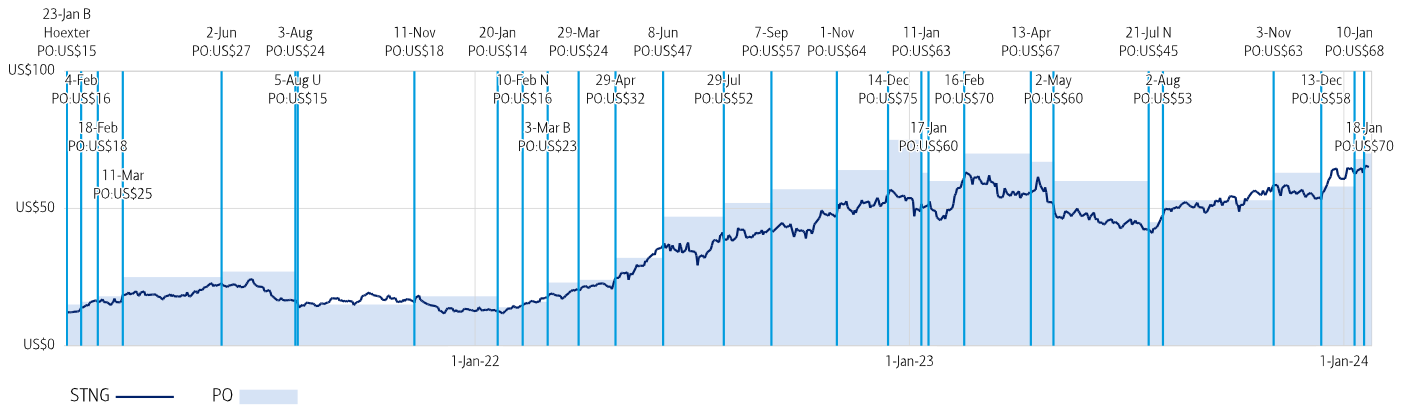
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Scorpio Tankers (STNG) Price Chart



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Equity Investment Rating Distribution: Transport/Infrastructure Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships ^{R1}	Count	Percent
Buy	67	50.38%	Buy	44	65.67%
Hold	31	23.31%	Hold	13	41.94%
Sell	35	26.32%	Sell	17	48.57%

Equity Investment Rating Distribution: Global Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships ^{R1}	Count	Percent
Buy	1895	53.62%	Buy	1083	57.15%
Hold	832	23.54%	Hold	454	54.57%
Sell	807	22.84%	Sell	383	47.46%

^{R1} Issuers that were investment banking clients of BofA Securities or one of its affiliates within the past 12 months. For purposes of this Investment Rating Distribution, the coverage universe includes only stocks. A stock rated Neutral is included as a Hold, and a stock rated Underperform is included as a Sell.

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Investment rating	Total return expectation (within 12-month period of date of initial rating)	Ratings dispersion guidelines for coverage cluster ^{R2}
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Neutral	≥ 0%	≤ 30%
Underperform	N/A	≥ 20%

^{R2} Ratings dispersions may vary from time to time where BofA Global Research believes it better reflects the investment prospects of stocks in a Coverage Cluster.

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