

Ship Finance International LTD  
Form 6-K  
March 26, 2009

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER PURSUANT TO  
RULE 13A-16 OR 15D-16 UNDER THE SECURITIES  
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the month of March 2009

Commission File Number: 001-32199

SHIP FINANCE INTERNATIONAL LIMITED  
(Translation of registrant's name into English)

Par-la-Ville Place, 14 Par-la-Ville Road, Hamilton, HM 08, Bermuda  
(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.  
Form 20-F [ X ] Form 40-F [ ]

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1): \_\_\_\_\_.

Note: Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1) only permits the submission in paper of a Form 6-K if submitted solely to provide an attached annual report to security holders.

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7): \_\_\_\_\_.

Note: Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7) only permits the submission in paper of a Form 6-K if submitted to furnish a report or other document that the registrant foreign private issuer must furnish and make public under the laws of the jurisdiction in which the registrant is incorporated, domiciled or legally organized (the registrant's "home country"), or under the rules of the home country exchange on which the registrant's securities are traded, as long as the report or other document is not a press release, is not required to be and has not been distributed to the registrant's security holders, and, if discussing a material event, has already been the subject of a Form 6-K submission or other Commission filing on EDGAR.

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FORM 6-K REPORT

Attached as Exhibit 1 is a copy of the press release of Ship Finance International Limited (the “Company”), dated March 24, 2009, announcing that the Company has filed its annual report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2008.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

SHIP FINANCE INTERNATIONAL LIMITED  
(registrant)

Dated: March 26, 2009

By: /s/ Ole B. Hjertaker  
Name: Ole B. Hjertaker  
Title: Chief Financial Officer  
Ship Finance Management AS

SFL - Filing of Annual Report on Form 20-F

Press release from Ship Finance International Limited March 24, 2009

Ship Finance International Limited (NYSE: SFL) announces that the Company has filed its annual report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2008.

The annual report can be downloaded from the Company's website at [www.shipfinance.org](http://www.shipfinance.org). Shareholders can also request a hard copy of our complete audited financial statements free of charge upon request by writing us at:

Ship Finance International Limited  
PO Box HM 1593, Par-la-Ville Place  
14 Par-la-Ville Road  
Hamilton HM 08 Bermuda

or send an e-mail to: [ir@shipfinance.no](mailto:ir@shipfinance.no)

In connection with the filing of the 2008 annual report the Company's filing status with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) will change. Our current shelf registration statement and all other active filings with the SEC will therefore be amended over the next few weeks, but this does not represent new offering of our common stock or other securities.

March 24, 2009  
The Board of Directors  
Ship Finance International Limited  
Hamilton, Bermuda

#### About Ship Finance

Ship Finance is a major ship owning company listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: SFL). Including newbuildings, the Company has a fleet of 68 vessels, including 33 crude oil tankers (VLCC and Suezmax), two chemical tankers, eight oil/bulk/ore vessels, one dry-bulk carrier, 13 container vessels, six offshore supply vessels, two jack-up drilling rigs and three ultra-deepwater drilling units. The fleet is one of the largest in the world and most of the vessels are employed on long term charters.

More information can be found on the Company's website: [www.shipfinance.org](http://www.shipfinance.org)

#### Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward Looking Statements

This press release may contain forward looking statements. These statements are based upon various assumptions, many of which are based, in turn, upon further assumptions, including Ship Finance management's examination of historical operating trends. Although Ship Finance believes that these assumptions were reasonable when made, because assumptions are inherently subject to significant uncertainties and contingencies which are difficult or impossible to predict and are beyond its control, Ship Finance cannot give assurance that it will achieve or accomplish these expectations, beliefs or intentions.

Important factors that, in the Company's view, could cause actual results to differ materially from those discussed in this presentation include the strength of world economies and currencies, general market conditions including fluctuations in charter hire rates and vessel values, changes in demand in the tanker market as a result of changes in OPEC's petroleum production levels and world wide oil consumption and storage, changes in the Company's operating expenses including bunker prices, dry-docking and insurance costs, changes in governmental rules and regulations or actions taken by regulatory authorities, potential liability from pending or future litigation, general domestic and international political conditions, potential disruption of shipping routes due to accidents or political events, and other important factors described from time to time in the reports filed by the Company with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.