

GALLAGHER ARTHUR J & CO
Form 10-K
February 12, 2018
[Table of Contents](#)

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

Annual Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017

Transition Report Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number 1-09761

ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER & CO.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

36-2151613
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

2850 Golf Road
Rolling Meadows, Illinois
(Address of principal executive offices)
60008-4050
(Zip Code)
Registrant's telephone number, including area code (630) 773-3800

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

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Title of each class Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share	Name of each exchange on which registered New York Stock Exchange
Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:	

None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes ☐ No ☒.

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes ☐ No ☒.

Note: Checking the box above will not relieve any registrant required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act from their obligations under those Sections.

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 ☒.

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 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 if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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

Large accelerated filer ☐	Accelerated filer ☐
Non-accelerated filer ☐	Smaller reporting company ☐
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)	Emerging growth company ☐

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes ☐ No ☒.

The aggregate market value of the voting common equity held by non-affiliates of the registrant, computed by reference to the last reported price at which the registrant's common equity was sold on June 30, 2017 (the last day of the registrant's most recently completed second quarter) was \$9,085,965,000.

The number of outstanding shares of the registrant's Common Stock, \$1.00 par value, as of January 31, 2018 was 181,426,000.

Documents incorporated by reference:

Portions of Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.'s definitive 2018 Proxy Statement are incorporated by reference into this Form 10-K in response to Part III to the extent described herein.

Table of Contents

Information Concerning Forward-Looking Statements

This report contains certain statements related to future results, or states our intentions, beliefs and expectations or predictions for the future, which are forward-looking statements as that term is defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements relate to expectations or forecasts of future events. Such statements use words such as anticipate, believe, estimate, expect, contemplate, forecast, project, intend, plan, potential, and other similar terms, and future or conditional tense verbs like could, may, should, will and would. You can also identify forward-looking statements by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. For example, we may use forward-looking statements when addressing topics such as: market and industry conditions, including competitive and pricing trends; acquisition strategy; the expected impact of acquisitions and dispositions; the development and performance of our services and products; changes in the composition or level of our revenues or earnings; future debt levels and anticipated actions to be taken in connection with maturing debt; future debt to earnings ratios; the outcome of contingencies; dividend policy; pension obligations; cash flow and liquidity; capital structure and financial losses; future actions by regulators; the outcome of existing regulatory actions, investigations, reviews or litigation; the impact of changes in accounting rules, including the new revenue recognition accounting standard; financial markets; interest rates; foreign exchange rates; matters relating to our operations; income taxes, including the impact of tax reform; and expectations regarding our investments, including our clean energy investments. These forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from either historical or anticipated results depending on a variety of factors.

Potential factors that could impact results include:

Failure to successfully and cost-effectively integrate recently acquired businesses and their operations or fully realize synergies from such acquisitions in the expected time frame;

Volatility or declines in premiums or other adverse trends in the insurance industry;

An economic downturn;

Competitive pressures in each of our businesses;

Risks that could negatively affect the success of our acquisition strategy, including continuing consolidation in our industry and growing interest in acquiring insurance brokers on the part of private equity firms, which could make it more difficult to identify targets and could make them more expensive; the risk that we may not receive timely regulatory approval of desired transactions; execution risks; integration risks; the risk of post-acquisition deterioration leading to intangible asset impairment charges; and the risk we could incur or assume unanticipated regulatory liabilities such as those relating to violations of anti-corruption and sanctions laws;

Risks arising from changes in U.S. or foreign tax laws, including our ability to effectively implement and account for the recently enacted, and commonly referred to, U.S. Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (which we refer to as the Tax Act);

Our failure to attract and retain experienced and qualified personnel;

Risks arising from our substantial international operations, including the risks posed by political and economic uncertainty in certain countries (such as the risks posed by Brexit), risks related to maintaining regulatory and legal compliance across multiple jurisdictions (such as those relating to violations of anti-corruption, sanctions and privacy laws), and risks arising from the complexity of managing businesses across different time zones, languages, geographies, cultures and legal regimes;

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Risks particular to our risk management segment, including any slowing of the trend toward outsourcing claims administration, and of the concentration of large amounts of revenue with certain clients;

The higher level of variability inherent in contingent and supplemental revenues versus standard commission revenues, particularly in light of the new revenue recognition accounting standard;

Sustained increases in the cost of employee benefits;

Our failure to apply technology effectively in driving value for our clients through technology-based solutions, or failure to gain internal efficiencies and effective internal controls through the application of technology and related tools;

A disaster or other significant disruption to business continuity;

Damage to our reputation;

Our failure to comply with regulatory requirements, including those related to governance and control requirements in particular jurisdictions, international sanctions, or a change in regulations or enforcement policies that adversely affects our operations (for example, relating to insurance broker compensation methods or the failure of state and local governments to follow through on agreed-upon income tax credits or other tax related incentives, relating to our corporate headquarters);

Violations or alleged violations of the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (which we refer to as FCPA), the U.K. Bribery Act 2010 or other anti-corruption laws and the Foreign Account Tax Compliance provisions of the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act, (which we refer to as FATCA);

The outcome of any existing or future investigation, review, regulatory action or litigation;

Table of Contents

Our failure to adapt our services to changes resulting from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act and any changes to such laws brought about by the current presidential administration;

Unfavorable determinations related to contingencies and legal proceedings;

Cyber attacks or other cybersecurity incidents; improper disclosure of confidential, personal or proprietary data; and changes to laws and regulations governing cybersecurity and data privacy;

Significant changes in foreign exchange rates;

Changes to our financial presentation from new accounting estimates and assumptions (including as a result of the new lease and revenue recognition standards or the Tax Act);

Risks related to our clean energy investments, including the risk of intellectual property claims, utilities switching from coal to natural gas, environmental and product liability claims, and environmental compliance costs;

Disallowance of Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (which we refer to as IRC) Section 29 or IRC Section 45 tax credits for us or our partners;

The risk that our outstanding debt adversely affects our financial flexibility and restrictions and limitations in the agreements and instruments governing our debt;

The risk we may not be able to receive dividends or other distributions from subsidiaries;

The risk of share ownership dilution when we issue common stock as consideration for acquisitions and for other reasons; and

Volatility of the price of our common stock.

Accordingly, you should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of, and are based on information available to us on, the date of the applicable document. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us or any person acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements contained or referred to in this section. We do not undertake any obligation to update any such statements or release publicly any revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this report or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. They involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions, including the risk factors referred to above. Our future performance and actual results may differ materially from those expressed in forward-looking statements. Many of the factors that will determine these results are beyond our ability to control or predict. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date that they are made, and we undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Further information about factors that could materially affect us, including our results of operations and financial condition, is contained in the Risk Factors section in Part I, Item 1A of this report.

Table of Contents

Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

Annual Report on Form 10-K

For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2017

Index

	Page No.
<u>Part I.</u>	
Item 1. <u>Business</u>	4-11
Item 1A. <u>Risk Factors</u>	12-25
Item 1B. <u>Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	25
Item 2. <u>Properties</u>	25
Item 3. <u>Legal Proceedings</u>	25
Item 4. <u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u>	25
<u>Executive Officers</u>	26
<u>Part II.</u>	
Item 5. <u>Market for the Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>	26-27
Item 6. <u>Selected Financial Data</u>	28
Item 7. <u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	29-59
Item 7A. <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure about Market Risk</u>	59-60
Item 8. <u>Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	61-110
Item 9. <u>Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	111
Item 9A. <u>Controls and Procedures</u>	111
Item 9B. <u>Other Information</u>	111
<u>Part III.</u>	
Item 10. <u>Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u>	111
Item 11. <u>Executive Compensation</u>	111
Item 12. <u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	112
Item 13. <u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	112
Item 14. <u>Principal Accountant Fees and Services</u>	112
<u>Part IV.</u>	
Item 15. <u>Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules</u>	112-115
Item 16. <u>Form 10-K Summary</u>	115
<u>Signatures</u>	116
<u>Schedule II - Valuation and Qualifying Accounts</u>	117

Table of Contents

Part I

Item 1. Business.

Overview

Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. and its subsidiaries, collectively referred to herein as we, our, us or Gallagher, are engaged in providing insurance brokerage, consulting, and third party claims settlement and administration services to both domestic and international entities. We believe that our major strength is our ability to deliver comprehensively structured insurance, insurance and risk management solutions, superior claim outcomes and comprehensive consulting services to our clients.

Our brokerage segment operations provide brokerage and consulting services to companies and entities of all types, including commercial, not-for-profit and public entities, and, to a lesser extent, individuals, in the areas of insurance placement, risk of loss management, and management of employer sponsored benefit programs. Our risk management segment operations provide contract claim settlement, claim administration, loss control services and risk management consulting for commercial, not-for-profit, captive and public entities, and various other organizations that choose to self-insure property/casualty coverages or choose to use a third-party claims management organization rather than the claim services provided by an underwriting enterprise.

We do not assume underwriting risk on a net basis other than with respect to de minimis amounts necessary to provide minimum or regulatory capital amounts to organize captives, pools, specialized underwriters or risk-retention groups. Rather, capital necessary for covering events of loss is provided by underwriting enterprises, which we define as insurance companies, reinsurance companies and various other risk-taking entities, including intermediaries of underwriting enterprises, that we do not own or control.

Since our founding in 1927, we have grown from a one-person insurance agency to the world's fourth largest insurance broker/risk manager based on revenues, according to *Business Insurance* magazine's July 2017 edition, and one of the world's largest property/casualty third party claims administrators, according to *Business Insurance* magazine's June 2017 edition. We have three reportable segments: brokerage, risk management and corporate, which contributed approximately 62%, 13% and 25%, respectively, to 2017 revenues. We generate approximately 69% of our revenues from the combined brokerage and risk management segments domestically, with the remaining 31% derived internationally, primarily in Australia, Bermuda, Canada, the Caribbean, New Zealand and the United Kingdom (U.K.). Substantially all of the revenues of the corporate segment are generated in the United States (U.S.).

Shares of our common stock are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol AJG, and we had a market capitalization at December 31, 2017 of approximately \$11.5 billion. Information in this report is as of December 31, 2017 unless otherwise noted. We were reincorporated as a Delaware corporation in 1972. Our executive offices are located at 2850 Golf Road, Rolling Meadows, Illinois 60008-4050, and our telephone number is (630) 773-3800.

Table of Contents**Operating Segments**

We report our results in three segments: brokerage, risk management and corporate. The major sources of our operating revenues are commissions, fees and supplemental and contingent revenues from our brokerage operations, and fees, including performance-based fees, from our risk management operations. The corporate segment generates revenues from our clean energy investments. Information with respect to all sources of revenue, by segment, for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2017, is as follows (in millions):

	2017		2016		2015	
	Amount	% of Total	Amount	% of Total	Amount	% of Total
Brokerage						
Commissions	\$ 2,627.2	42%	\$ 2,439.1	43%	\$ 2,338.7	44%
Fees	868.8	14%	775.7	14%	705.8	13%
Supplemental revenues	163.7	3%	147.0	3%	125.5	2%
Contingent revenues	111.8	2%	107.2	2%	93.7	2%
Investment income and other	59.0	1%	58.9	1%	60.3	1%
	3,830.5	62%	3,527.9	63%	3,324.0	62%
Risk Management						
Fees	768.0	12%	717.1	13%	726.5	13%
Investment income	0.6	%	1.0	%	0.6	%
	768.6	13%	718.1	13%	727.1	13%
Corporate						
Clean energy and other investment income	1,560.5	25%	1,348.8	24%	1,341.3	25%
Total revenues	\$ 6,159.6	100%	\$ 5,594.8	100%	\$ 5,392.4	100%

See Note 20 to our 2017 consolidated financial statements for additional financial information, including earnings before income taxes and identifiable assets by segment for 2017, 2016 and 2015.

Our business, particularly our brokerage business, is subject to seasonal fluctuations. Commissions, fees, supplemental revenues and contingent revenues, and our costs to obtain and fulfill the service obligations to our clients, can vary from quarter to quarter as a result of the timing of contract-effective dates and the timing of receipt of information from underwriting enterprises. On the other hand, salaries and employee benefits, rent, depreciation and amortization expenses generally tend to be more uniform throughout the year. The timing of acquisitions, recognition of books of business gains and losses and the variability in the recognition of tax credits generated by our clean energy investments also impact the trends in our quarterly operating results. See Note 19 to our 2017 consolidated financial statements for unaudited quarterly operating results for 2017 and 2016.

Brokerage Segment

The brokerage segment accounted for 62% of our revenues in 2017. We operate our brokerage segment operations through a network of more than 370 sales and service offices located throughout the U.S. and another 240 sales and service offices in 32 countries, but most of which are in Australia, Canada, the Caribbean, New Zealand and the U.K. Most of these offices are fully staffed with sales and service personnel. We also offer client service capabilities in more than 150 countries around the world through a network of correspondent brokers and consultants.

Our brokerage segment generates revenues by:

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- (i) Identifying, negotiating and placing all forms of insurance or reinsurance coverages, as well as providing risk-shifting, risk-sharing and risk-mitigation consulting services, principally related to property/casualty, life, health, welfare and disability insurance. We also provide these services through, or in conjunction with, other unrelated agents and brokers, consultants and management advisors.
- (ii) Acting as an agent or broker for multiple underwriting enterprises by providing services such as sales, marketing, selecting, negotiating, underwriting, servicing and placing insurance coverage on their behalf.
- (iii) Providing consulting services related to health and welfare benefits, voluntary benefits, executive benefits, compensation, retirement planning, institutional investment and fiduciary, actuarial, compliance, private insurance exchange, human resource technology, communications, and benefit administration.

Table of Contents

- (iv) Providing management and administrative services to captives, pools, risk-retention groups, healthcare exchanges, small underwriting enterprises, such as accounting, claims and loss processing assistance, feasibility studies, actuarial studies, data analytics and other administrative services.

The vast majority of our brokerage contracts and service understandings are for a period of one year or less.

Commissions and fees

The primary source of brokerage segment revenues are commissions from underwriting enterprises, which are based on a percentage of premiums paid by our clients, or fees received from clients, which are based on an agreed level of service with our clients, usually in lieu of commissions.

Commissions are fixed at the contract effective date and generally are based on a percentage of premium for insurance coverage or employee head count for employer sponsored benefit plans. Commissions depend upon a large number of factors, including the type of risk being placed, the particular underwriting enterprise's demand, the expected loss experience of the particular risk of coverage, and historical benchmarks surrounding the level of effort necessary for us to place and service the insurance contract. Fees are rarely tied to the amount of premiums; instead, they are based on an expected level of effort to provide our services.

Whether we are paid a commission or a fee, the vast majority of our services are associated with the placement of an insurance (or insurance-like) contract. See Revenue Recognition in Note 1 to our 2017 consolidated financial statements. See Note 2 to our 2017 consolidated financial statements for information with respect to the potential impacts that a new accounting standard, relating to revenue recognition, could have on our future financial position and operating results.

Supplemental revenues

Certain underwriting enterprises may pay us additional revenues based on the volume of premium we place with them and for insights into our sales pipeline, our sales capabilities or our risk selection knowledge. These amounts are in excess of the commission and fee revenues discussed above, and not all business we place with underwriting enterprises is eligible for supplemental revenues. See Revenue Recognition in Note 1 to our 2017 consolidated financial statements. See Note 2 to our 2017 consolidated financial statements for information with respect to the potential impacts that a new accounting standard relating to revenue recognition could have on our future financial position and operating results.

Contingent revenues

Certain underwriting enterprises may pay us additional revenues for our sales capabilities, our risk selection knowledge, or our administrative efficiencies. These amounts are in excess of the commission revenues discussed above, and not all business we place with participating underwriting enterprises is eligible for contingent revenues. Unlike supplemental revenues, discussed above, these revenues are variable, generally based on growth, the loss experience of the underlying insurance contracts, and/or our efficiency in processing the business. See Revenue Recognition in Note 1 to our 2017 consolidated financial statements. See Note 2 to our 2017 consolidated financial statements for information with respect to the potential impacts that a new accounting standard relating to revenue recognition could have on our future financial position and operating results.

Sub-brokerage costs

Sub-brokerage costs are excluded from our gross revenues in our determination of our total revenues. Sub-brokerage costs represent commissions paid to sub-brokers related to the placement of certain business by our brokerage segment operations. We recognize this contra revenue in the same manner as the commission revenue to which it relates.

Retail Insurance Brokerage Operations

Our retail insurance brokerage operations accounted for 83% of our brokerage segment revenues in 2017. Our retail brokerage operations place nearly all lines of commercial property/casualty and health and welfare insurance coverage. Significant lines of insurance coverage and consultant capabilities are as follows:

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Aviation	Disability	General Liability	Products Liability
Casualty	Earthquake	Health & Welfare	Professional Liability
Claims Advocacy	Errors & Omissions	Healthcare Analytics	Property
Commercial Auto	Exchange Solutions	Human Resources	Retirement
Compensation	Executive Benefits	Institutional Investment	Surety Bond
Cyber Liability	Fiduciary Services	Loss Control	Voluntary Benefits
Dental	Fine Arts	Marine	Wind
Directors & Officers Liability	Fire	Medical	Workers Compensation

Table of Contents

Our retail brokerage operations are organized and operate within certain key niche/p/B>

As Adjusted(1)

(in thousands)

Cash and cash equivalents

\$64,501 \$

Debt:(2)

Current portion of long-term debt

\$65,018 \$65,018

Long-term debt, excluding current portion

\$840,882 \$840,882

Total debt

\$905,900 \$905,900

Series A Convertible Preferred Units

\$88,451 \$88,451

Total partners' capital

\$570,522 \$

Total capitalization

\$1,564,873 \$

- (1) The table does not give effect to (i) the use of \$30 million of the net proceeds from the second private placement of our Series A Preferred Units to repay our revolving credit facility on July 5, 2017, (ii) the Lena Acquisition or (iii) the payment of a quarterly distribution on our Series A Preferred Units and common units on August 15, 2017.
- (2) All of our outstanding debt is secured by our vessels. Debt amounts exclude unamortized deferred loan issuance costs of \$6.1 million.

S-15

Table of Contents**PRICE RANGE OF COMMON UNITS AND DISTRIBUTIONS**

As of November 3, 2017, there were 29,694,094 common units outstanding, of which 21,036,226 common units were held by the public and 8,657,868 common units were held by KNOT and its subsidiaries. As of November 3, 2017, there were four holders of record of our common units. Our common units were first offered on the NYSE on April 9, 2013 at an initial price of \$21.00 per unit. Our common units are traded on the NYSE under the symbol KNOP.

The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, the high and low sales prices for our common units, as reported on the NYSE, and quarterly cash distributions declared per common unit. The last reported sale price of our common units on the NYSE on November 3, 2017 was \$23.20 per unit.

	High	Low	Cash Distributions Per Unit(1)
Year Ended:			
December 31, 2016	\$ 23.95	\$ 9.68	
December 31, 2015	26.49	10.38	
December 31, 2014	29.89	18.78	
December 31, 2013(2)	29.39	20.68	
Quarter Ended:			
December 31, 2017(3)	\$ 23.85	\$ 22.50	
September 30, 2017	24.00	22.11	0.5200(4)
June 30, 2017	24.42	20.85	0.5200
March 31, 2017	24.67	21.00	0.5200
December 31, 2016	23.95	18.90	0.5200
September 30, 2016	21.00	18.00	0.5200
June 30, 2016	20.00	16.07	0.5200
March 31, 2016	17.70	9.68	0.5200
December 31, 2015	18.54	10.38	0.5200
September 30, 2015	19.85	12.58	0.5200
June 30, 2015	26.49	19.07	0.5100
March 31, 2015	25.45	18.21	0.5100
Month Ended:			
November 30, 2017(5)	\$ 23.45	\$ 22.50	
October 31, 2017	23.85	22.90	
September 30, 2017	23.95	22.85	
August 31, 2017	23.80	22.30	
July 31, 2017	24.00	22.11	
June 30, 2017	23.85	21.35	
May 31, 2017	24.15	20.85	
April 30, 2017	24.42	22.50	

(1) Represents cash distributions attributable to the quarter.

(2) For the period from April 9, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

- (3) For the period from October 1, 2017 through November 3, 2017.
- (4) On October 13, 2017, we declared a cash distribution of \$0.52 per common unit with respect to the quarter ended September 30, 2017 to be paid on November 15, 2017 to unitholders of record as of the close of business on November 2, 2017.
- (5) For the period from November 1, 2017 through November 3, 2017.

S-16

Table of Contents

MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The tax consequences to you of an investment in our common units will depend in part on your own tax circumstances. This section updates information related to certain tax considerations and should be read in conjunction with the Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations discussion in the accompanying prospectus, which reviews the principal U.S. federal income tax considerations associated with the purchase, ownership and disposition of our common units. This section is subject to the same limitations set forth in the discussion of Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations in the accompanying prospectus.

Distributions

Subject to the discussion below of the rules applicable to PFICs, any distributions to a U.S. Holder made by us with respect to our common units generally will constitute dividends to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles. If we make distributions to U.S. Holders in excess of our earnings and profits, the excess portion of those distributions will be treated first as a nontaxable return of capital to the extent of the U.S. Holder's tax basis in its common units and thereafter as capital gain. U.S. Holders that are corporations generally will not be entitled to claim a dividends-received deduction with respect to distributions they receive from us because we are not a U.S. corporation. Dividends received with respect to our common units generally will be treated as passive category income for purposes of computing allowable foreign tax credits for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Dividends received with respect to our common units by a U.S. Holder that is an individual, trust or estate (a U.S. Individual Holder) generally will be treated as qualified dividend income, which is taxable to such U.S. Individual Holder at preferential tax rates *provided* that: (1) our common units are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States (such as the NYSE, on which our common units are traded); (2) we are not a PFIC for the taxable year during which the dividend is paid or the immediately preceding taxable year (which we do not believe we are, have been or will be, as discussed below under PFIC Status and Significant Tax Consequences); (3) the U.S. Individual Holder has owned the common units for more than 60 days during the 121-day period beginning 60 days before the date on which the common units become ex-dividend (and has not entered into certain risk limiting transactions with respect to such common units); and (4) the U.S. Individual Holder is not under an obligation to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property. Because of the uncertainty of these matters, including whether we are or will be a PFIC, there is no assurance that any dividends paid on our common units will be eligible for these preferential rates in the hands of a U.S. Individual Holder, and any dividends paid on our common units that are not eligible for these preferential rates will be taxed as ordinary income to a U.S. Individual Holder.

Special rules may apply to any amounts received in respect of our common units that are treated as extraordinary dividends. In general, an extraordinary dividend is a dividend with respect to a common unit that is equal to or in excess of 10.0% of a unitholder's adjusted tax basis (or fair market value upon the unitholder's election) in such common unit. In addition, extraordinary dividends include dividends received within a one-year period that, in the aggregate, equal or exceed 20.0% of a unitholder's adjusted tax basis (or fair market value). If we pay an extraordinary dividend on our common units that is treated as qualified dividend income, then any loss recognized by a U.S. Individual Holder from the sale or exchange of such common units will be treated as long-term capital loss to the extent of the amount of such dividend.

PFIC Status and Significant Tax Consequences

Adverse U.S. federal income tax rules apply to a U.S. Holder that owns an equity interest in a non-U.S. corporation that is classified as a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In general, we are treated as a PFIC with respect to a U.S. Holder if either:

at least 75.0% of our gross income (including the gross income of our vessel-owning subsidiaries) in any taxable year in which the holder held our units consists of passive income (e.g., dividends,

S-17

Table of Contents

interest, capital gains from the sale or exchange of investment property and rents derived other than in the active conduct of a rental business); or

at least 50.0% of the average value of the assets held by us (including the assets of our vessel-owning subsidiaries) during any taxable year in which the holder held our units produce, or are held for the production of, passive income.

Income earned, or treated as earned (for U.S. federal income tax purposes), by us in connection with the performance of services would not constitute passive income. By contrast, rental income generally would constitute passive income unless we were treated as deriving that rental income in the active conduct of a trade or business under the applicable rules.

Based on our current and projected method of operation and an opinion of counsel, we do not believe that we are or will be a PFIC for any of our previous taxable years or for our current or any future taxable year. We have received an opinion of our U.S. counsel, Vinson & Elkins L.L.P., in support of this position that concludes that the income our subsidiaries earn from certain of our present time-chartering activities should not constitute passive income for purposes of determining whether we are a PFIC. In addition, we have represented to our U.S. counsel that we expect that more than 25.0% of our gross income for our current taxable year and each future year will arise from such or similar time-chartering activities or other income which our U.S. counsel has opined does not constitute passive income, and more than 50.0% of the average value of our assets for each such year was or will be held for the production of such non-passive income. Assuming the composition of our income and assets is consistent with these expectations, and assuming the accuracy of other representations we have made to our U.S. counsel for purposes of its opinion, our U.S. counsel is of the opinion that we should not be a PFIC for any of our previous taxable years or for our current or any future taxable year.

Our counsel has indicated to us that the conclusions described above are not free from doubt. While there is legal authority supporting our conclusions, including IRS pronouncements concerning the characterization of income derived from time charters as services income, the Fifth Circuit held in *Tidewater* that income derived from certain time-chartering activities should be treated as rental income rather than services income for purposes of a provision of the Code relating to foreign sales corporations. In that case, the Fifth Circuit did not address the definition of passive income or the PFIC rules; however, the reasoning of the case could have implications as to how the income from a time charter would be classified under such rules. If the reasoning of this case were extended to the PFIC context, the gross income we derive or are deemed to derive from our time-chartering activities may be treated as rental income, and we would likely be treated as a PFIC. In published guidance, the IRS stated that it disagreed with the holding in *Tidewater* and specified that time charters similar to those at issue in the case should be treated as service contracts.

Distinguishing between arrangements treated as generating rental income and those treated as generating services income involves weighing and balancing competing factual considerations, and there is no legal authority under the PFIC rules addressing our specific method of operation. Conclusions in this area therefore remain matters of interpretation. We are not seeking a ruling from the IRS on the treatment of income generated from our time-chartering operations, and the opinion of our counsel is not binding on the IRS or any court. Thus, while we have received an opinion of counsel in support of our position, it is possible that the IRS or a court could disagree with this position and the opinion of our counsel. In addition, although we intend to conduct our affairs in a manner to avoid being classified as a PFIC with respect to our current or any future taxable year, we cannot assure unitholders that the nature of our operations will not change and that we will not become a PFIC in our current or any future taxable year.

As discussed more fully in the accompanying prospectus, if we were to be treated as a PFIC for any taxable year (and regardless of whether we remain a PFIC over the subsequent taxable years), a U.S. Holder would be subject to

different taxation rules depending on whether the U.S. Holder makes an election to treat us as a Qualified Electing Fund, which we refer to as a QEF election. As an alternative to making a QEF election,

S-18

Table of Contents

a U.S. Holder would be able to make a mark-to-market election with respect to our common units. In addition, if a U.S. Holder owns our common units during any taxable year that we are a PFIC, such holder must file an annual report with the IRS.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

In general, payments to a non-corporate U.S. Holder of distributions or the proceeds of a disposition of common units will be subject to information reporting. These payments to a non-corporate U.S. Holder also may be subject to backup withholding if the non-corporate U.S. Holder:

fails to provide an accurate taxpayer identification number;

is notified by the IRS that it has failed to report all interest or corporate distributions required to be reported on its U.S. federal income tax returns; or

in certain circumstances, fails to comply with applicable certification requirements.

Non-U.S. Holders may be required to establish their exemption from information reporting and backup withholding by certifying their status on IRS Form W-8BEN, W-8BEN-E, W-8ECI or W-8IMY (or successor form), as applicable.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Rather, a unitholder generally may obtain a credit for any amount withheld against its liability for U.S. federal income tax (and obtain a refund of any amounts withheld in excess of such liability) by timely filing a U.S. federal income tax return with the IRS.

In addition, individual citizens or residents of the United States holding certain foreign financial assets (which generally include stock and other securities issued by a foreign person unless held in an account maintained by a financial institution) that exceed certain thresholds (the lowest being holding foreign financial assets with an aggregate value in excess of: (1) \$50,000 on the last day of the tax year or (2) \$75,000 at any time during the tax year) are required to report information relating to such assets. Significant penalties may apply for failure to satisfy the reporting obligations described above. Unitholders should consult their tax advisors regarding the reporting obligations, if any, that would result from the purchase, ownership or disposition of our units.

Table of Contents

NON-UNITED STATES TAX CONSIDERATIONS

Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this section to we, our or us are references to KNOT Offshore Partners LP.

Marshall Islands Tax Consequences

The following discussion is based upon the opinion of Watson Farley & Williams LLP, our counsel as to matters of the laws of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the current laws of the Republic of the Marshall Islands applicable to persons who are not citizens of and do not reside in, maintain offices in or carry on business or conduct business, operations or transactions in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Because we and our subsidiaries do not and do not expect to carry on business or conduct business, operations or transactions in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and because all documentation related to this offering will be executed outside of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, under current Marshall Islands law you will not be subject to Marshall Islands taxation or withholding on distributions, including upon distribution treated as a return of capital, we make to you as a unitholder. In addition, you will not be subject to Marshall Islands stamp, capital gains or other taxes on the purchase, ownership or disposition of common units, and you will not be required by the Republic of the Marshall Islands to file a tax return relating to your ownership of common units.

Norwegian Tax Consequences

The following discussion is based upon the opinion of Advokatfirmaet Thommessen AS, our counsel as to taxation matters under the laws of the Kingdom of Norway that may be relevant to current and prospective unitholders who are persons not resident in Norway for taxation purposes (Non-Norwegian Holders).

The discussion that follows is based upon existing Norwegian legislation and current Norwegian Tax Administration practice as of the date of this prospectus. Changes in these authorities may cause the tax consequences to vary substantially from the consequences of unit ownership described below.

Current and prospective unitholders who are resident in Norway for taxation purposes are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the potential Norwegian tax consequences to them of an investment in our common units. For this purpose, a company incorporated outside of Norway will be treated as resident in Norway in the event its central management and control is carried out in Norway.

Taxation of Non-Norwegian Holders

Under the Norwegian Tax Act on Income and Wealth, Non-Norwegian Holders will not be subject to any taxes in Norway on income or profits in respect of the acquisition, holding, disposition or redemption of the common units, *provided that*:

we are not treated as carrying on business in Norway; and

either of the following conditions is met:

if such holders are resident in a country that does not have an income tax treaty with Norway, such holders are not engaged in a Norwegian trade or business to which the common units are effectively connected; or

if such holders are resident in a country that has an income tax treaty with Norway, such holders do not have a permanent establishment in Norway to which the common units are effectively connected.

S-20

Table of Contents

A Non-Norwegian Holder that carries on a business in Norway through a partnership is subject to Norwegian tax on income derived from the business if managed from Norway or carried on by the Partnership in Norway.

While we expect to conduct our affairs in such a manner that our business will not be treated as managed from or carried on in Norway at any time in the future, this determination is dependent upon the facts existing at such time, including (but not limited to) the place where our board of directors meets and the place where our management makes decisions or takes certain actions affecting our business. We intend to conduct our affairs in a manner consistent with Norwegian tax practice so that our business should not be treated as managed from or carried on in Norway for taxation purposes, and consequently, Non-Norwegian Holders should not be subject to tax in Norway solely by reason of the acquisition, holding, disposition or redemption of their common units. Nonetheless, there is no legal authority addressing our specific circumstances, and conclusions in this area remain matters of interpretation. Thus, it is possible that the Norwegian taxation authority could challenge, or a court could disagree with, our position.

While we do not expect it to be the case, if the arrangements we propose to enter into result in our being considered to carry on business in Norway for the purposes of the Norwegian Tax Act on Income and Wealth, unitholders would be considered to be carrying on business in Norway and would be required to file tax returns with the Norwegian Tax Administration and, subject to any relief provided in any relevant double taxation treaty (including, in the case of holders resident in the United States, the U.S.-Norway Tax Treaty), would be subject to taxation in Norway on any income considered to be attributable to the business carried on in Norway.

United Kingdom Tax Consequences

The following is a discussion of the material United Kingdom tax consequences that may be relevant to current and prospective unitholders who are persons not resident and not domiciled in the United Kingdom for taxation purposes (and who are persons who have not been resident or domiciled for tax purposes in the United Kingdom) and who do not acquire their units as part of a trade, profession or vocation carried on in the United Kingdom (Non-UK Holders).

Current and prospective unitholders who are, or have been, resident or domiciled in the United Kingdom for taxation purposes, or who hold their units through a trade, profession or vocation in the United Kingdom are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the potential United Kingdom tax consequences to them of an investment in our common units and are responsible for filing their own UK tax returns and paying any applicable UK taxes (which may be due on amounts received by us but not distributed). The discussion that follows is based upon current United Kingdom tax law and what is understood to be the current practice of Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs as at the date of this document, both of which are subject to change, possibly with retrospective effect.

Taxation of income and disposals. We expect to conduct our affairs so that Non-UK Holders should not be subject to United Kingdom income tax, capital gains tax or corporation tax on income or gains arising from the Partnership. Distributions may be made to Non-UK Holders without withholding or deduction for or on account of United Kingdom income tax.

Stamp taxes. No liability to United Kingdom stamp duty or stamp duty reserve tax should arise in connection with the issue of units to unitholders or the transfer of units in the Partnership.

EACH PROSPECTIVE UNITHOLDER IS URGED TO CONSULT HIS OWN TAX COUNSEL OR OTHER ADVISOR WITH REGARD TO THE LEGAL AND TAX CONSEQUENCES OF UNIT OWNERSHIP UNDER ITS PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES.

Table of Contents

UNDERWRITING

Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated is acting as the underwriter of the offering. Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in an underwriting agreement between us and the underwriter, we have agreed to sell to the underwriter, and the underwriter has agreed to purchase from us 3,000,000 common units.

Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the underwriting agreement, the underwriter has agreed to purchase all of the common units sold under the underwriting agreement if any of these common units are purchased.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriter against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments the underwriter may be required to make in respect of those liabilities.

The underwriter is offering the common units, subject to prior sale, when, as and if issued to and accepted by it, subject to approval of legal matters by its counsel, including the validity of the common units, and other conditions contained in the underwriting agreement, such as the receipt by the underwriter of officer's certificates and legal opinions. The underwriter reserves the right to withdraw, cancel or modify offers to the public and to reject orders in whole or in part.

Commissions and Discounts

The underwriter is purchasing the common units from us at \$ per common unit (representing approximately \$ million in aggregate proceeds to us, before we deduct offering expenses payable by us of approximately \$550,000). The underwriter may offer the common units from time to time for sale in one or more transactions on the NYSE, in the over-the-counter market, through negotiated transactions or otherwise at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices. In connection with the sale of the common units offered hereby, the underwriter may be deemed to have received compensation in the form of underwriting discounts. The underwriter may effect such transactions by selling common units to or through dealers, and such dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriter and / or purchasers of common units for whom they may act as agents or to whom they may sell as principal. We have also agreed to reimburse the underwriter for its expenses related to any filings required to be made with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. in an amount up to \$15,000.

No Sales of Similar Securities

We, all of our directors and executive officers, our general partner and KNOT, have agreed that we and they will not, directly or indirectly, offer, sell, contract to sell, pledge or otherwise dispose of, including the filing with the SEC of a registration statement under the Securities Act in respect of, or establish or increase a put equivalent position or liquidate or decrease a call equivalent position within the meaning of Section 16 of the Exchange Act, any common units or securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for any common units or publicly disclose the intention to take any such action, in each case without the prior written consent of Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, for a period of 60 days after the date of the underwriting agreement.

New York Stock Exchange Listing

The common units are listed on the NYSE under the symbol KNOP.

Short Positions

In connection with the offering, the underwriter may purchase and sell our common units in the open market. These transactions may include short sales and purchases on the open market to cover positions created

S-22

Table of Contents

by short sales. Short sales involve the sale by the underwriter of a greater number of common units than they are required to purchase in the offering. Covering transactions involve purchases of common units in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover short positions. To close a naked short position, the underwriter must purchase common units in the open market after the distribution has been completed. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriter is concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of the common units in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering. To close a covered short position, the underwriter must purchase common units in the open market after the distribution has been completed. Stabilizing transactions involve bids to purchase common units so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum.

Similar to other purchase transactions, the underwriter's purchases to cover the syndicate short sales may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of our common units or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of our common units. As a result, the price of our common units may be higher than the price that might otherwise exist in the open market. The underwriter may conduct these transactions on the NYSE, in the over-the-counter market or otherwise.

Neither we nor the underwriter makes any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of our common units. In addition, neither we nor the underwriter make any representation that the underwriter will engage in these transactions or that these transactions, once commenced, will not be discontinued without notice.

Electronic Distribution

In connection with the offering, the underwriter may distribute prospectuses by electronic means, such as e-mail.

Other Relationships

The underwriter and its affiliates have engaged in, and may in the future engage in, investment banking and other commercial dealings in the ordinary course of business with us or our affiliates. The underwriter has received, or may in the future receive, customary fees and commissions for these transactions.

In addition, in the ordinary course of its business activities, the underwriter and its affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers. Such investments and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of ours or our affiliates. The underwriter and its affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or financial instruments and may hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

Selling Restrictions

Notice to Prospective Investors in Hong Kong

The common units have not been offered or sold and will not be offered or sold in Hong Kong, by means of any document, other than (a) to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571) of Hong Kong and any rules made under that Ordinance; or (b) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus as defined in the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32) of Hong Kong or which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of that Ordinance. No advertisement, invitation or document

relating to the common units has been or may be issued or has been or may be in the possession of any person for the purposes of issue, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public of Hong Kong (except if

S-23

Table of Contents

permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to common units which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance and any rules made under that Ordinance.

Notice to Prospective Investors in Australia

No placement document, prospectus, product disclosure statement or other disclosure document has been lodged with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), in relation to the offering. This prospectus does not constitute a prospectus, product disclosure statement or other disclosure document under the Corporations Act 2001 (the Corporations Act), and does not purport to include the information required for a prospectus, product disclosure statement or other disclosure document under the Corporations Act.

Any offer in Australia of the common units may only be made to persons (the Exempt Investors), who are:

- a) sophisticated investors (within the meaning of section 708(8) of the Corporations Act), professional investors (within the meaning of section 708(11) of the Corporations Act) or otherwise pursuant to one or more exemptions contained in section 708 of the Corporations Act; and

- b) wholesale clients (within the meaning of section 761G of the Corporations Act), so that it is lawful to offer the common units without disclosure to investors under Chapters 6D and 7 of the Corporations Act.

The common units applied for by Exempt Investors in Australia must not be offered for sale in Australia in the period of 12 months after the date of allotment under the offering, except in circumstances where disclosure to investors under Chapters 6D and 7 of the Corporations Act would not be required pursuant to an exemption under both section 708 and Subdivision B of Division 2 of Part 7.9 of the Corporations Act or otherwise or where the offer is pursuant to a disclosure document which complies with Chapters 6D and 7 of the Corporations Act. Any person acquiring common units must observe such Australian on-sale restrictions.

This prospectus contains general information only and does not take account of the investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any particular person. It does not contain any securities recommendations or financial product advice. Before making an investment decision, investors need to consider whether the information in this prospectus is appropriate to their needs, objectives and circumstances, and, if necessary, seek expert advice on those matters.

Notice to Prospective Investors in the European Economic Area

In relation to each member state of the European Economic Area (each, a relevant member state), other than Germany, an offer of securities described in this prospectus may not be made to the public in that relevant member state other than under the following exemptions under the Prospective Directive:

to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;

to fewer than 150 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive) subject to obtaining the prior consent of the relevant Dealer or Dealers nominated by the Issuer for any such offer; or

in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive;

S-24

Table of Contents

provided that no such offer of securities shall require us or any underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For purposes of this provision, the expression an offer of securities to the public in any relevant member state means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the securities to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the securities, as the expression may be varied in that member state by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that member state, and the expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC (and amendments thereto, and includes any relevant implementing measure in each member state, and includes any relevant implementing measure in each relevant member state.

We have not authorized and do not authorize the making of any offer of securities through any financial intermediary on their behalf, other than offers made by the underwriter with a view to the final placement of the securities as contemplated in this prospectus. Accordingly, no purchaser of the securities, other than the underwriter, is authorized to make any further offer of the securities on behalf of us or the underwriter.

S-25

Table of Contents

LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters with respect to the offering will be passed upon for us by Vinson & Elkins L.L.P., Washington, D.C. The validity of the common units and certain other legal matters with respect to the laws of the Republic of the Marshall Islands will be passed upon for us by our counsel as to Marshall Islands law, Watson Farley & Williams LLP, New York, New York. Certain matters with respect to this offering will be passed upon for the underwriter by Latham & Watkins LLP, Houston, Texas.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of KNOT Offshore Partners LP as of December 31, 2016 and 2015 and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2016 appearing in our annual report on Form 20-F for the year ended December 31, 2016 have been incorporated by reference in this prospectus in reliance on the report of Ernst & Young AS, independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

Ernst & Young AS is located at Dronning Eufemias gate 6, P.O. Box 1156 Sentrum, 0107 Oslo, Norway.

S-26

Table of Contents**EXPENSES**

The following table sets forth costs and expenses, other than the underwriting discounts and commissions, in connection with the issuance and distribution of the common units covered by this prospectus supplement. All amounts are estimated, except the SEC registration fee and the NYSE listing fee.

SEC registration fee attributable to this offering	\$ 8,670
NYSE listing fee	13,440
Legal fees and expenses	250,000
Accounting fees and expenses	150,000
Printing costs	50,000
Transfer agent fees	3,500
Miscellaneous	74,390
Total	\$ 550,000

S-27

Table of Contents

PROSPECTUS

KNOT Offshore Partners LP

Common Units Representing Limited Partnership Interests

Other Classes of Units Representing Limited Partnership Interests

Options

Warrants

Rights

Debt Securities

We may from time to time, in one or more offerings, offer and sell common units and other units representing limited partner interests in KNOT Offshore Partners LP, as well as options, warrants or rights to purchase common units or other classes of units or any combination thereof, and the debt securities described in this prospectus. We refer to the common units and other units representing limited partner interests in KNOT Offshore Partners LP, the options, warrants and rights to purchase common units or other classes of units and the debt securities collectively as the securities. The aggregate initial offering price of all securities sold by us under this prospectus will not exceed \$750 million.

Knutsen NYK Offshore Tankers AS, the selling unitholder, may from time to time, in one or more offerings, offer and sell up to 8,567,500 common units. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of these common units by the selling unitholder. For a more detailed discussion of the selling unitholder, please read Selling Unitholder.

We or the selling unitholder may offer and sell these securities in amounts, at prices and on terms to be determined by market conditions and other factors at the time of the offering. This prospectus describes only the general terms of these securities and the general manner in which we or the selling unitholder will offer the securities. The specific terms of any securities we or the selling unitholder offer will be included in a supplement to this prospectus. The prospectus supplement will describe the specific manner in which we or the selling unitholder will or the selling unitholder offer the securities and also may add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. The names of any underwriters and the specific terms of a plan of distribution will be stated in the prospectus supplement.

Our common units are traded on the New York Stock Exchange (the NYSE), under the symbol KNOP. We will provide information in the related prospectus supplement for the trading market, if any, for any securities that may be offered.

Investing in our securities involves risks. You should carefully consider the risk factors described under Risk Factors on page 7 of this prospectus before you make an investment in our securities.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is September 7, 2017.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	1
<u>FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	4
<u>ABOUT KNOT OFFSHORE PARTNERS LP</u>	6
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	7
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	8
<u>CAPITALIZATION</u>	9
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND TO FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED UNIT DISTRIBUTIONS</u>	10
<u>PRICE RANGE OF COMMON UNITS AND DISTRIBUTIONS</u>	11
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMON UNITS</u>	12
<u>Number of Units</u>	12
<u>Transfer Agent and Registrar</u>	12
<u>Transfer of Common Units</u>	12
<u>Voting Rights</u>	13
<u>Issuance of Additional Interests</u>	15
<u>Limited Call Right</u>	16
<u>Summary of our Partnership Agreement</u>	16
<u>OUR CASH DISTRIBUTION POLICY AND RESTRICTIONS ON DISTRIBUTIONS</u>	17
<u>General</u>	17
<u>Distributions of Available Cash</u>	18
<u>Operating Surplus and Capital Surplus</u>	20
<u>Distributions of Available Cash From Operating Surplus</u>	23
<u>General Partner Interest</u>	23
<u>Incentive Distribution Rights</u>	24
<u>Percentage Allocations of Available Cash From Operating Surplus</u>	24
<u>Right to Reset Incentive Distribution Levels</u>	25
<u>Distributions From Capital Surplus</u>	26
<u>Adjustment to the Minimum Quarterly Distribution and Target Distribution Levels</u>	27
<u>Distributions of Cash Upon Liquidation</u>	27
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE OTHER CLASSES OF UNITS</u>	28
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE OPTIONS</u>	29
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE WARRANTS</u>	30
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE RIGHTS</u>	31
<u>DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES</u>	32
<u>General</u>	32
<u>Specific Terms of Each Series of Debt Securities</u>	32

<u>Covenants</u>	34
<u>Events of Default, Remedies and Notice</u>	34
<u>Amendments and Waivers</u>	36
<u>Defeasance</u>	37
<u>No Personal Liability</u>	38

Table of Contents

<u>Provisions Relating only to the Senior Debt Securities</u>	38
<u>Provisions Relating only to the Subordinated Debt Securities</u>	38
<u>Book Entry, Delivery and Form</u>	39
<u>The Trustee</u>	40
<u>Governing Law</u>	40
<u>MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS</u>	41
<u>Election to be Treated as a Corporation</u>	41
<u>U.S. Federal Income Taxation of U.S. Holders</u>	41
<u>U.S. Federal Income Taxation of Non-U.S. Holders</u>	45
<u>Backup Withholding and Information Reporting</u>	46
<u>NON-UNITED STATES TAX CONSIDERATIONS</u>	47
<u>Marshall Islands Tax Consequences</u>	47
<u>Norwegian Tax Consequences</u>	47
<u>United Kingdom Tax Consequences</u>	48
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	49
<u>SELLING UNITHOLDER</u>	51
<u>SERVICE OF PROCESS AND ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL LIABILITIES</u>	52
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	52
<u>EXPERTS</u>	52
<u>EXPENSES</u>	53

In making your investment decision, you should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents we have incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Neither we nor the selling unitholder have authorized anyone else to give you different information. Neither we nor the selling unitholder are offering these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of those documents. We will disclose any material changes in our affairs in an amendment to this prospectus, a prospectus supplement or a future filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

Table of Contents

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the SEC using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may over time, in one or more offerings, offer and sell up to \$750 million in total aggregate offering price of any combination of the securities described in this prospectus. In addition, the selling unitholder may over time, in one or more offerings, offer and sell up to 8,567,500 of our common units.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of KNOT Offshore Partners LP and the securities that are registered hereunder that may be offered by us or the selling unitholder. Each time we or the selling unitholder sell any securities offered by this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering and the securities being offered. Because the selling unitholder may be deemed to be underwriter under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (or the Securities Act), each time the selling unitholder sells any common units offered by this prospectus, the selling unitholder is required to provide you with this prospectus and the related prospectus supplement containing specific information about the selling unitholder and the terms of the common units being offered in the manner required by the Securities Act. Any prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. To the extent information in this prospectus is inconsistent with the information contained in a prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement.

The information in this prospectus is accurate as of its date. Additional information, including our financial statements and the notes thereto, is incorporated in this prospectus by reference to our reports filed with the SEC. Before you invest in our securities, you should carefully read this prospectus, including the Risk Factors, any prospectus supplement, the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement (including the documents described under the heading Where You Can Find More Information in both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement) and any additional information you may need to make your investment decision.

Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this prospectus to KNOT Offshore Partners LP, KNOT Offshore Partners, the Partnership, we, our, us or similar terms refer to KNOT Offshore Partners LP, a Marshall Islands limited liability partnership, or any one or more of its subsidiaries. References in this prospectus to our general partner refer to KNOT Offshore Partners GP LLC, the general partner of the Partnership. References in this prospectus to the selling unitholder or to KNOT refer, depending on the context, to Knutsen NYK Offshore Tankers AS and to any one or more of its direct and indirect subsidiaries.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form F-3 regarding the securities covered by this prospectus. This prospectus does not contain all of the information found in the registration statement. For further information regarding us and the securities offered in this prospectus, you may wish to review the full registration statement, including its exhibits. The registration statement, including the exhibits, may be inspected and copied at the public reference facilities maintained by the SEC at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Copies of this material can also be obtained upon written request from the Public Reference Section of the SEC at that address, at prescribed rates, or from the SEC's website at www.sec.gov free of charge. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on public reference rooms. You may also obtain information about us at the offices of the NYSE at 20 Broad Street, New York, NY, 10005, or on our website at www.knotoffshorepartners.com. Information on our website or any other website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus and does not constitute a part of this prospectus unless specifically so designated and filed with the SEC.

Table of Contents

We are subject to the information requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), and, in accordance therewith, we are required to file with the SEC annual reports on Form 20-F within four months of our fiscal year-end, and provide to the SEC other material information on Form 6-K. These reports and other information may be inspected and copied at the public reference facilities maintained by the SEC or obtained from the SEC's website as provided above. Our website, also provided above, will make our annual reports on Form 20-F and our periodic reports filed with the SEC available, free of charge, through our website as soon as reasonably practicable after those reports are electronically filed with the SEC. Information on our website or any other website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus and does not constitute a part of this prospectus.

As a foreign private issuer, we are exempt under the Exchange Act from, among other things, certain rules prescribing the furnishing and content of proxy statements, and our executive officers, directors and principal unitholders are exempt from the reporting and short-swing profit recovery provisions contained in Section 16 of the Exchange Act. In addition, we are not required under the Exchange Act to file periodic reports and financial statements with the SEC as frequently or as promptly as U.S. companies whose securities are registered under the Exchange Act, including the filing of quarterly reports or current reports on Form 8-K. However, we intend to make available quarterly reports containing our unaudited interim financial information for the first three fiscal quarters of each fiscal year.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference into this prospectus information that we file with the SEC. This means that we can disclose important information to you without actually including the specific information in this prospectus by referring you to other documents filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is an important part of this prospectus. Information that we later provide to the SEC, and which is deemed to be filed with the SEC, automatically will update information previously filed with the SEC, and may replace information in this prospectus.

We incorporate by reference into this prospectus the documents listed below:

our annual report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 filed on March 17, 2017 (our 2016 Annual Report);

our reports on Form 6-K filed on February 2, 2017, May 17, 2017, June 30, 2017 and August 10, 2017;

all subsequent annual reports on Form 20-F filed prior to the termination of this offering;

all subsequent current reports on Form 6-K furnished prior to the termination of this offering that we identify in such current reports as being incorporated by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part; and

the description of our common units contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A/A filed on June 30, 2017, including any subsequent amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description.

These reports contain important information about us, our financial condition and our results of operations.

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You may obtain any of the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus from the SEC through its public reference facilities or its website at the addresses provided above. You also may request a copy of any document incorporated by reference in this prospectus (excluding any exhibits to those documents, unless the exhibit is specifically incorporated by reference in this document), at no cost, by visiting our website at www.knotoffshorepartners.com, or by writing or calling us at the following address:

KNOT Offshore Partners LP

2 Queen's Cross

Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire AB15 4YB

United Kingdom

+44 1224 618420

Table of Contents

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone else to provide you with any information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than its respective date.

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the documents we incorporate by reference contain certain forward-looking statements concerning plans and objectives of management for future operations or economic performance, or assumptions related thereto. In addition, we and our representatives may from time to time make other oral or written statements that are also forward-looking statements. Such statements include, in particular, statements about our plans, strategies, business prospects, changes and trends in our business, and the markets in which we operate. In some cases, you can identify the forward-looking statements by the use of words such as may, could, should, would, expect, plan, anticipate, intend, forecast, believe, estimate, predict, propose, potential, continue or the negative of other comparable terminology. These forward-looking statements reflect management's current views only as of the date of this prospectus and are not intended to give any assurance as to future results. As a result, unitholders are cautioned not to rely on any forward-looking statements.

Forward-looking statements appear in a number of places in this prospectus and the documents we incorporate by reference and include statements with respect to, among other things:

market trends in the shuttle tanker or general tanker industries, including hire rates, factors affecting supply and demand, and opportunities for the profitable operations of shuttle tankers;

KNOT's and KNOT Offshore Partners' ability to build shuttle tankers and the timing of the delivery and acceptance of any such vessels by their respective charterers;

forecasts of KNOT Offshore Partners' ability to make or increase distributions on the common units and make distributions on the Series A Convertible Preferred Units (the Series A Preferred Units) or the amount of any such distributions;

KNOT Offshore Partners' ability to integrate and realize the expected benefits from acquisitions;

KNOT Offshore Partners' ability to consummate the acquisition of the *Lena Knutsen*;

KNOT Offshore Partners' anticipated growth strategies;

the effects of a worldwide or regional economic slowdown;

turmoil in the global financial markets;

fluctuations in currencies and interest rates;

fluctuations in the price of oil;

general market conditions, including fluctuations in hire rates and vessel values;

changes in KNOT Offshore Partners' operating expenses, including drydocking and insurance costs and bunker prices;

KNOT Offshore Partners' future financial condition or results of operations and future revenues and expenses;

the repayment of debt and settling of any interest rate swaps;

KNOT Offshore Partners' ability to make additional borrowings and to access debt and equity markets;

planned capital expenditures and availability of capital resources to fund capital expenditures;

KNOT Offshore Partners' ability to maintain long-term relationships with major users of shuttle tonnage;

KNOT Offshore Partners' ability to leverage KNOT's relationships and reputation in the shipping industry;

Table of Contents

KNOT Offshore Partners ability to purchase vessels from KNOT in the future;

KNOT Offshore Partners continued ability to enter into long-term charters;

KNOT Offshore Partners ability to maximize the use of its vessels, including the re-deployment or disposition of vessels no longer under long-term charter;

the financial condition of KNOT Offshore Partners existing or future customers and their ability to fulfill their charter obligations;

timely purchases and deliveries of newbuilds;

future purchase prices of newbuilds and secondhand vessels;

KNOT Offshore Partners ability to compete successfully for future chartering and newbuild opportunities;

acceptance of a vessel by its charterer;

termination dates and extensions of charters;

the expected cost of, and KNOT Offshore Partners ability to comply with, governmental regulations, maritime self-regulatory organization standards, as well as standard regulations imposed by its charterers applicable to KNOT Offshore Partners business;

availability of skilled labor, vessel crews and management;

KNOT Offshore Partners general and administrative expenses and its fees and expenses payable under the fleet management agreements and the management and administrative services agreement;

the anticipated taxation of KNOT Offshore Partners and distributions to KNOT Offshore Partners unitholders;

estimated future maintenance and replacement capital expenditures;

KNOT Offshore Partners' ability to retain key employees;

customers' increasing emphasis on environmental and safety concerns;

potential liability from any pending or future litigation;

potential disruption of shipping routes due to accidents, political events, piracy or acts by terrorists;

future sales of KNOT Offshore Partners' securities in the public market;

KNOT Offshore Partners' business strategy and other plans and objectives for future operations; and

other factors listed from time to time in the reports and other documents that KNOT Offshore Partners files with the SEC.

Forward-looking statements in this prospectus are made based upon management's current plans, expectations, estimates, assumptions and beliefs concerning future events impacting us and therefore involve a number of risks and uncertainties, including those risks discussed in "Risk Factors" and those risks discussed in reports we file with the SEC. The risks, uncertainties and assumptions involve known and unknown risks and are inherently subject to significant uncertainties and contingencies, many of which are beyond our control. We caution that forward-looking statements are not guarantees and that actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements.

We undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement or statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which such statement is made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. New factors emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for us to predict all of these factors. Further, we cannot assess the impact of each such factor on our business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to be materially different from those contained in any forward-looking statement.

Table of Contents

ABOUT KNOT OFFSHORE PARTNERS LP

We are a publicly traded limited partnership formed on February 21, 2013 to own and operate shuttle tankers under long-term charters. On April 15, 2013, we completed our initial public offering (our IPO). Our fleet currently consists of twelve shuttle tankers. Knutsen NYK Offshore Tankers AS directly owns 8,567,500 of our common units, and all of our incentive distribution rights and, through its ownership of our general partner, a 1.85% general partner interest in us and 90,368 additional common units.

We were formed under the laws of the Marshall Islands and maintain our principal place of business at 2 Queen's Cross, Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, AB15 4YB, United Kingdom. Our telephone number at that address is +44 (0) 1224 618420.

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves a significant degree of risk. You should carefully consider the risk factors and all of the other information included in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents we have incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, including those in Item 3. Key Information Risk Factors in our 2016 Annual Report and those in our report on 6-K for the six months ended June 30, 2017, each, as updated by annual, quarterly and other reports and documents we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus and that are incorporated by reference herein, in evaluating an investment in the securities. If any of these risks were actually to occur, our business, financial condition or results of operations could be materially adversely affected. When we offer and sell any securities pursuant to a prospectus supplement, we may include additional risk factors relevant to such securities in the prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as otherwise provided in an applicable prospectus supplement, we will use the net proceeds we receive from the sale of the securities covered by this prospectus for customary partnership purposes, including repayment of debt (including debt owed to KNOT), acquisitions, capital expenditures and additions to working capital.

The actual application of proceeds we receive from any particular offering of securities using this prospectus will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to such offering.

We will not receive any of the proceeds from the sale of common units by the selling unitholder.

Table of Contents**CAPITALIZATION**

The following table shows our historical cash and capitalization as of June 30, 2017. This table is derived from our consolidated financial statements, including accompanying notes, incorporated by reference in this prospectus. You should read this table in conjunction with the historical financial statements and accompanying notes incorporated by reference into this prospectus and the sections entitled "Operating and Financial Review and Prospects" in our 2016 Annual Report and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" in our report on Form 6-K for the six months ended June 30, 2017, each of which is incorporated by reference herein.

	As of June 30, 2017 (In thousands)
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 64,501
Debt:(1)	
Current portion of long-term debt	\$ 65,018
Long-term debt, excluding current portion	\$ 840,882
Total debt	\$ 905,900
Series A Convertible Preferred Units	\$ 88,451
Total partners' capital	\$ 570,522
Total capitalization	\$ 1,564,873

(1) All of our outstanding debt is secured by our vessels. Debt amounts exclude unamortized deferred loan issuance costs of \$6.1 million.

Each prospectus supplement will include updated information on our capitalization.

Table of Contents**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND TO FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED UNIT DISTRIBUTIONS**

The following table sets forth our ratio of consolidated earnings to fixed charges for the periods presented:

	Six Months Ended June 30,		Year Ended December 31,				
	2017	2016	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges(1)	3.14x	3.25x	3.97x	3.36x	2.85x	2.74x	1.21x
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred unit distributions(1)	2.99x	3.25x	3.97x	3.36x	2.85x	2.74x	1.21x

- (1) For periods prior to our IPO, represents data for our predecessor in respect of the four vessels, the *Fortaleza Knutsen*, the *Recife Knutsen*, the *Bodil Knutsen* and the *Windsor Knutsen* in our initial fleet for periods prior to our IPO in April 2013.

For purposes of calculating the ratio of earnings to fixed charges and to fixed charges and preferred unit distributions:

fixed charges means the sum of the following: (a) interest expensed and capitalized and (b) amortized debt issuance cost and capitalized expenses related to indebtedness;

earnings is the amount resulting (a) from adding (i) pre-tax income, (ii) fixed charges and (iii) amortization of capitalized interest and (b) from subtracting interest capitalized; and

preferred unit distributions represent the amount of pre-tax earnings that is required to pay the distributions on outstanding preferred units and is computed as the amount of (a) the distribution divided by (b) the result of one minus the effective income tax rate applicable to continuing operations.

Table of Contents**PRICE RANGE OF COMMON UNITS AND DISTRIBUTIONS**

As of August 21, 2017, there were 29,694,094 common units outstanding, 21,036,226 of which are held by the public. Our common units were first offered on the NYSE on April 9, 2013 at an initial price of \$21.00 per unit. Our common units are traded on the NYSE under the symbol KNOP.

The following table sets forth, for the periods indicated, the high and low sales prices for our common units, as reported on the NYSE, and quarterly cash distributions declared per common unit. The last reported sale price of our common units on the NYSE on August 18, 2017 was \$22.55 per unit.

	High	Low	Cash Distributions per Unit(1)
Year Ended:			
December 31, 2016	\$ 23.95	\$ 9.68	
December 31, 2015	26.49	10.38	
December 31, 2014	29.89	18.78	
December 31, 2013	29.39	20.68	
Quarter Ended:			
September 30, 2017(3)	24.00	22.11	
June 30, 2017	24.42	20.85	0.5200
March 31, 2017	24.67	21.00	0.5200
December 31, 2016	23.95	18.90	0.5200
September 30, 2016	21.00	18.00	0.5200
June 30, 2016	20.00	16.07	0.5200
March 31, 2016	17.70	9.68	0.5200
December 31, 2015	18.54	10.38	0.5200
September 30, 2015	19.85	12.58	0.5200
June 30, 2015	26.49	19.07	0.5100
March 31, 2015	25.45	18.21	0.5100
Month Ended:			
August 31, 2017(4)	23.80	22.30	
July 31, 2017	24.00	22.11	
June 30, 2017	23.85	21.35	
May 31, 2017	24.15	20.85	
April 30, 2017	24.42	22.50	
March 31, 2017	23.75	21.50	
February 28, 2017	23.20	21.00	

- (1) Represents cash distributions attributable to the quarter.
(2) For the period from April 9, 2013 through December 31, 2013.
(3) For the period from July 1, 2017 through August 18, 2017.
(4) For the period from August 1, 2017 through August 18, 2017.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMON UNITS

Our common units represent limited partner interests in us. The holders of common units are entitled to participate in partnership distributions and exercise the rights and privileges available to limited partners under our partnership agreement. For a description of the relative rights and privileges of holders of common units in and to partnership distributions, please read this section and Our Cash Distribution Policy and Restrictions on Distributions.

Number of Units

As of August 21, 2017, we had 29,694,094 common units outstanding, of which 21,036,226 are held by the public and 8,657,868 are held by KNOT and its wholly owned subsidiary, KNOT Offshore GP LLC, our general partner. We also have 3,750,000 Series A Convertible Preferred Units (the Series A Preferred Units) outstanding.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC serves as registrar and transfer agent for the common units.

Transfer of Common Units

By transfer of common units in accordance with our partnership agreement, each transferee of common units will be admitted as a limited partner with respect to the common units transferred when such transfer and admission is reflected in our books and records. Each transferee:

represents that the transferee has the capacity, power and authority to become bound by our partnership agreement;

automatically agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions of, and is deemed to have executed, our partnership agreement; and

gives the consents and approvals contained in our partnership agreement, such as the approval of all transactions and agreements we entered into in connection with our formation and our IPO.

A transferee will become a substituted limited partner of the Partnership for the transferred common units automatically upon the recording of the transfer on our books and records. Our general partner will cause any transfers to be recorded on our books and records no less frequently than quarterly.

We may, at our discretion, treat the nominee holder of a common unit as the absolute owner. In that case, the beneficial holder's rights are limited solely to those that it has against the nominee holder as a result of any agreement between the beneficial owner and the nominee holder.

Common units are securities and are transferable according to the laws governing transfer of securities. In addition to other rights acquired upon transfer, the transferor gives the transferee the right to become a limited partner in the Partnership for the transferred common units.

Until a common unit has been transferred on our books, we and the transfer agent may treat the record holder of the unit as the absolute owner for all purposes, except as otherwise required by law or stock exchange regulations.

Table of Contents

Voting Rights

Unlike the holders of common stock in a corporation, holders of common units have only limited voting rights on matters affecting our business. We hold a meeting of the limited partners every year to elect one or more members of our board of directors and to vote on any other matters that are properly brought before the meeting. Common unitholders are entitled to elect only four of the seven members of our board of directors. The elected directors are elected on a staggered basis and serve for four-year terms. Our general partner in its sole discretion appoints the remaining three directors and sets the terms for which those directors serve. Our partnership agreement also contains provisions limiting the ability of unitholders to call meetings or to acquire information about our operations, as well as other provisions limiting our unitholders' ability to influence the manner or direction of management. Unitholders have no right to elect our general partner, and our general partner may not be removed except by a vote of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding common units, including any common units owned by our general partner and its affiliates, voting together as a single class.

Our partnership agreement further restricts unitholders' voting rights by providing that all persons (including individuals, entities, partnerships, trusts and estates) that are residents of Norway for purposes of the Norwegian Tax Act (Norwegian Resident Holders) are not eligible to vote in the election of elected directors. No holder of Series A Preferred Units that is a Norwegian Resident Holder is eligible to vote on any matter. Further, if any person or group owns beneficially more than 4.9% of any class of units then outstanding (excluding Norwegian Resident Holders in the election of elected directors), any such units owned by that person or group in excess of 4.9% may not be voted on any matter and are not considered to be outstanding when sending notices of a meeting of unitholders, calculating required votes (except for purposes of nominating a person for election to our board of directors), determining the presence of a quorum or for other similar purposes, unless required by law. The voting rights of any unitholders not entitled to vote on a specific matter are effectively redistributed pro rata among the other common unitholders. Our general partner, its affiliates and persons who acquire common units with the prior approval of our board of directors are not subject to the 4.9% limitation except with respect to voting their common units in the election of the elected directors.

The Series A Preferred Units have voting rights that are identical to the voting rights of the common units, except they do not have any right to nominate, appoint or elect any of our directors, except whenever distributions payable on the Series A Preferred Units have not been declared and paid for four consecutive quarters (a Trigger Event). Upon a Trigger Event, holders of Series A Preferred Units, together with the holders of any other series of preferred units upon which like rights have been conferred and are exercisable, will have the right to replace one of the members of our board appointed by our general partner with a person nominated by such holders, such nominee to serve until all accrued and unpaid distributions on the preferred units have been paid. The Series A Preferred Units shall be entitled to vote with the common units as a single class so that the Series A Preferred Units shall be entitled to one vote for each common unit into which the Series A Preferred Units are then convertible. The 4.9% limitation described above applies to the holders of the Series A Preferred Units with respect to the voting of the Series A Preferred Units on an as-converted basis together with the common units.

The following is a summary of the unitholder vote required for the approval of the matters specified below. Matters that require the approval of a unit majority require the approval of a majority of the common units (which include the Series A Preferred Units voting on an as converted basis) voting as a single class. All references in this prospectus to voting of the common units, other than references to voting for the election of the elected directors, shall include voting of the Series A Preferred Units together with the common units as a single class on an as converted basis.

Table of Contents

In voting their common units or any Series A Preferred Units they may hold, our general partner and its affiliates have no fiduciary duty or obligation whatsoever to us or our unitholders, including any duty to act in good faith or in the best interests of us and our unitholders.

Action

Issuance of additional common units or other limited partner interests

Unitholder Approval Required and Voting Rights

No common unitholder approval required; general partner approval required for all issuances not reasonably expected to be accretive within 12 months of issuance or which would otherwise have a material adverse impact on our general partner or its interest in the partnership. We will have the right to issue securities that with respect to distributions on such securities or distributions upon liquidation of the partnership rank pari passu with the Series A Preferred Units (parity securities), provided that the aggregate amount of the Series A Preferred Units and the parity securities pro-forma for such issuance, does not exceed 33.33% of the book value of the sum of our then outstanding aggregate amount of parity securities and junior securities (including common units). The consent of at least 67% of the holders of Series A Preferred Units will be necessary for us to issue (i) any securities that with respect to distributions on such securities or distributions upon liquidation of the partnership rank senior to the Series A Preferred Units (senior securities) and (ii) any parity securities in excess of such pro-forma book value. In addition, the consent of at least 67% of the holders of Series A Preferred Units will be necessary for us to incur or assume additional indebtedness that would result in our total consolidated indebtedness exceeding 70% of our total capitalization.

Amendment of our partnership agreement

Certain amendments may be made by our board of directors without the approval of our unitholders. Other amendments generally require the approval of a unit majority. Any amendment that (i) adversely affects the rights, preferences and privileges of the Series A Preferred Units or (ii) amends or modifies the terms of the Series A Preferred Units requires the approval of at least of 67% of the Series A Preferred Units, voting separately as a class.

Merger of our partnership or the sale of all or substantially all of our assets

Unit majority and approval of our general partner and our board of directors.

Dissolution of our partnership

Reconstitution of our partnership upon dissolution

Election of four of the seven members of our board of directors

Unit majority and approval of our general partner and our board of directors.

Unit majority.

A plurality of the votes of the holders of the common units.

Table of Contents

Action

Withdrawal of our general partner

Unitholder Approval Required and Voting Rights

Under most circumstances, the approval of a majority of our common units, excluding common units held by our general partner and its affiliates, is required for the withdrawal of our general partner prior to March 31, 2023 in a manner which would cause a dissolution of our partnership.

Removal of our general partner

Not less than 66 2/3% of our outstanding common units, voting as a single class, including common units held by our general partner and its affiliates.

Transfer of the general partner interest in us

Our general partner may transfer all, but not less than all, of its general partner interest in us without a vote of our common unitholders or other limited partners to an affiliate or another person in connection with its merger or consolidation with or into, or sale of all or substantially all of its assets to such person. The approval of a majority of our common units, excluding common units held by our general partner and its affiliates, is required in other circumstances for a transfer of the general partner interest to a third party prior to March 31, 2023.

Transfer of incentive distribution rights

Except for transfers to an affiliate or another person as part of KNOT's merger or consolidation with or into, or sale of all or substantially all of its assets to such person, the approval of a majority of our common units, excluding common units held by KNOT and its affiliates, is required in most circumstances for a transfer of the incentive distribution rights to a third party prior to March 31, 2018.

Transfer of ownership interests in our general partner

No approval required at any time.

Issuance of Additional Interests

Our partnership agreement authorizes us to issue an unlimited number of additional partnership securities and rights to buy partnership securities for the consideration and on the terms and conditions determined by our board of directors, without the approval of our unitholders, other than the limited approval rights of the holders of the Series A Preferred Units with regard to the issuance of parity securities and senior securities described above under **Voting Rights**. Our general partner will be required to approve all issuances of additional partnership interests that are not reasonably expected to be accretive within 12 months of issuance or which would otherwise have a material adverse impact on the general partner or its interest in us.

In accordance with Marshall Islands law and the provisions of our partnership agreement, we may also issue additional partnership securities interests that, as determined by our board of directors, have special voting or other rights to which our common units or Series A Preferred Units are not entitled.

Upon issuance of certain additional partnership securities (other than the issuance of common units in connection with

a reset of our incentive distribution target levels or the issuance of partnership interests upon

Table of Contents

conversion of outstanding partnership interests), our general partner will have the right, but not the obligation, to make additional capital contributions to the extent necessary to maintain its general partner interest in us at the same percentage level as before the issuance. Our general partner's interest in us will thus be reduced if we issue certain additional partnership securities and our general partner does not elect to maintain its general partner interest. Our general partner's interest does not entitle it to receive any portion of distributions made in respect of the Series A Preferred Units and our general partner's interest will not be affected by the issuance of any additional preferred units. Our general partner and its affiliates also have the right, which it may from time to time assign in whole or in part to any of its affiliates, to purchase common units or other equity securities whenever, and on the same terms that, we issue those securities to persons other than our general partner and its affiliates, to the extent necessary to maintain its and its affiliates' percentage interest in us, including its interest represented by common units, that existed immediately prior to each issuance. Other holders of common units will not have similar preemptive rights to acquire additional common units or other partnership securities.

Limited Call Right

If at any time our general partner and its affiliates hold more than 80% of the then-issued and outstanding partnership interests of any class, except for the Series A Preferred Units, our general partner will have the right, which it may assign in whole or in part to any of its affiliates or to us, to acquire all, but not less than all, of the remaining partnership interests of the class held by unaffiliated persons as of a record date to be selected by our general partner, on at least ten but not more than 60 days' written notice at a price equal to the greater of (x) the average of the daily closing prices of the partnership interests of such class over the 20 trading days preceding the date three days before the notice of exercise of the call right is first mailed and (y) the highest price paid by our general partner or any of its affiliates for partnership interests of such class during the 90-day period preceding the date such notice is first mailed. Our general partner is not obligated to obtain a fairness opinion regarding the value of the common units to be repurchased by it upon the exercise of this limited call right and has no fiduciary duty in determining whether to exercise this limited call right.

As a result of our general partner's right to purchase outstanding partnership interests, a holder of partnership interests (other than the Series A Preferred Units) may have the holder's partnership interests purchased at an undesirable time or price. The tax consequences to a common unitholder of the exercise of this call right are the same as a sale by that unitholder of common units in the market. Please read "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations U.S. Federal Income Taxation of U.S. Holders Sale, Exchange or Other Disposition of Common Units" and "Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations U.S. Federal Income Taxation of Non-U.S. Holders Disposition of Units."

Summary of our Partnership Agreement

A copy of our partnership agreement is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. A summary of the important provisions of our partnership agreement and the rights and privileges of our unitholders is included in our registration statement on Form 8-A/A, filed with the SEC on June 30, 2017, including any subsequent amendments or reports filed for the purpose of updating such description. Please read "Where You Can Find More Information."

Table of Contents

OUR CASH DISTRIBUTION POLICY AND RESTRICTIONS ON DISTRIBUTIONS

You should read the following discussion of our cash distribution policy and restrictions on distributions in conjunction with specific assumptions included in this section. In addition, you should read *Forward-Looking Statements* and *Risk Factors* for information regarding statements that do not relate strictly to historical or current facts and certain risks inherent in our business.

General

Rationale for Our Cash Distribution Policy

Our cash distribution policy reflects a judgment that our unitholders will be better served by our distributing our available cash (after deducting expenses, including estimated maintenance and replacement capital expenditures and reserves) rather than retaining it. Because we believe we will generally finance any expansion capital expenditures from external financing sources, we believe that our investors are best served by our distributing all of our available cash. Our cash distribution policy is consistent with the terms of our partnership agreement, which requires that we distribute all of our available cash quarterly (after deducting expenses, including estimated maintenance and replacement capital expenditures and reserves).

Limitations on Cash Distributions and Our Ability to Change Our Cash Distribution Policy

There is no guarantee that unitholders will receive quarterly distributions from us. Our distribution policy is subject to certain restrictions and may be changed at any time, including:

Our unitholders have no contractual or other legal right to receive distributions other than the obligation under our partnership agreement to distribute available cash on a quarterly basis, which is subject to the broad discretion of our board of directors to establish reserves and other limitations.

We are subject to restrictions on distributions under our financing agreements. Our financing agreements contain material financial tests and covenants that must be satisfied in order to pay distributions. If we are unable to satisfy the restrictions included in any of our financing agreements or are otherwise in default under any of those agreements, as a result of our debt levels or otherwise, we will not be able to make cash distributions to our unitholders, notwithstanding our stated cash distribution policy.

We are required to make substantial capital expenditures to maintain and replace our fleet. These expenditures may fluctuate significantly over time, particularly as our vessels near the end of their useful lives. In order to minimize these fluctuations, our partnership agreement requires us to deduct estimated, as opposed to actual, maintenance and replacement capital expenditures from the amount of cash that we would otherwise have available for distribution to our unitholders. In years when estimated maintenance and replacement capital expenditures are higher than actual maintenance and replacement capital expenditures, the amount of cash available for distribution to unitholders will be lower than if actual maintenance and replacement capital expenditures were deducted.

Although our partnership agreement requires us to distribute all of our available cash, our partnership agreement, including provisions contained therein requiring us to make cash distributions, may be amended. Our partnership agreement can be amended with the approval of a majority of the outstanding common units.

Even if our cash distribution policy is not modified or revoked, the amount of distributions we pay under our cash distribution policy and the decision to make any distribution is determined by our board of directors, taking into consideration the terms of our partnership agreement.

Table of Contents

Under Section 51 of the Marshall Islands Act, we may not make a distribution to our unitholders if the distribution would cause our liabilities, other than liabilities to partners on account of their partnership interest and liabilities for which the recourse of creditors is limited to specified property of ours, to exceed the fair value of our assets, except that the fair value of property that is subject to a liability for which the recourse of creditors is limited shall be included in our assets only to the extent that the fair value of that property exceeds that liability.

We may lack sufficient cash to pay distributions to our unitholders due to decreases in total operating revenues, decreases in hire rates, the loss of a vessel, increases in operating or general and administrative expenses, principal and interest payments on outstanding debt, taxes, working capital requirements, maintenance and replacement capital expenditures or anticipated cash needs.

Our ability to make cash distributions to our unitholders depends on the performance of our subsidiaries and their ability to distribute cash to us. The ability of our subsidiaries to make distributions to us may be restricted by, among other things, the provisions of existing and future indebtedness, applicable limited partnership and limited liability company laws in the Marshall Islands and Norway and other laws and regulations.

Distributions of Available Cash

General

Within approximately 45 days after the end of each quarter, we distribute all of our available cash (defined below) to unitholders of record on the applicable record date.

Definition of Available Cash

Available cash generally means, for each fiscal quarter, all cash on hand at the end of the quarter (including our proportionate share of cash on hand of certain subsidiaries we do not wholly own):

less, the amount of cash reserves (including our proportionate share of cash reserves of certain subsidiaries we do not wholly own) established by our board of directors and our subsidiaries to:

provide for the proper conduct of our business (including reserves for future capital expenditures and for our anticipated credit needs);

comply with applicable law, any of our debt instruments or other agreements;

provide funds to pay quarterly distributions on, and to make any redemption payments relating to, the Series A Preferred Units; or

provide funds for distributions to our unitholders and to our general partner for any one or more of the next four quarters;

plus, all cash on hand (including our proportionate share of cash on hand of certain subsidiaries we do not wholly own) on the date of determination of available cash for the quarter resulting from (1) working capital borrowings made after the end of the quarter and (2) cash distributions received after the end of the quarter from any equity interest in any person (other than a subsidiary of us), which distributions are paid by such person in respect of operations conducted by such person during such quarter. Working capital borrowings are generally borrowings that are made under a revolving credit facility and in all cases are used solely for working capital purposes or to pay distributions to partners.

Series A Preferred Units

Our Series A Preferred Units rank senior to our common units as to the payment of distributions and amounts payable upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up. Our Series A Preferred Units have a liquidation preference of \$24.00 per unit, plus any Series A unpaid cash distributions, plus all accrued but unpaid

Table of Contents

distributions on such Series A Preferred Unit with respect to the quarter in which the liquidation occurs to the date fixed for the payment of any amount upon liquidation. Our Series A Preferred Units are entitled to cumulative distributions from the date such units were actually issued, with distributions being calculated at an annual rate of 8.0% on the stated liquidation preference and payable quarterly in arrears within 45 days after the end of each quarter (commencing with the quarter ending March 31, 2017), when, as and if declared by our board of directors.

The Series A Preferred Units will be generally convertible, at the option of the holders of the Series A Preferred Units, into common units commencing on February 2, 2019 at the then applicable conversion rate. The conversion rate will be subject to adjustment under certain circumstances. In addition, the conversion rate will be redetermined on a quarterly basis, such that the conversion rate will be equal to \$24.00 (the Issue Price) divided by the product of (x) the book value per common unit at the end of the immediately preceding quarter (pro-forma for per unit cash distributions payable with respect to such quarter) multiplied by (y) the quotient of (i) the Issue Price divided by (ii) the book value per common unit on February 2, 2017. In addition, the Partnership may redeem the Series A Preferred Units at any time between February 2, 2019 and February 2, 2027 at the redemption price specified in our partnership agreement, provided, however, that upon notice from us to the holders of Series A Preferred Units of our intent to redeem, such holders may elect, instead, to convert their Series A Preferred Units into common units at the then applicable conversion rate.

Upon a change of control of the Partnership, the holders of Series A Preferred Units will have the right to require cash redemption at 100% of the Issue Price. In addition, the holders of Series A Preferred Units will have the right to cause the Partnership to redeem the Series A Preferred Units on February 2, 2027 in, at the option of the Partnership, (i) cash at a price equal to 70% of the Issue Price or (ii) common units such that each Series A Preferred Unit receives common units worth 80% of the Issue Price (based on the volume-weighted average trading price, as adjusted for splits, combinations and other similar transactions, of our common units as reported on the NYSE for the 30 trading day period ending on the fifth trading day immediately prior to the redemption date) plus any accrued and unpaid distributions. In addition, at any time following February 2, 2019 and subject to certain conditions, we will have the right to convert the Series A Preferred Units into common units at the then applicable conversion rate if the aggregate market value (calculated as set forth in the partnership agreement) of the common units into which the then outstanding Series A Preferred Units are convertible, based on the then applicable conversion rate, is greater than 130% of the aggregate Issue Price of the then outstanding Series A Preferred Units.

For additional information about our Series A Preferred Units, please read our Current Reports on Form 6-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 2, 2017, May 17, 2017 and June 30, 2017 and our Form 8-A/A filed on June 30, 2017.

Minimum Quarterly Distribution

Common unitholders are entitled under our partnership agreement to receive a quarterly distribution of \$0.375 per unit, to the extent we have sufficient cash on hand to pay the distribution, after establishment of cash reserves and payment of fees and expenses. There is no guarantee that we will pay the minimum quarterly distribution on the common units in any quarter. Even if our cash distribution policy is not modified or revoked, the amount of distributions paid under our policy and the decision to make any distribution is determined by our board of directors, taking into consideration the terms of our partnership agreement. We are prohibited from making any distributions to our common unitholders if it would cause an event of default, or an event of default is then existing, under our financing arrangements, or if full cumulative distributions have not been paid or are not contemporaneously being paid or provided for on all outstanding Series A Preferred Units through the most recent distribution payment date for the Series A Preferred Units.

Table of Contents

Operating Surplus and Capital Surplus

General

All cash distributed to unitholders is characterized as either operating surplus or capital surplus. We treat distributions of available cash from operating surplus differently than distributions of available cash from capital surplus.

Definition of Operating Surplus

Operating surplus for any period generally means:

\$17.0 million; *plus*

all of our cash receipts (including our proportionate share of cash receipts of certain subsidiaries we do not wholly own, provided, that cash receipts from the termination of an interest rate, currency or commodity hedge contract prior to its specified termination date will be included in operating surplus in equal quarterly installments over the remaining scheduled life of such hedge contract), excluding cash from (1) borrowings, other than working capital borrowings, (2) sales of equity and debt securities, (3) sales or other dispositions of assets outside the ordinary course of business, (4) capital contributions and (5) corporate reorganizations or restructurings; *plus*

working capital borrowings (including our proportionate share of working capital borrowings for certain subsidiaries we do not wholly own) made after the end of a quarter but before the date of determination of operating surplus for the quarter; *plus*

interest paid on debt incurred (including periodic net payments under related hedge contracts) and cash distributions paid on equity securities issued (including the amount of any incremental distributions made to the holders of our incentive distribution rights and our proportionate share of such interest and cash distributions paid by certain subsidiaries we do not wholly own), in each case, to finance all or any portion of the construction, replacement or improvement of a capital asset (such as a vessel) in respect of the period from such financing until the earlier to occur of the date the capital asset is put into service or the date that it is abandoned or disposed of; *plus*

interest paid on debt incurred (including periodic net payments under related hedge contracts) and cash distributions paid on equity securities issued (including the amount of any incremental distributions made to the holders of our incentive distribution rights and our proportionate share of such interest and cash distributions paid by certain subsidiaries we do not wholly own), in each case, to pay the construction period interest on debt incurred (including periodic net payments under related interest rate swap agreements), or to pay construction period distributions on equity issued, to finance the construction projects described in the immediately preceding bullet; *less*

all of our operating expenditures (which includes estimated maintenance and replacement capital expenditures and is further described below) of us and our subsidiaries (including our proportionate share of operating expenditures by certain subsidiaries we do not wholly own); *less*

the amount of cash reserves (including our proportionate share of cash reserves for certain subsidiaries we do not wholly own) established by our board of directors to provide funds for future operating expenditures; *less*

any cash loss realized on dispositions of assets acquired using investment capital expenditures; *less*

all working capital borrowings (including our proportionate share of working capital borrowings by certain subsidiaries we do not wholly own) not repaid within 12 months after having been incurred.

If a working capital borrowing, which increases operating surplus, is not repaid during the 12-month period following the borrowing, it will be deemed repaid at the end of such period, thus decreasing operating surplus at such time.

When such working capital borrowing is in fact repaid, it will not be treated as a reduction in operating surplus because operating surplus will have been previously reduced by the deemed repayment.

Table of Contents

As described above, operating surplus includes a provision that will enable us, if we choose, to distribute as operating surplus up to \$17.0 million of cash we receive in the future from non-operating sources, such as asset sales, issuances of securities and long-term borrowings, that would otherwise be distributed as capital surplus. In addition, the effect of including, as described above, certain cash distributions on equity securities or interest payments on debt in operating surplus would be to increase operating surplus by the amount of any such cash distributions or payments. As a result, we may also distribute as operating surplus up to the amount of any such cash distributions or interest payments we receive from non-operating sources.

Operating expenditures generally means all of our cash expenditures, including but not limited to taxes, employee and director compensation, reimbursement of expenses to our general partner, repayment of working capital borrowings, debt service payments, distributions on the Series A Preferred Units and payments made under any interest rate, currency or commodity hedge contracts (provided that payments made in connection with the termination of any hedge contract prior to the expiration of its specified termination date be included in operating expenditures in equal quarterly installments over the remaining scheduled life of such hedge contract), provided that operating expenditures will not include:

deemed repayments of working capital borrowings deducted from operating surplus pursuant to the last bullet point of the definition of operating surplus above when such repayment actually occurs;

payments (including prepayments and payment penalties) of principal of and premium on indebtedness, other than working capital borrowings;

expansion capital expenditures, investment capital expenditures or actual maintenance and replacement capital expenditures (which are discussed in further detail under **Capital Expenditures** below);

payment of transaction expenses (including taxes) relating to interim capital transactions;

payments made to Series A Preferred Unitholders to redeem, repurchase or otherwise acquire Series A Preferred Units; or

distributions to partners other than distributions on the Series A Preferred Units.

Capital Expenditures

For purposes of determining operating surplus, maintenance and replacement capital expenditures are those capital expenditures required to maintain over the long term the operating capacity of or the revenue generated by our capital assets, and expansion capital expenditures are those capital expenditures that increase the operating capacity of or the revenue generated by our capital assets. In our partnership agreement, we refer to these maintenance and replacement capital expenditures as maintenance capital expenditures. To the extent, however, that capital expenditures associated with acquiring a new vessel or improving an existing vessel increase the revenues or the operating capacity of our fleet, such capital expenditures would be classified as expansion capital expenditures.

Investment capital expenditures are those capital expenditures that are neither maintenance and replacement capital expenditures nor expansion capital expenditures. Investment capital expenditures largely consist of capital expenditures made for investment purposes. Examples of investment capital expenditures include traditional capital expenditures for investment purposes, such as purchases of equity securities, as well as other capital expenditures that might be made in lieu of such traditional investment capital expenditures, such as the acquisition of a capital asset for investment purposes.

Examples of maintenance and replacement capital expenditures include capital expenditures associated with drydocking, modifying an existing vessel or acquiring a new vessel to the extent such expenditures are incurred to maintain the operating capacity of or the revenue generated by our fleet. Maintenance and replacement capital expenditures will also include interest (and related fees) on debt incurred and distributions on equity issued (including the amount of any incremental distributions made to the holders of our incentive distribution rights) to finance the construction of a replacement vessel and paid in respect of the construction period, which we define

Table of Contents

as the period beginning on the date that we enter into a binding construction contract and ending on the earlier of the date that the replacement vessel commences commercial service or the date that the replacement vessel is abandoned or disposed of. Debt incurred to pay or equity issued to fund construction period interest payments, and distributions on such equity (including the amount of any incremental distributions made to the holders of our incentive distribution rights), will also be considered maintenance and replacement capital expenditures.

Because our maintenance and replacement capital expenditures can be very large and vary significantly in timing, the amount of our actual maintenance and replacement capital expenditures may differ substantially from period to period, which could cause similar fluctuations in the amounts of operating surplus, adjusted operating surplus and available cash for distribution to our unitholders, than if we subtracted actual maintenance and replacement capital expenditures from operating surplus each quarter. Accordingly, to eliminate the effect on operating surplus of these fluctuations, our partnership agreement will require that an amount equal to an estimate of the average quarterly maintenance and replacement capital expenditures necessary to maintain the operating capacity of or the revenue generated by our capital assets over the long term be subtracted from operating surplus each quarter, as opposed to the actual amounts spent. In our partnership agreement, we refer to these estimated maintenance and replacement capital expenditures to be subtracted from operating surplus as estimated maintenance capital expenditures. The amount of estimated maintenance and replacement capital expenditures deducted from operating surplus is subject to review and change by our board of directors at least once a year, provided that any change must be approved by our board's conflicts committee. The estimate will be made at least annually and whenever an event occurs that is likely to result in a material adjustment to the amount of our maintenance and replacement capital expenditures, such as a major acquisition or the introduction of new governmental regulations that will affect our fleet. For purposes of calculating operating surplus, any adjustment to this estimate will be prospective only.

The use of estimated maintenance and replacement capital expenditures in calculating operating surplus will have the following effects:

it will reduce the risk that actual maintenance and replacement capital expenditures in any one quarter will be large enough to make operating surplus less than the minimum quarterly distribution to be paid on all the common units for that quarter and subsequent quarters;

it may reduce the need for us to borrow to pay distributions; and

it may be difficult for us to raise our distribution on our common units above the minimum quarterly distribution and pay incentive distributions to KNOT.

Definition of Capital Surplus

Capital surplus generally will be generated only by:

borrowings other than working capital borrowings;

sales of debt and equity securities; and

sales or other dispositions of assets for cash, other than inventory, accounts receivable and other current assets sold in the ordinary course of business or non-current assets sold as part of normal retirements or replacements of assets.

Characterization of Common Unit Cash Distributions

We will treat all available cash distributed on our common units as coming from operating surplus until the sum of all available cash distributed since we began operations equals the operating surplus as of the most recent date of determination of available cash. We will treat any amount distributed on our common units in excess of operating surplus, regardless of its source, as capital surplus. As described above, operating surplus does not reflect actual cash on hand that is available for distribution to our unitholders. For example, it includes a provision that enables us, if we choose, to distribute as operating surplus up to \$17.0 million of cash we have

Table of Contents

received or will receive from non-operating sources since the time of our initial public offering, such as asset sales, issuances of securities and long-term borrowings, that would otherwise be distributed as capital surplus. We do not anticipate that we will make any distributions on our common units from capital surplus.

Definition of Adjusted Operating Surplus

Adjusted operating surplus for any period generally means:

operating surplus generated with respect to that period (excluding any amounts attributable to the item described in the first bullet point under Operating Surplus and Capital Surplus Definition of Operating Surplus above); *less*

the amount of any net increase in working capital borrowings (including our proportionate share of any changes in working capital borrowings of certain subsidiaries we do not wholly own) with respect to that period; *less*

the amount of any net reduction in cash reserves for operating expenditures (including our proportionate share of cash reserves of certain subsidiaries we do not wholly own) over that period not relating to an operating expenditure made during that period; *plus*

the amount of any net decrease in working capital borrowings (including our proportionate share of any changes in working capital borrowings of certain subsidiaries we do not wholly own) with respect to that period; *plus*

the amount of any net increase in cash reserves for operating expenditures (including our proportionate share of cash reserves of certain subsidiaries we do not wholly own) over that period to the extent such reserves are required (A) by any debt instrument for the repayment of principal, interest or premium or (B) for any payments on the Series A Preferred Units; *plus*

the amount of any net decrease made in subsequent periods to cash reserves for operating expenditures initially established with respect to such period to the extent such decrease results in a reduction in adjusted operating surplus in subsequent periods.

Adjusted operating surplus is intended to reflect the cash generated from operations during a particular period and therefore excludes net increases in working capital borrowings and net drawdowns of reserves of cash generated in prior periods.

Distributions of Available Cash From Operating Surplus

We will make distributions of available cash from operating surplus for any quarter in the following manner:

first, 98.15% to all common unitholders, pro rata, and 1.85% to our general partner, until we distribute for each outstanding common unit an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution for that quarter; and

thereafter, in the manner described in Incentive Distribution Rights below.

The preceding paragraph is based on the assumption that our general partner maintains its current 1.85% general partner interest and that we do not issue additional classes of equity securities.

General Partner Interest

Our partnership agreement initially provided that our general partner was entitled to 2.0% of all distributions that we make prior to our liquidation. Our general partner has the right, but not the obligation, to contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us to maintain its general partner interest if we issue additional units. Our general partner's general partner interest, and the percentage of our cash distributions to which it is entitled, is

Table of Contents

proportionately reduced if we issue additional units and our general partner does not contribute a proportionate amount of capital to us in order to maintain its general partner interest. As of the date of this prospectus, our general partner's general partner interest had been reduced to 1.85%.

Incentive Distribution Rights

Incentive distribution rights represent the right to receive an increasing percentage of quarterly distributions of available cash from operating surplus after the minimum quarterly distribution for our common units and the target distribution levels have been achieved. KNOT currently holds our incentive distribution rights. Our incentive distribution rights may be transferred separately from any other interest, subject to restrictions in our partnership agreement. Except for transfers of our incentive distribution rights to an affiliate or another entity as part of a merger or consolidation with or into, or sale of all or substantially all of its assets to, such affiliate or entity, the approval of a majority of our common units (excluding common units held by our general partner and its affiliates), generally is required for a transfer of our incentive distribution rights to a third party prior to March 31, 2018. Any transfer by KNOT of our incentive distribution rights would not change the percentage allocations of quarterly distributions with respect to such rights.

If for any quarter we have distributed available cash from operating surplus to the common unitholders in an amount equal to the minimum quarterly distribution, then, we will distribute any additional available cash from operating surplus for that quarter among the common unitholders, our general partner and the holders of the incentive distribution rights in the following manner:

first, 98.15% to all common unitholders, pro rata, and 1.85% to our general partner, until each common unitholder receives a total of \$0.43125 per unit for that quarter (the first target distribution);

second, 85.15% to all common unitholders, pro rata, 1.85% to our general partner and 13.0% to the holders of our incentive distribution rights, pro rata, until each common unitholder receives a total of \$0.46875 per unit for that quarter (the second target distribution);

third, 75.15% to all common unitholders, pro rata, 1.85% to our general partner and 23.0% to the holders of our incentive distribution rights pro rata, until each common unitholder receives a total of \$0.5625 per unit for that quarter (the third target distribution); and

thereafter, 50.15% to all common unitholders, pro rata, 1.85% to our general partner and 48.0% to the holders of our incentive distribution rights, pro rata.

The percentage interests set forth above assume that our general partner maintains its current 1.85% general partner interest and that we do not issue additional classes of equity securities.

Percentage Allocations of Available Cash From Operating Surplus

The following table illustrates the percentage allocations of the additional available cash from operating surplus among our common unitholders, our general partner and the holders of our incentive distribution rights up to the various target distribution levels. The amounts set forth under Marginal Percentage Interest in Distributions are the

percentage interests of our common unitholders, our general partner and the holders of our incentive distribution rights in any available cash from operating surplus we distribute up to and including the corresponding amount in the column Total Quarterly Distribution Target, until available cash from operating surplus we distribute reaches the next target distribution level, if any. The percentage interests shown for our common unitholders, our general partner and the holders of our incentive distribution rights for the minimum quarterly distribution are also applicable to quarterly distributions that are less than the minimum quarterly distribution. The percentage interests shown for our general partner include its current 1.85% general partner interest only and assume that our general partner has contributed any capital necessary to maintain its 1.85% general partner interest.

Table of Contents

	Total Quarterly Distribution Target	Marginal Percentage Interest in Distributions		Holders of Incentive Distribution Rights
		Common Unitholders	General Partner	
Minimum Quarterly Distribution	\$0.375	98.15%	1.85%	0%
First Target Distribution	up to \$0.43125	98.15%	1.85%	0%
Second Target Distribution	above \$0.43125 up to \$0.46875	85.15%	1.85%	13.0%
Third Target Distribution	above \$0.46875 up to \$0.5625	75.15%	1.85%	23.0%
Thereafter	above \$0.5625	50.15%	1.85%	48.0%

Right to Reset Incentive Distribution Levels

KNOT, as the holder of all of our incentive distribution rights, has the right under our partnership agreement to elect to relinquish the right to receive incentive distributions based on the initial target distribution levels and to reset, at higher levels, the minimum quarterly distribution amount and target distribution levels upon which our incentive distributions would be set. KNOT's right to reset the minimum quarterly distribution amount and the target distribution levels upon which our incentive distributions are based may be exercised, without approval of our unitholders or the conflicts committee of our board of directors, at any time we have made cash distributions to the holders of our incentive distribution rights at the highest level of incentive distribution for each of the prior four consecutive fiscal quarters. If at the time of any election to reset the minimum quarterly distribution amount and the target distribution levels KNOT and its affiliates are not the holders of a majority of our incentive distribution rights, then any such election to reset shall be subject to the prior written concurrence of our board of directors that the conditions described in the immediately preceding sentence have been satisfied. The reset minimum quarterly distribution amount and target distribution levels will be higher than the minimum quarterly distribution amount and the target distribution levels prior to the reset such that there will be no incentive distributions paid under the reset target distribution levels until cash distributions per unit following this event increase as described below. We anticipate that KNOT would exercise this reset right in order to facilitate acquisitions or internal growth projects that would otherwise not be sufficiently accretive to cash distributions per common unit, taking into account the existing levels of incentive distributions being made to KNOT.

In connection with the resetting of the minimum quarterly distribution amount and the target distribution levels and the corresponding relinquishment by KNOT of incentive distributions based on the target distributions prior to the reset, KNOT will be entitled to receive a number of newly issued common units based on a predetermined formula described below that takes into account the cash parity value of the average cash distributions related to our incentive distribution rights received by KNOT for the two quarters prior to the reset event as compared to the average cash distributions per common unit during this period. We will also issue an additional amount of general partner units in order to maintain the general partner's ownership interest in us relative to the issuance of the additional common units.

The number of common units that KNOT would be entitled to receive from us in connection with a resetting of the minimum quarterly distribution amount and the target distribution levels then in effect would be equal to (x) the average amount of cash distributions received by KNOT in respect of its incentive distribution rights during the two consecutive fiscal quarters ended immediately prior to the date of such reset election divided by (y) the average of the amount of cash distributed per common unit during each of these two quarters. The issuance of the additional common units will be conditioned upon approval of the listing or admission for trading of such common units by the national securities exchange on which the common units are then listed or admitted for trading.

Following a reset election, the minimum quarterly distribution amount will be reset to an amount equal to the average cash distribution amount per unit for the two fiscal quarters immediately preceding the reset election (such amount is referred to as the reset minimum quarterly distribution) and the target distribution levels will

Table of Contents

be reset to be correspondingly higher such that we would distribute all of our available cash from operating surplus for each quarter thereafter as follows:

first, 98.15% to all common unitholders, pro rata, and 1.85% to our general partner, until each common unitholder receives an amount equal to 115.0% of the reset minimum quarterly distribution for that quarter;

second, 85.15% to all common unitholders, pro rata, 1.85% to our general partner and 13.0% to the holders of our incentive distribution rights, pro rata, until each common unitholder receives an amount per unit equal to 125.0% of the reset minimum quarterly distribution for that quarter;

third, 75.15% to all common unitholders, pro rata, 1.85% to our general partner, and 23.0% to the holders of our incentive distribution rights, pro rata, until each common unitholder receives an amount per unit equal to 150.0% of the reset minimum quarterly distribution for that quarter; and

thereafter, 50.15% to all common unitholders, pro rata, 1.85% to our general partner and 48.0% to the holders of our incentive distribution rights, pro rata.

Assuming that it continues to hold a majority of our incentive distribution rights, KNOT will be entitled to cause the minimum quarterly distribution amount and the target distribution levels to be reset on more than one occasion, provided that it may not make a reset election except at a time when the holders of our incentive distribution rights have received incentive distributions for the prior four consecutive fiscal quarters based on the highest level of incentive distributions that the holders of our incentive distribution rights are entitled to receive under our partnership agreement.

Distributions From Capital Surplus

How Distributions From Capital Surplus Will Be Made

We will make distributions of available cash from capital surplus, if any, in the following manner:

first, 98.15% to all common unitholders, pro rata, and 1.85% to our general partner, until the minimum quarterly distribution is reduced to zero, as described below; and

thereafter, we will make all distributions of available cash from capital surplus as if they were from operating surplus.

The preceding paragraph is based on the assumption that our general partner maintains its 1.85% general partner interest and that we do not issue additional classes of equity securities.

Effect of a Distribution From Capital Surplus

Our partnership agreement treats a distribution of capital surplus on our common units as the repayment of the consideration for the issuance of the units, which is a return of capital. Each time a distribution of capital surplus is made, the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels will be reduced in the same proportion as the distribution had to the fair market value of the common units prior to the announcement of the distribution. Because distributions of capital surplus will reduce the minimum quarterly distribution, after any of these distributions are made, it may be easier for KNOT to receive incentive distributions. However, any distribution of capital surplus before the minimum quarterly distribution is reduced to zero cannot be applied to the payment of the minimum quarterly distribution.

Once we reduce the minimum quarterly distribution and the target distribution levels to zero, we will then make all future distributions 50.15% to the holders of common units, 1.85% to our general partner and 48.0% to the holders of our incentive distribution rights (currently, KNOT). The 1.85% interest shown for our general partner assumes that our general partner maintains its current 1.85% general partner interest.

Table of Contents

Adjustment to the Minimum Quarterly Distribution and Target Distribution Levels

In addition to adjusting the minimum quarterly distribution and target distribution levels to reflect a distribution of capital surplus, if we combine our common units into fewer units or subdivide our common units into a greater number of units, we will proportionately adjust:

the minimum quarterly distribution;

the target distribution levels; and

the initial unit price.

For example, if a two-for-one split of the common units should occur, the minimum quarterly distribution, the target distribution levels and the initial unit price would each be reduced to 50.0% of its initial level. We will not make any adjustment by reason of the issuance of additional common units for cash or property.

Distributions of Cash Upon Liquidation

If we dissolve in accordance with our partnership agreement, we will sell or otherwise dispose of our assets in a process called liquidation. Neither the sale of all or substantially all of our property or business, nor the consolidation or merger of us with or into any other entity, individually or in a series of transactions, will be deemed a liquidation. We will apply any proceeds of liquidation available for distribution to our general and limited partners in the manner set forth below.

First, holders of our Series A Preferred Units will have the right to receive the liquidation preference of \$24.00 per unit, plus any Series A unpaid cash distributions, plus all accrued but unpaid distributions on such Series A Preferred Units with respect to the quarter in which the liquidation occurs to the date fixed for the payment of any amount upon liquidation.

After such Series A Preferred Unit distributions, if, as of the date three trading days prior to the announcement of the proposed liquidation, the average closing price of our common units for the preceding 20 trading days (the current market price) is greater than the initial public offering common unit price (less any prior capital surplus distributions and any prior cash distributions made on our common units in connection with a partial liquidation), then the proceeds of the liquidation will be applied as follows:

first, 98.15% to the common unitholders, pro rata, and 1.85% to our general partner, until we distribute for each outstanding common unit an amount equal to the current market price of our common units; and

thereafter, 50.15% to all common unitholders, pro rata, 48.0% to holders of incentive distribution rights and 1.85% to our general partner.

If, as of the date three trading days prior to the announcement of the proposed liquidation, the current market price of our common units is equal to or less than the initial public offering common unit price (less any prior capital surplus

distributions and any prior cash distributions made on our common units in connection with a partial liquidation), then the proceeds of the liquidation will be applied as follows:

first, 98.15% to the common unitholders, pro rata, and 1.85% to our general partner, until we distribute for each outstanding common unit an amount equal to the initial public offering unit price (less any prior capital surplus distributions and any prior cash distributions made on our common units in connection with a partial liquidation); and

thereafter, 50.15% to all common unitholders, pro rata, 48.0% to holders of incentive distribution rights and 1.85% to our general partner.

The immediately preceding two paragraphs are based on the assumption that our general partner maintains its current 1.85% general partner interest and that we do not issue additional classes of equity securities.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE OTHER CLASSES OF UNITS

Our partnership agreement authorizes us to issue an unlimited number of additional partnership interests and other equity securities for the consideration and with the rights, preferences, and privileges established by our board of directors without the approval of any of our unitholders other than as set forth under Description of the Common Units Voting Rights . As of August 21, 2017, no classes of limited partner interests were outstanding other than the common units and the Series A Preferred Units.

Should we offer other classes of units under this prospectus, a prospectus supplement relating to the particular class or series of units offered will include the specific terms of those units, including, among other things, the following:

the designation, stated value, and liquidation preference of the units and the maximum number of units to constitute the class or series;

the number of units to be offered;

the public offering price at which the units will be issued;

any sinking fund provisions of the units;

the voting rights, if any, of the units;

the distribution rights of the units, if any;

whether the units will be redeemable and, if so, the price and the terms and conditions on which the units may be redeemed, including the time during which the units may be redeemed and any accumulated distributions thereof, if any, that the holders of the units will be entitled to receive upon the redemption thereof;

the terms and conditions, if any, on which the units will be convertible into, or exchangeable for, the units of any other class or series of units representing limited partner interests, including the price or prices or the rate or rates of conversion or exchange and the method, if any, of adjusting the same;

a discussion of any additional material federal income tax considerations (other than as discussed in this prospectus), if any, regarding the units; and

any additional rights, preferences, privileges, limitations, and restrictions of the units.

The particular terms of any class or series of units will also be described in the amendment to the operating agreement relating to that class or series of units, which will be filed as an exhibit to or incorporated by reference in this prospectus at or before the time of issuance of any such class or series of units.

Such units will be fully paid and non-assessable when issued upon full payment of the purchase price therefor. The transfer agent, registrar, and distributions disbursement agent for the units will be designated in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE OPTIONS

We may issue options for the purchase of common units or other classes of units or any combination thereof. Our partnership agreement authorizes us to issue an unlimited number of options to purchase common units or other classes of units for the consideration and with the rights, preferences, and privileges established by our board of directors without the approval of any of our limited partners. Options may be issued independently or together with other securities and may be attached to or separate from any offered securities. Each series of options will be issued under a separate option agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as option agent. The option agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the options and will not have any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of options. A copy of the option agreement will be filed with the SEC in connection with the offering of options.

The prospectus supplement relating to a particular issue of options to purchase common units or other classes of units or any combination thereof will describe the terms of such options, including, among other things, the following:

the title of the options;

the offering price for the options, if any;

the aggregate number of the options;

the designation and terms of the common units or other classes of units that maybe purchased upon exercise of the options;

if applicable, the designation and terms of the securities that the options are issued with and the number of options issued with each security;

if applicable, the date from and after which the options and any securities issued with the options will be separately transferable;

the number of common units or other classes of units that may be purchased upon exercise of an option and the price at which such securities may be purchased upon exercise;

the dates on which the right to exercise the options commence and expire;

if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of the options that may be exercised at any one time;

the currency or currency units in which the offering price, if any, and the exercise price are payable;

if applicable, a discussion of material federal income tax considerations;

anti-dilution provisions of the options, if any;

redemption or call provisions, if any, applicable to the options;

any additional terms of the options, including terms, procedures, and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the options; and

any other information we think is important about the options.

Each option will entitle the holder of the option to purchase at the exercise price set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement the number of common units or other classes of units being offered. Holders may exercise options at any time up to the close of business on the expiration date set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised options are void. Holders may exercise options as set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the options being offered.

Until you exercise your options to purchase our common units or other classes of units, you will not have any rights as a holder thereof, by virtue of your ownership of the options.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE WARRANTS

We may issue warrants for the purchase of common units or other classes of units or any combination thereof. Our partnership agreement authorizes us to issue an unlimited number of warrants to purchase common units or other classes of units for the consideration and with the rights, preferences, and privileges established by our board of directors without the approval of any of our limited partners. Warrants may be issued independently or together with other securities and may be attached to or separate from any offered securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants and will not have any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants. A copy of the warrant agreement will be filed with the SEC in connection with the offering of warrants.

The prospectus supplement relating to a particular issue of warrants to purchase common units or other classes of units or any combination of the foregoing will describe the terms of such warrants, including, among other things, the following:

the title of the warrants;

the offering price for the warrants, if any;

the aggregate number of the warrants;

the designation and terms of the common units or other classes of units that maybe purchased upon exercise of the warrants;

if applicable, the designation and terms of the securities that the warrants are issued with and the number of warrants issued with each security;

if applicable, the date from and after which the warrants and any securities issued with the warrants will be separately transferable;

the number of common units or other classes of units that may be purchased upon exercise of a warrant and the price at which such securities may be purchased upon exercise;

the dates on which the right to exercise the warrants commence and expire;

if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of the warrants that may be exercised at any one time;

the currency or currency units in which the offering price, if any, and the exercise price are payable;

if applicable, a discussion of material federal income tax considerations;

anti-dilution provisions of the warrants, if any;

redemption or call provisions, if any, applicable to the warrants;

any additional terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures, and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants; and

any other information we think is important about the warrants.

Each warrant will entitle the holder of the warrant to purchase the number common units or other classes of units being offered at the exercise price set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Holders may exercise warrants at any time up to the close of business on the expiration date set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised warrants are void. Holders may exercise warrants as set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the warrants being offered.

Until you exercise your warrants to purchase our common units or other classes of units, you will not have any rights as a holder of common units or other classes of units by virtue of your ownership of warrants.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE RIGHTS

We may issue rights to purchase common units or other classes of units or any combination thereof. Our partnership agreement authorizes us to issue an unlimited number of rights to purchase common units or other classes of units for the consideration and with the rights, preferences, and privileges established by our board of directors without the approval of any of our limited partners. These rights may be issued independently or together with any other securities and may or may not be transferable by the holder receiving the rights. In connection with any offering of such rights, we may enter into a standby arrangement with one or more underwriters or other purchasers pursuant to which the underwriters or other purchasers may be required to purchase any securities remaining unsubscribed for after such offering.

Each series of rights will be issued under a separate rights agreement, which we will enter into with a bank or trust company, as rights agent, all as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. The rights agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the certificates relating to the rights and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust with any holders of rights certificates or beneficial owners of rights. We will file the rights agreement and the rights certificates relating to each series of rights with the SEC, and incorporate them by reference as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part on or before the time we issue a series of rights.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of any offering of rights for which this prospectus is being delivered, including, among other things, the following:

the date of determining the unitholders entitled to the rights distribution;

the number of rights issued or to be issued to each unitholder;

the exercise price payable for each common unit or other unit upon the exercise of the rights;

the number and terms of the common units or other classes of units which may be purchased per each right;

the extent to which the rights are transferable;

the date on which the holder's ability to exercise the rights shall commence, and the date on which the rights shall expire;

the extent to which the rights may include an over-subscription privilege with respect to unsubscribed securities;

if applicable, the material terms of any standby underwriting or purchase arrangement entered into by us in connection with the offering of such rights;

any other terms of the rights, including the terms, procedures, conditions, and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the rights; and

any other information we think is important about the rights.

The description in the applicable prospectus supplement of any rights that we may offer will not necessarily be complete and will be qualified in its entirety by reference to the applicable rights agreement and rights certificate, which will be filed with the SEC.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES

When used in this section, the terms we, us, our and issuer refer to KNOT Offshore Partners LP.

The following is a description of the terms of the debt securities, which may be either senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities, and which we collectively refer to as the debt securities. The descriptions below relating to the debt securities and the indentures are summaries of the anticipated provisions thereof, do not purport to be complete and are subject to, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, all of the provisions of the applicable indenture and any applicable U.S. federal income tax considerations, as well as any applicable modifications of or additions to the general terms described below in the applicable prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement may also state that any of the terms set forth herein are inapplicable to such series of debt securities.

If we offer senior debt securities, we will issue them under a senior indenture. If we offer subordinated debt securities, we will issue them under a subordinated indenture. A form of each indenture is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. We have not restated either indenture in its entirety in this description. You should read the relevant indenture because it, and not this description, controls your rights as holders of the debt securities. Capitalized terms used in the summary have the meanings specified in the indentures.

General

The debt securities will be:

our direct general obligations;

either senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities; and

issued under separate indentures (which may be existing indentures) between us and a trustee that we will name in the related prospectus supplement.

The term Trustee as used in this prospectus shall refer to the trustee under either of the above indentures. The debt securities will be governed by the provisions of the related indenture and those made part of the indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 (the Trust Indenture Act).

Specific Terms of Each Series of Debt Securities

The indenture does not limit the total amount of debt securities that may be issued. Debt securities under the indenture may be issued from time to time in separate series, up to the aggregate amount authorized for each such series.

We will prepare a prospectus supplement and either a supplemental indenture or a resolution of our board of directors and an accompanying officers' certificate relating to any series of debt securities that we offer, which will include specific terms relating to some or all of the following:

whether the debt securities are senior or subordinated debt securities and, if subordinated debt securities, the specific subordination provision applicable thereto;

the guarantors of the debt securities, if any;

whether the debt securities are secured or unsecured;

the form and title of the debt securities;

the total principal amount of the debt securities and any limit on such total principal amount;

the price at which we will issue the debt securities;

the date or dates on which the debt securities may be issued;

Table of Contents

the portion of the principal amount which will be payable if the maturity of the debt securities is accelerated;

any right we may have to defer payments of interest by extending the dates payments are due and whether interest on those deferred amounts will be payable;

the dates on which the principal and premium, if any, of the debt securities will be payable;

the interest rate which the debt securities will bear and the interest payment dates for the debt securities;

any optional redemption provisions;

whether the debt securities are convertible into or exchangeable for other securities and the conversion or exchange rate and other related terms, conditions and features.

any sinking fund or analogous provision, or option of the holder thereof, that would obligate us to repurchase, repay or otherwise redeem the debt securities, and the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which, and the other terms and conditions upon which such debt securities will be repurchased, repaid or redeemed;

whether the debt securities are entitled to the benefits of any guarantees by subsidiary guarantors;

whether the debt securities may be issued in amounts other than \$1,000 each or multiples thereof;

deletions from, modifications of or additions to the events of default or covenants with respect to debt securities of the series, whether or not such events of default or covenants are consistent with the events of default or covenants described herein; and

any other terms of the series of debt securities and any additions, deletions or modifications to the applicable indenture.

This description of debt securities will be deemed modified, amended or supplemented by any description of any series of debt securities set forth in a prospectus supplement related to that series.

The prospectus supplement will also describe any material U.S. federal income tax consequences or other special considerations regarding the applicable series of debt securities, including those relating to:

debt securities with respect to which payments of principal, premium or interest are determined with reference to an index or formula, including changes in prices of particular securities, currencies or commodities;

debt securities with respect to which principal, premium or interest is payable in a foreign or composite currency;

debt securities that are issued at a discount below their stated principal amount, bearing no interest or interest at a rate that at the time of issuance is below market rates; and

variable rate debt securities that are exchangeable for fixed rate debt securities.

Interest payments may be made by check mailed to the registered holders of debt securities or, if so stated in the applicable prospectus supplement, at the option of a holder, by wire transfer to an account designated by the holder.

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, fully registered securities may be transferred or exchanged at the office of the Trustee at which its corporate trust business is principally administered in the United States, subject to the limitations provided in the indenture, without the payment of any service charge, other than any applicable tax or governmental charge.

Table of Contents

Any funds paid to a paying agent for the payment of amounts due on any debt securities that remain unclaimed for two years will be returned to the issuer and the holders of the debt securities must look only to the issuer for payment after that time.

Covenants

Reports

The indenture contains the following covenant for the benefit of the holders of all series of debt securities:

So long as any debt securities are outstanding, KNOT Offshore Partners will:

for as long as it is required to file information with the SEC pursuant to the Exchange Act, file with the Trustee, within 15 days after it is required to file with the SEC, copies of the annual report and of the information, documents and other reports which it is required to file with the SEC pursuant to the Exchange Act; and

if it is required to furnish annual or quarterly reports to its unitholders pursuant to the Exchange Act, file with the Trustee any annual report or other reports sent to unitholders generally.

A series of debt securities may contain additional financial and other covenants. The applicable prospectus supplement will contain a description of any such covenants that are added to the indenture specifically for the benefit of holders of a particular series.

Events of Default, Remedies and Notice

Events of Default

Each of the following events will be an Event of Default under the indenture with respect to a series of debt securities:

default in any payment of interest on any debt securities of that series when due that continues for 30 days;

default in the payment of principal of or premium, if any, on any debt securities of that series when due at its stated maturity, upon redemption, upon required repurchase or otherwise;

default in the payment of any sinking fund payment on any debt securities of that series when due;

failure by the issuer to comply for 60 days after notice with the other agreements contained in the indenture, any supplement to the indenture or any board resolution authorizing the issuance of that series; or

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of the issuer.

Exercise of Remedies

If an Event of Default, other than an Event of Default described in the fifth bullet point above, occurs and is continuing, the Trustee or the holders of at least 25.0% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series may declare the entire principal of, premium, if any, and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on all the debt securities of that series to be due and payable immediately.

A default under the fourth bullet point above will not constitute an Event of Default until the Trustee or the holders of at least 25.0% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series notify us of the default and such default is not cured within 60 days after receipt of such notice.

If an Event of Default described in the fifth bullet point above occurs and is continuing, the principal of, premium, if any, and accrued and unpaid interest on all outstanding debt securities of all series will become immediately due and payable without any declaration of acceleration or other act on the part of the Trustee or any holders.

Table of Contents

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of a series may:

waive all past defaults, except with respect to nonpayment of principal, premium or interest; and

rescind any declaration of acceleration by the Trustee or the holders with respect to the debt securities of that series, but only if:

rescinding the declaration of acceleration would not conflict with any judgment or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction; and

all existing Events of Default have been cured or waived, other than the nonpayment of principal, premium or interest on the debt securities of that series that have become due solely by the declaration of acceleration. If an Event of Default occurs and is continuing, the Trustee will be under no obligation, except as otherwise provided in the indenture, to exercise any of the rights or powers under the indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders unless such holders have offered to the Trustee reasonable indemnity or security against any costs, liability or expense. No holder may pursue any remedy with respect to the indenture or the debt securities of any series, except to enforce the right to receive payment of principal, premium or interest when due, unless:

such holder has previously given the Trustee notice that an Event of Default with respect to that series is continuing;

holders of at least 25.0% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have requested that the Trustee pursue the remedy;

such holders have offered the Trustee reasonable indemnity or security against any cost, liability or expense;

the Trustee has not complied with such request within 60 days after the receipt of the request and the offer of indemnity or security; and

the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have not given the Trustee a direction that, in the opinion of the Trustee, is inconsistent with such request within such 60-day period.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of a series have the right, subject to certain restrictions, to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Trustee or of exercising any right or power conferred on the Trustee with respect to that series of debt securities. The Trustee, however, may refuse to follow any direction that:

conflicts with law;

is inconsistent with any provision of the indenture;

the Trustee determines is unduly prejudicial to the rights of any other holder; or

would involve the Trustee in personal liability.

Notice of Event of Default

Within 30 days after the occurrence of an Event of Default, we are required to give written notice to the Trustee and indicate the status of the default and what action we are taking or propose to take to cure the default. In addition, we are required to deliver to the Trustee, within 120 days after the end of each fiscal year, a compliance certificate indicating that we have complied with all covenants contained in the indenture or whether any default or Event of Default has occurred during the previous year.

If an Event of Default occurs and is continuing and is known to the Trustee, the Trustee must mail to each holder a notice of the Event of Default by the later of 90 days after the Event of Default occurs or 30 days after the Trustee knows of the Event of Default. Except in the case of a default in the payment of principal, premium

Table of Contents

or interest with respect to any debt securities, the Trustee may withhold such notice, but only if and so long as the board of directors, the executive committee or a committee of directors or responsible officers of the Trustee in good faith determines that withholding such notice is in the interests of the holders.

Amendments and Waivers

The issuer may amend the indenture without the consent of any holder of debt securities to:

cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency;

convey, transfer, assign, mortgage or pledge any property to or with the Trustee;

provide for the assumption by a successor of our obligations under the indenture;

add guarantors with respect to the debt securities;

change or eliminate any restriction on the payment of principal of, or premium, if any, on, any debt securities;

secure the debt securities;

add covenants for the benefit of the holders or surrender any right or power conferred upon the issuer;

make any change that does not adversely affect the rights of any holder;

add or appoint a successor or separate Trustee; or

comply with any requirement of the SEC in connection with the qualification of the indenture under the Trust Indenture Act.

In addition, the issuer may amend the indenture if the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of all debt securities of each series that would be affected then outstanding under the indenture consent to it. The issuer may not, however, without the consent of each holder of outstanding debt securities of each series that would be affected, amend the indenture to:

reduce the percentage in principal amount of debt securities of any series whose holders must consent to an amendment;

reduce the rate of or extend the time for payment of interest on any debt securities;

reduce the principal of or extend the stated maturity of any debt securities;

reduce the premium payable upon the redemption of any debt securities or change the time at which any debt securities may or shall be redeemed;

make any debt securities payable in any currency other than U.S. dollars;

in the case of any subordinated debt security, make any change to the subordination provisions that adversely affects the rights of any holder under such provisions;

impair the right of any holder to receive payment of premium, principal or interest with respect to such holder's debt securities on or after the applicable due date;

impair the right of any holder to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment with respect to such holder's debt securities;

release any security that has been granted in respect of the debt securities;

make any change to the amendment provisions which require each holder's consent;

in the case of any subordinated debt security, make any change to the subordination provisions that limits or terminates the benefits applicable to any holder of senior indebtedness of KNOT Offshore Partners; or

make any change to the waiver provisions.

Table of Contents

The consent of the holders is not necessary under the indenture to approve the particular form of any proposed amendment. It is sufficient if such consent approves the substance of the proposed amendment. After an amendment under the indenture becomes effective, the issuer is required to mail to all holders a notice briefly describing the amendment. The failure to give, or any defect in, such notice, however, will not impair or affect the validity of the amendment.

The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each affected series, on behalf of all such holders, and subject to certain rights of the Trustee, may waive:

compliance by the issuer with certain restrictive provisions of the indenture; and

any past default under the indenture, subject to certain rights of the Trustee under the indenture; except that such majority of holders may not waive a default: (i) in the payment of principal, premium or interest or (ii) in respect of a provision that under the indenture cannot be amended without, in the case of either (i) or (ii), the consent of all holders of the series of debt securities that is affected.

Defeasance

At any time, the issuer may terminate, with respect to debt securities of a particular series, all of its obligations under such series of debt securities and the indenture, which we call a legal defeasance. If the issuer decides to make a legal defeasance, however, the issuer may not terminate its obligations:

relating to the defeasance trust;

to register the transfer or exchange of the debt securities;

to replace mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities; or

to maintain a registrar and paying agent in respect of the debt securities.

If the issuer exercises its legal defeasance option, any guarantee will terminate with respect to that series of debt securities.

At any time the issuer may also effect a covenant defeasance, which means it has elected to terminate its obligations under covenants applicable to a series of debt securities and described in the prospectus supplement applicable to such series, other than as described in such prospectus supplement.

The legal defeasance option may be exercised notwithstanding a prior exercise of the covenant defeasance option. If the legal defeasance option is exercised, payment of the affected series of debt securities may not be accelerated because of an Event of Default with respect to that series. If the covenant defeasance option is exercised, payment of the affected series of debt securities may not be accelerated because of an Event of Default specified in the fourth or

fifth bullet points under Events of Default above or an Event of Default that is added specifically for such series and described in a prospectus supplement.

In order to exercise either defeasance option, the issuer must:

irrevocably deposit in trust with the Trustee money or certain U.S. government obligations for the payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest on the series of debt securities to redemption or maturity, as the case may be;

comply with certain other conditions, including that no default has occurred and is continuing after the deposit in trust; and

deliver to the Trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that holders of the series of debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance and

Table of Contents

will be subject to federal income tax on the same amount and in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such deposit and defeasance had not occurred. In the case of legal defeasance only, such opinion of counsel must be based on a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service, or IRS, or other change in applicable federal income tax law.

No Personal Liability

None of the past, present or future partners, incorporators, managers, members, directors, officers, employees or unitholders of the issuer or our general partner will have any liability for the obligations of the issuer under either indenture or the debt securities or for any claim based on such obligations or their creation.

By accepting a debt security, each holder will be deemed to have waived and released all such liability. This waiver and release are part of the consideration for our issuance of the debt securities. This waiver may not be effective, however, to waive liabilities under the federal securities laws and it is the view of the SEC that such a waiver is against public policy.

Provisions Relating only to the Senior Debt Securities

The senior debt securities will rank equally in right of payment with all of our other senior and unsubordinated debt. The senior debt securities will be effectively subordinated, however, to all of our secured debt to the extent of the value of the collateral for that debt. We will disclose the amount of our secured debt in the prospectus supplement.

Provisions Relating only to the Subordinated Debt Securities

Subordinated Debt Securities Subordinated to Senior Indebtedness

The subordinated debt securities will rank junior in right of payment to all of the Senior Indebtedness of KNOT Offshore Partners. Senior Indebtedness will be defined in a supplemental indenture or authorizing resolutions respecting any issuance of a series of subordinated debt securities, and the definition will be set forth in the prospectus supplement.

Payment Blockages

The subordinated indenture will provide that no payment of principal, interest and any premium on the subordinated debt securities may be made in the event:

we or our property is involved in any voluntary or involuntary liquidation or bankruptcy;

we fail to pay the principal, interest, any premium or any other amounts on any Senior Indebtedness of KNOT Offshore Partners within any applicable grace period or the maturity of such Senior Indebtedness is accelerated following any other default, subject to certain limited exceptions set forth in the subordinated indenture; or

any other default on any Senior Indebtedness of KNOT Offshore Partners occurs that permits immediate acceleration of its maturity, in which case a payment blockage on the subordinated debt securities will be

imposed for a maximum of 179 days at any one time.

No Limitation on Amount of Senior Debt

The subordinated indenture will not limit the amount of Senior Indebtedness that KNOT Offshore Partners may incur, unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Table of Contents

Book Entry, Delivery and Form

A series of debt securities may be issued in the form of one or more global certificates deposited with a depository. We expect that The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York (DTC) will act as depository. If a series of debt securities is issued in book-entry form, one or more global certificates will be issued and deposited with or on behalf of DTC and physical certificates will not be issued to each holder. A global security may not be transferred unless it is exchanged in whole or in part for a certificated security, except that DTC, its nominees and their successors may transfer a global security as a whole to one another.

DTC will keep a computerized record of its participants, such as a broker, whose clients have purchased the debt securities. The participants will then keep records of their clients who purchased the debt securities. Beneficial interests in global securities will be shown on, and transfers of beneficial interests in global securities will be made only through, records maintained by DTC and its participants.

DTC advises us that it is:

- a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law;

- a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law;

- a member of the U.S. Federal Reserve System;

- a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code; and

- a clearing agency registered under the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act.

DTC is owned by a number of its participants and by the NYSE and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). The rules that apply to DTC and its participants are on file with the SEC.

DTC holds securities that its participants deposit with DTC. DTC also records the settlement among participants of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, in deposited securities through computerized records for participants accounts. This eliminates the need to exchange certificates. Participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations.

Principal, premium, if any, and interest payments due on the global securities will be wired to DTC s nominee. The issuer, the Trustee and any paying agent will treat DTC s nominee as the owner of the global securities for all purposes. Accordingly, the issuer, the Trustee and any paying agent will have no direct responsibility or liability to pay amounts due on the global securities to owners of beneficial interests in the global securities.

It is DTC s current practice, upon receipt of any payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest, to credit participants accounts on the payment date according to their respective holdings of beneficial interests in the global securities as shown on DTC s records. In addition, it is DTC s current practice to assign any consenting or voting rights to participants, whose accounts are credited with debt securities on a record date, by using an omnibus proxy.

Payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in the global securities, as well as voting by participants, will be governed by the customary practices between the participants and the owners of beneficial interests, as is the case with debt securities held for the account of customers registered in street name. Payments to holders of beneficial interests are the responsibility of the participants and not of DTC, the Trustee or us.

Table of Contents

Beneficial interests in global securities will be exchangeable for certificated securities with the same terms in authorized denominations only if:

DTC notifies the issuer that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depositary or if DTC ceases to be a clearing agency registered under applicable law and a successor depositary is not appointed by the issuer within 90 days; or

the issuer determines not to require all of the debt securities of a series to be represented by a global security and notifies the Trustee of the decision.

The Trustee

A separate trustee may be appointed for any series of debt securities. We may maintain banking and other commercial relationships with the Trustee and its affiliates in the ordinary course of business, and the Trustee may own debt securities.

Governing Law

The indenture and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

Table of Contents

MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a discussion of the material U.S. federal income tax considerations that may be relevant to current and prospective common unitholders and, unless otherwise noted in the following discussion, is the opinion of Vinson & Elkins L.L.P., our U.S. counsel, insofar as it contains legal conclusions with respect to matters of U.S. federal income tax law. The opinion of our counsel is dependent on the accuracy of factual representations made by us to them, including descriptions of our operations contained herein. Statements contained herein that we believe, we expect or similar phrases are not legal conclusions or opinions of counsel.

This discussion is based upon provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), U.S. Treasury Regulations (Treasury Regulations), and current administrative rulings and court decisions, all as in effect or existence on the date of this prospectus and all of which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive effect. Changes in these authorities may cause the tax consequences of unit ownership to vary substantially from the consequences described below. Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this section to we, our or us are references to KNOT Offshore Partners LP.

The following discussion applies only to beneficial owners of common units that own the common units as capital assets within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code (i.e., generally, for investment purposes) and is not intended to be applicable to all categories of investors, such as unitholders subject to special tax rules (e.g., financial institutions, insurance companies, broker-dealers, tax-exempt organizations, retirement plans or individual retirement accounts or former citizens or long-term residents of the United States), persons who hold the units as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion, constructive sale or other integrated transaction for U.S. federal income tax purposes, or persons that have a functional currency other than the U.S. dollar, each of whom may be subject to tax rules that differ significantly from those summarized below. If a partnership or other entity classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds our common units, the tax treatment of its partners generally will depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner in a partnership holding our common units, you should consult your own tax advisor regarding the tax consequences to you of the partnership's ownership of our common units.

No ruling has been or will be requested from the Internal Revenue Service (the IRS) regarding any matter affecting us or our current and prospective unitholders. The opinions and statements made herein may be challenged by the IRS and, if so challenged, may not be sustained upon review in a court.

This discussion does not contain information regarding any U.S. state, local, estate, gift or alternative minimum tax considerations concerning the ownership or disposition of common units. This discussion does not comment on all aspects of U.S. federal income taxation that may be important to particular unitholders in light of their individual circumstances, and each current and prospective unitholder is urged to consult its own tax advisor regarding the U.S. federal, state, local and other tax consequences of the ownership or disposition of common units.

Election to be Treated as a Corporation

We have elected to be treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes. As a result, U.S. Holders (as defined below) will not be directly subject to U.S. federal income tax on our income, but rather will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on distributions received from us and dispositions of units as described below.

U.S. Federal Income Taxation of U.S. Holders

As used herein, the term "U.S. Holder" means a beneficial owner of our common units that owns (actually or constructively) less than 10.0% of our equity and that is:

an individual U.S. citizen or resident (as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes),

Table of Contents

a corporation (or other entity that is classified as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) organized under the laws of the United States or any of its political subdivisions,

an estate the income of which is subject to U.S. federal income taxation regardless of its source, or

a trust if (1) a court within the United States is able to exercise primary jurisdiction over the administration of the trust and one or more U.S. persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (2) the trust has a valid election in effect to be treated as a U.S. person for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Distributions

Subject to the discussion below of the rules applicable to Passive Foreign Investment Companies (PFICs), any distributions to a U.S. Holder made by us with respect to our common units generally will constitute dividends to the extent of our current and accumulated earnings and profits, as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles. Distributions in excess of our earnings and profits will be treated first as a nontaxable return of capital to the extent of the U.S. Holder's tax basis in its common units and thereafter as capital gain. U.S. Holders that are corporations generally will not be entitled to claim a dividends-received deduction with respect to distributions they receive from us because we are not a U.S. corporation. Dividends received with respect to our common units generally will be treated as passive category income for purposes of computing allowable foreign tax credits for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Dividends received with respect to our common units by a U.S. Holder that is an individual, trust or estate (a U.S. Individual Holder) generally will be treated as qualified dividend income, which is taxable to such U.S. Individual Holder at preferential tax rates provided that: (1) our common units are readily tradable on an established securities market in the United States (such as the NYSE, on which our common units are traded); (2) we are not a PFIC for the taxable year during which the dividend is paid or the immediately preceding taxable year (which we do not believe we are, have been or will be, as discussed below under PFIC Status and Significant Tax Consequences); (3) the U.S. Individual Holder has owned the common units for more than 60 days during the 121-day period beginning 60 days before the date on which the common units become ex-dividend (and has not entered into certain risk limiting transactions with respect to such common units); and (4) the U.S. Individual Holder is not under an obligation to make related payments with respect to positions in substantially similar or related property. Because of the uncertainty of these matters, including whether we are or will be a PFIC, there is no assurance that any dividends paid on our common units will be eligible for these preferential rates in the hands of a U.S. Individual Holder, and any dividends paid on our common units that are not eligible for these preferential rates will be taxed as ordinary income to a U.S. Individual Holder.

Special rules may apply to any amounts received in respect of our common units that are treated as extraordinary dividends. In general, an extraordinary dividend is a dividend with respect to a common unit that is equal to or in excess of 10.0% of a unitholder's adjusted tax basis (or fair market value upon the unitholder's election) in such common unit. In addition, extraordinary dividends include dividends received within a one-year period that, in the aggregate, equal or exceed 20.0% of a unitholder's adjusted tax basis (or fair market value). If we pay an extraordinary dividend on our common units that is treated as qualified dividend income, then any loss recognized by a U.S. Individual Holder from the sale or exchange of such common units will be treated as long-term capital loss to the extent of the amount of such dividend.

Sale, Exchange or Other Disposition of Common Units

Subject to the discussion of PFIC status below, a U.S. Holder generally will recognize capital gain or loss upon a sale, exchange or other disposition of our units in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized by the U.S. Holder from such sale, exchange or other disposition and the U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in such units. The U.S. Holder's initial tax basis in its units generally will be the U.S. Holder's purchase price for the units and that tax basis will be reduced (but not below zero) by the amount of any distributions on

Table of Contents

the units that are treated as non-taxable returns of capital (as discussed above under *Distributions*). Such gain or loss will be treated as long-term capital gain or loss if the U.S. Holder's holding period is greater than one year at the time of the sale, exchange or other disposition. Certain U.S. Holders (including individuals) may be eligible for preferential rates of U.S. federal income tax in respect of long-term capital gains. A U.S. Holder's ability to deduct capital losses is subject to limitations. Such capital gain or loss generally will be treated as U.S. source income or loss, as applicable, for U.S. foreign tax credit purposes.

Medicare Tax on Net Investment Income

Certain U.S. Holders, including individuals, estates and trusts, will be subject to an additional 3.8% Medicare tax on, among other things, dividends and capital gains from the sale or other disposition of equity interests. For individuals, the additional Medicare tax applies to the lesser of (1) net investment income or (2) the excess of modified adjusted gross income over \$200,000 (\$250,000 if married and filing jointly or \$125,000 if married and filing separately). Net investment income generally equals the taxpayer's gross investment income reduced by deductions that are allocable to such income. Unitholders should consult their tax advisors regarding the implications of the additional Medicare tax resulting from their ownership and disposition of our common units.

PFIC Status and Significant Tax Consequences

Adverse U.S. federal income tax rules apply to a U.S. Holder that owns an equity interest in a non-U.S. corporation that is classified as a PFIC for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In general, we are treated as a PFIC with respect to a U.S. Holder if either:

at least 75.0% of our gross income (including the gross income of our vessel-owning subsidiaries) in any taxable year in which the holder held our units consists of passive income (*e.g.*, dividends, interest, capital gains from the sale or exchange of investment property and rents derived other than in the active conduct of a rental business); or

at least 50.0% of the average value of the assets held by us (including the assets of our vessel-owning subsidiaries) during any taxable year in which the holder held our units produce, or are held for the production of, passive income.

Income earned, or treated as earned (for U.S. federal income tax purposes), by us in connection with the performance of services would not constitute passive income. By contrast, rental income generally would constitute passive income unless we were treated as deriving that rental income in the active conduct of a trade or business under the applicable rules.

Based on our current methods of operation and an opinion of counsel, we do not believe that we are or will be a PFIC for any of our previous taxable years or for our current or any future taxable year. We have received an opinion of our U.S. counsel, Vinson & Elkins L.L.P., in support of this position that concludes that the income our subsidiaries earn from certain of our present time-chartering activities should not constitute passive income for purposes of determining whether we are a PFIC. In addition, we have represented to our U.S. counsel that we expect that more than 25.0% of our gross income for our current taxable year and each future year will arise from such or similar time-chartering activities, and more than 50.0% of the average value of our assets for each such year was or will be held for the production of such nonpassive income. Assuming the composition of our income and assets is consistent with these expectations, and assuming the accuracy of other representations we have made to our U.S. counsel for purposes of its

opinion, our U.S. counsel is of the opinion that we should not be a PFIC for any of our previous taxable years or for our current or any future taxable year.

Our counsel has indicated to us that the conclusions described above are not free from doubt. While there is legal authority supporting our conclusions, including IRS pronouncements concerning the characterization of income derived from time charters as services income, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

Table of Contents

(the Fifth Circuit) held in *Tidewater Inc. v. United States*, 565 F.3d 299 (5th Cir. 2009) that income derived from certain marine time charter agreements should be treated as rental income rather than services income for purposes of a foreign sales corporation provision of the Code. In that case, the Fifth Circuit did not address the definition of passive income or the PFIC rules; however, the reasoning of the case could have implications as to how the income from a time charter would be classified under such rules. If the reasoning of this case were extended to the PFIC context, the gross income we derive or are deemed to derive from our time-chartering activities may be treated as rental income, and we would likely be treated as a PFIC. The IRS has announced its nonacquiescence with the Fifth Circuit's holding in *Tidewater* and its position that the marine time charter agreements at issue in *Tidewater* should be treated as service contracts.

Distinguishing between arrangements treated as generating rental income and those treated as generating services income involves weighing and balancing competing factual considerations, and there is no legal authority under the PFIC rules addressing our specific method of operation. Conclusions in this area therefore remain matters of interpretation. We are not seeking a ruling from the IRS on the treatment of income generated from our time-chartering operations, and the opinion of our counsel is not binding on the IRS or any court. Thus, while we have received an opinion of counsel in support of our position, it is possible that the IRS or a court could disagree with this position and the opinion of our counsel. In addition, although we intend to conduct our affairs in a manner to avoid being classified as a PFIC with respect to our current or any future taxable year, we cannot assure unitholders that the nature of our operations will not change and that we will not become a PFIC in our current or any future taxable year.

As discussed more fully below, if we were to be treated as a PFIC for any taxable year (and regardless of whether we remain a PFIC over the subsequent taxable years), a U.S. Holder should be subject to different taxation rules depending on whether the U.S. Holder makes an election to treat us as a Qualified Electing Fund, which we refer to as a QEF election. As an alternative to making a QEF election, a U.S. Holder would be able to make a mark-to-market election with respect to our common units, as discussed below. In addition, if a U.S. Holder owns our common units during any taxable year that we are a PFIC, such holder must file an annual report with the IRS.

Taxation of U.S. Holders Making a Timely QEF Election

If a U.S. Holder makes a timely QEF election (an Electing Holder), then, for U.S. federal income tax purposes, that Electing Holder must report as income for its taxable year its pro rata share of our ordinary earnings and net capital gain, if any, for our taxable years that end with or within the taxable year for which that holder is reporting, regardless of whether or not the Electing Holder received distributions from us in that year. The Electing Holder's adjusted tax basis in the common units will be increased to reflect taxed but undistributed earnings and profits. Distributions of earnings and profits that were previously taxed will result in a corresponding reduction in the Electing Holder's adjusted tax basis in common units and will not be taxed again once distributed. An Electing Holder generally will recognize capital gain or loss on the sale, exchange or other disposition of our common units. A U.S. Holder makes a QEF election with respect to any year that we are a PFIC by filing IRS Form 8621 with its U.S. federal income tax return. If, contrary to our expectations, we determine that we are treated as a PFIC for any taxable year, we will provide each U.S. Holder with the information necessary to make the QEF election described above. Although the QEF election is available with respect to subsidiaries, in the event we acquire or own a subsidiary in the future that is treated as a PFIC, no assurances can be made that we will be able to provide U.S. Holders with the necessary information to make the QEF election with respect to such subsidiary.

Taxation of U.S. Holders Making a Mark-to-Market Election

If we were to be treated as a PFIC for any taxable year and, as we anticipate, our units were treated as marketable stock, then, as an alternative to making a QEF election, a U.S. Holder would be allowed to make a mark-to-market

election with respect to our common units, provided the U.S. Holder completes and files IRS

Table of Contents

Form 8621 in accordance with the relevant instructions and related Treasury Regulations. If that election is made, the U.S. Holder generally would include as ordinary income in each taxable year the excess, if any, of the fair market value of the U.S. Holder's common units at the end of the taxable year over the holder's adjusted tax basis in the common units. The U.S. Holder also would be permitted an ordinary loss in respect of the excess, if any, of the U.S. Holder's adjusted tax basis in the common units over the fair market value thereof at the end of the taxable year, but only to the extent of the net amount previously included in income as a result of the mark-to-market election. A U.S. Holder's tax basis in its common units would be adjusted to reflect any such income or loss recognized. Gain recognized on the sale, exchange or other disposition of our common units would be treated as ordinary income, and any loss recognized on the sale, exchange or other disposition of the common units would be treated as ordinary loss to the extent that such loss does not exceed the net mark-to-market gains previously included in income by the U.S. Holder. The mark-to-market election generally will not be available with respect to subsidiaries. Accordingly, in the event we acquire or own a subsidiary in the future that is treated as a PFIC, the mark-to-market election generally will not be available with respect to such subsidiary.

Taxation of U.S. Holders Not Making a Timely QEF or Mark-to-Market Election

If we were to be treated as a PFIC for any taxable year, a U.S. Holder that does not make either a QEF election or a mark-to-market election for that year (a Non-Electing Holder) would be subject to special rules resulting in increased tax liability with respect to (1) any excess distribution (i.e., the portion of any distributions received by the Non-Electing Holder on our common units in a taxable year in excess of 125.0% of the average annual distributions received by the Non-Electing Holder in the three preceding taxable years, or, if shorter, the Non-Electing Holder's holding period for the common units) and (2) any gain realized on the sale, exchange or other disposition of the units. Under these special rules:

the excess distribution or gain would be allocated ratably over the Non-Electing Holder's aggregate holding period for the common units;

the amount allocated to the current taxable year and any taxable year prior to the taxable year we were first treated as a PFIC with respect to the Non-Electing Holder would be taxed as ordinary income; and

the amount allocated to each of the other taxable years would be subject to tax at the highest rate of tax in effect for the applicable class of taxpayers for that year, and an interest charge for the deemed deferral benefit would be imposed with respect to the resulting tax attributable to each such other taxable year.

These penalties would not apply to a qualified pension, profit sharing or other retirement trust or other tax-exempt organization that did not borrow money or otherwise utilize leverage in connection with its acquisition of our common units. If we were treated as a PFIC for any taxable year and a Non-Electing Holder who is an individual dies while owning our common units, such holder's successor generally would not receive a step-up in tax basis with respect to such units.

U.S. Federal Income Taxation of Non-U.S. Holders

A beneficial owner of our common units (other than a partnership or an entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) that is not a U.S. Holder is referred to as a Non-U.S. Holder. If you are a partner in a partnership (or an entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) holding our

common units, you should consult your own tax advisor regarding the tax consequences to you of the partnership's ownership of our common units.

Distributions

Distributions we pay to a Non-U.S. Holder will not be subject to U.S. federal income tax or withholding tax if the Non-U.S. Holder is not engaged in a U.S. trade or business. If the Non-U.S. Holder is engaged in a U.S.

Table of Contents

trade or business, our distributions will be subject to U.S. federal income tax to the extent they constitute income effectively connected with the Non-U.S. Holder's U.S. trade or business. However, distributions paid to a Non-U.S. Holder that is engaged in a U.S. trade or business may be exempt from taxation under an income tax treaty if the income arising from the distribution is not attributable to a U.S. permanent establishment maintained by the Non-U.S. Holder.

Disposition of Units

In general, a Non-U.S. Holder is not subject to U.S. federal income tax or withholding tax on any gain resulting from the disposition of our common units provided the Non-U.S. Holder is not engaged in a U.S. trade or business. A Non-U.S. Holder that is engaged in a U.S. trade or business will be subject to U.S. federal income tax in the event the gain from the disposition of units is effectively connected with the conduct of such U.S. trade or business (provided, in the case of a Non-U.S. Holder entitled to the benefits of an income tax treaty with the United States, such gain also is attributable to a U.S. permanent establishment). However, even if not engaged in a U.S. trade or business, individual Non-U.S. Holders may be subject to tax on gain resulting from the disposition of our common units if they are present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year in which those units are disposed or they meet certain other requirements.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

In general, payments to a non-corporate U.S. Holder of distributions or the proceeds of a disposition of common units will be subject to information reporting. These payments to a non-corporate U.S. Holder also may be subject to backup withholding if the non-corporate U.S. Holder:

fails to provide an accurate taxpayer identification number;

is notified by the IRS that it has failed to report all interest or corporate distributions required to be reported on its U.S. federal income tax returns; or

in certain circumstances, fails to comply with applicable certification requirements.

Non-U.S. Holders may be required to establish their exemption from information reporting and backup withholding by certifying their status on IRS Form W-8BEN, W-8BEN-E, W-8ECI or W-8IMY (or successor form), as applicable.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Rather, a unitholder generally may obtain a credit for any amount withheld against its liability for U.S. federal income tax (and obtain a refund of any amounts withheld in excess of such liability) by timely filing a U.S. federal income tax return with the IRS.

In addition, individual citizens or residents of the United States holding certain foreign financial assets (which generally includes stock and other securities issued by a foreign person unless held in an account maintained by a financial institution) that exceed certain thresholds (the lowest being holding foreign financial assets with an aggregate value in excess of: (1) \$50,000 on the last day of the tax year or (2) \$75,000 at any time during the tax year) are required to report information relating to such assets. Significant penalties may apply for failure to satisfy the reporting obligations described above. Unitholders should consult their tax advisors regarding the reporting obligations, if any, that would result from the purchase, ownership or disposition of our units.

Table of Contents

NON-UNITED STATES TAX CONSIDERATIONS

Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this section to we, our or us are references to KNOT Offshore Partners LP.

Marshall Islands Tax Consequences

The following discussion is based upon the opinion of Watson Farley & Williams LLP, our counsel as to matters of the laws of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the current laws of the Republic of the Marshall Islands applicable to persons who are not citizens of and do not reside in, maintain offices in or engage in business or conduct transactions or operations in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Because we and our subsidiaries do not and do not expect to carry on business or conduct transactions or operations in the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and because all documentation related to this offering will be executed outside of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, under current Marshall Islands law you will not be subject to Marshall Islands taxation or withholding on distributions, including upon distribution treated as a return of capital, we make to you as a unitholder. In addition, you will not be subject to Marshall Islands stamp, capital gains or other taxes on the purchase, ownership or disposition of common units, and you will not be required by the Republic of the Marshall Islands to file a tax return relating to your ownership of common units.

Norwegian Tax Consequences

The following discussion is based upon the opinion of Advokatfirmaet Thommessen AS, our counsel as to taxation matters under the laws of the Kingdom of Norway that may be relevant to current and prospective unitholders who are persons not resident in Norway for taxation purposes (Non-Norwegian Holders).

The discussion that follows is based upon existing Norwegian legislation and current Norwegian Tax Administration practice as of the date of this prospectus. Changes in these authorities may cause the tax consequences to vary substantially from the consequences of unit ownership described below.

Current and prospective unitholders who are resident in Norway for taxation purposes are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the potential Norwegian tax consequences to them of an investment in our common units. For this purpose, a company incorporated outside of Norway will be treated as resident in Norway in the event its central management and control is carried out in Norway.

Taxation of Non-Norwegian Holders

Under the Norwegian Tax Act on Income and Wealth, Non-Norwegian Holders will not be subject to any taxes in Norway on income or profits in respect of the acquisition, holding, disposition or redemption of the common units, provided that:

we are not treated as carrying on business in Norway; and

either of the following conditions is met:

if such holders are resident in a country that does not have an income tax treaty with Norway, such holders are not engaged in a Norwegian trade or business to which the common units are effectively connected; or

if such holders are resident in a country that has an income tax treaty with Norway, such holders do not have a permanent establishment in Norway to which the common units are effectively connected.

A Non-Norwegian Holder that carries on a business in Norway through a partnership is subject to Norwegian tax on income derived from the business if managed from Norway or carried on by the Partnership in Norway.

Table of Contents

While we expect to conduct our affairs in such a manner that our business will not be treated as managed from or carried on in Norway at any time in the future, this determination is dependent upon the facts existing at such time, including (but not limited to) the place where our board of directors meets and the place where our management makes decisions or takes certain actions affecting our business. Our Norwegian tax counsel has advised us regarding certain measures we can take to limit the risk that our business may be treated as managed from or carried on in Norway and has concluded that, provided we adopt these measures and otherwise conduct our affairs in a manner consistent with our Norwegian tax counsel's advice, which we intend to do, our business should not be treated as managed from or carried on in Norway for taxation purposes, and consequently, Non-Norwegian Holders should not be subject to tax in Norway solely by reason of the acquisition, holding, disposition or redemption of their common units. Nonetheless, there is no legal authority addressing our specific circumstances, and conclusions in this area remain matters of interpretation. Thus, it is possible that the Norwegian taxation authority could challenge, or a court could disagree with, our position.

While we do not expect it to be the case, if the arrangements we propose to enter into result in our being considered to carry on business in Norway for the purposes of the Norwegian Tax Act on Income and Wealth, unitholders would be considered to be carrying on business in Norway and would be required to file tax returns with the Norwegian Tax Administration and, subject to any relief provided in any relevant double taxation treaty (including, in the case of holders resident in the United States, the U.S.-Norway Tax Treaty), would be subject to taxation in Norway on any income considered to be attributable to the business carried on in Norway.

United Kingdom Tax Consequences

The following is a discussion of the material United Kingdom tax consequences that may be relevant to current and prospective unitholders who are persons not resident, and not domiciled in the United Kingdom for taxation purposes and who do not acquire their units as part of a trade, profession or vocation carried on in the United Kingdom (Non-UK Holders).

Current and prospective unitholders who are, or have been, resident or domiciled in the United Kingdom for taxation purposes, or who hold their units through a trade, profession or vocation in the United Kingdom are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the potential United Kingdom tax consequences to them of an investment in our common units and are responsible for filing their own UK tax returns and paying any applicable UK taxes (which may be due on amounts received by us but not distributed). The discussion that follows is based upon current United Kingdom tax law and what is understood to be the current practice of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs as at the date of this prospectus, both of which are subject to change, possibly with retrospective effect.

Taxation of income and disposals. We expect to conduct our affairs so that Non-UK Holders should not be subject to United Kingdom income tax, capital gains tax or corporation tax on income or gains arising from the Partnership. Distributions may be made to Non-UK Holders without withholding or deduction for or on account of United Kingdom income tax.

Stamp taxes. No liability to United Kingdom stamp duty or stamp duty reserve tax should arise in connection with the issue of units to unitholders or the transfer of units in the Partnership.

EACH CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE UNITHOLDER IS URGED TO CONSULT ITS OWN TAX COUNSEL OR OTHER ADVISOR WITH REGARD TO THE LEGAL AND TAX CONSEQUENCES OF UNIT OWNERSHIP UNDER ITS PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES.

Table of Contents

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

The securities offered pursuant to this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement may be sold in any of the following ways:

directly to one or more purchasers;

through agents;

through underwriters, brokers or dealers; or

through a combination of any of the above methods of sale.

The applicable prospectus supplement relating to the securities will set forth, among other things:

the offering terms, including the name or names of any underwriters, dealers or agents;

the purchase price of the securities and the proceeds to us or the selling unitholder from such sale;

any underwriting discounts, concessions, commissions and other items constituting compensation to underwriters, dealers or agents;

any initial public offering price;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid by underwriters or dealers to other dealers;

in the case of debt securities, the interest rate, maturity and any redemption provisions;

in the case of debt securities that are convertible into or exchangeable for other securities, the conversion or exchange rate and other terms, conditions and features; and

any securities exchanges on which the securities may be listed.

We will fix a price or prices of our securities at:

market prices prevailing at the time of any sale under this registration statement;

prices related to market prices; or

negotiated prices.

We may change the price of the securities offered from time to time.

We, or agents designated by us, may directly solicit, from time to time, offers to purchase the securities. Any such agent may be deemed to be an underwriter as that term is defined in the Securities Act. We will name any agents involved in the offer or sale of the securities and describe any commissions payable by us to these agents in the prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, these agents will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of their appointment. The agents may be entitled under agreements which may be entered into with us to indemnification by us against specific civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act. The agents may also be our customers or may engage in transactions with or perform services for us in the ordinary course of business.

If we or the selling unitholder utilize any underwriters in the sale of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered, we and, if applicable, the selling unitholder will enter into an underwriting agreement with the underwriters at the time of sale to them. We will set forth the names of these underwriters and the terms of the transaction in the prospectus supplement, which will be used by the underwriters to make resales of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered to the public. We and, if applicable, the selling unitholder may indemnify the underwriters under the relevant underwriting agreement against specific civil

Table of Contents

liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act. Certain of the underwriters and their affiliates may also be our customers or may engage in transactions with or perform services for us in the ordinary course of business.

In compliance with the guidelines of FINRA, the maximum compensation to be paid to underwriters participating in any offering made pursuant to this prospectus will not exceed 8% of the gross proceeds from that offering.

If we utilize a dealer in the sale of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered, we will sell those securities to the dealer, as principal. The dealer may then resell those securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by the dealer at the time of resale. We may indemnify the dealers against specific liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act. The dealers may also be our customers or may engage in transactions with, or perform services for us in the ordinary course of business.

Offers to purchase securities may be solicited directly by us and the sale thereof may be made by us directly to institutional investors or others, who may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any resale thereof. The terms of any such sales will be described in the prospectus supplement relating thereto. We may use electronic media, including the internet, to sell offered securities directly.

We may offer our common units into an existing trading market on the terms described in the prospectus supplement relating thereto. Underwriters, dealers and agents who participate in any at-the-market offerings will be described in the prospectus supplement relating thereto.

To the extent required, this prospectus may be amended or supplemented from time to time to describe a specific plan of distribution. The place and time of delivery for the securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered will be set forth in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

In connection with offerings of securities under the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part and in compliance with applicable law, underwriters, brokers or dealers may engage in transactions that stabilize or maintain the market price of the securities at levels above those that might otherwise prevail in the open market. Specifically, underwriters, brokers or dealers may over-allot in connection with offerings, creating a short position in the securities for their own accounts. For the purpose of covering a syndicate short position or stabilizing the price of the securities, the underwriters, brokers or dealers may place bids for the securities or effect purchases of the securities in the open market. Finally, the underwriters may impose a penalty whereby selling concessions allowed to syndicate members or other brokers or dealers for distribution of the securities in offerings may be reclaimed by the syndicate if the syndicate repurchases previously distributed securities in transactions to cover short positions, in stabilization transactions or otherwise. These activities may stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the securities, which may be higher than the price that might otherwise prevail in the open market, and, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

Table of Contents**SELLING UNITHOLDER**

This prospectus covers the offering for resale from time to time, in one or more offerings, of up to 8,567,500 common units owned by Knutsen NYK Offshore Tankers AS, the selling unitholder. These common units were obtained by the selling unitholder upon conversion of its 8,567,500 subordinated units on May 16, 2016. The selling unitholder obtained all of its subordinated units in connection with our initial public offering. In addition to holding the common units in us, the selling unitholder also owns all of our incentive distribution rights and the ownership interests in our general partner. See [About KNOT Offshore Partners LP](#) for additional information regarding our relationship with the selling unitholder.

The following table sets forth information relating to the selling unitholder as of August 21, 2017 based on information supplied to us by the selling unitholder on or prior to that date. We have not sought to verify such information. Information concerning the selling unitholder may change over time. The selling unitholder may hold or acquire at any time common units in addition to those offered by this prospectus and may have acquired additional common units since the date on which the information reflected herein was provided to us. In addition, the selling unitholder may have sold, transferred or otherwise disposed of some or all of its common units since the date on which the information reflected herein was provided to us and may in the future sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of some or all of its common units in private placement transactions exempt from or not subject to the registration requirements of the Securities Act.

Selling Unitholder	Common Units Owned Prior To Offering	Common Units Being Offered	Common Units Owned After Offering	
			Number of Units(1)	Percentage(2)
Knutsen NYK Offshore Tankers AS(3)	8,657,868	8,567,500	90,368	0.3%

- (1) Assumes the sale of all common units held by the selling unitholder offered by this prospectus.
- (2) Based on 29,694,094 common units outstanding as of August 21, 2017.
- (3) Knutsen NYK Offshore Tankers AS (**KNOT**) is a joint venture between TS Shipping Invest AS (**TSSI**) and NYK Logistics Holding (Europe) B.V. (**NYK Europe**) each of which owns a 50% interest in KNOT. NYK Europe is a wholly owned subsidiary of Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha (**NYK**), a broadly owned Japanese public company. TSSI is a wholly owned subsidiary of Seglem Holding AS (**Seglem Holding**), of which 70% is owned by the Partnership's chairman of the board of directors, Trygve Seglem, with the remainder owned by members of his immediate family. Accordingly, each of NYK Europe, NYK, TSSI, Seglem Holding and Trygve Seglem may be deemed to share beneficial ownership of the 8,567,500 common units directly held by KNOT and the 90,368 common units directly held by our general partner, a wholly owned subsidiary of KNOT. The address of KNOT is Smedasundet 40, Postbox 2017, 5504 Haugesund, Norway.

The prospectus supplement for any offering of our common units by the selling unitholder will set forth the following information with respect to the selling unitholder:

the nature of any position, office or other material relationship that the selling unitholder has had within the last three years with us or any of our affiliates;

the number of common units owned by the selling unitholder prior to the offering;

the amount of common units to be offered for the selling unitholder's account; and

the amount and (if one percent or more) the percentage of common units to be owned by the selling unitholder after the completion of the offering.

Table of Contents

SERVICE OF PROCESS AND ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL LIABILITIES

We are organized under the laws of the Marshall Islands as a limited partnership. Our general partner is organized under the laws of the Marshall Islands as a limited liability company. The Marshall Islands has a less developed body of securities laws as compared to the United States and provides protections for investors to a significantly lesser extent.

Most of our directors and officers and those of our subsidiaries are residents of countries other than the United States. Substantially all of our and our subsidiaries' assets and a substantial portion of the assets of our directors and officers are located outside the United States. As a result, it may be difficult or impossible for U.S. investors to effect service of process within the United States upon us, our directors or officers, our general partner or our subsidiaries or to realize against us or them judgments obtained in U.S. courts, including judgments predicated upon the civil liability provisions of the securities laws of the United States or any state in the United States. However, we have expressly submitted to the jurisdiction of the U.S. federal and New York state courts sitting in the City of New York for the purpose of any suit, action or proceeding arising under the securities laws of the United States or any state in the United States, and we have appointed Puglisi & Associates, 850 Library Avenue, Suite 204, Newark, Delaware 19111, to accept service of process on our behalf in any such action.

Watson Farley & Williams LLP, our counsel as to Marshall Islands law, has advised us that there is uncertainty as to whether the courts of the Marshall Islands would (1) recognize or enforce against us, our general partner, or the directors or officers of such entities judgments of courts of the United States based on civil liability provisions of applicable U.S. federal and state securities laws or (2) impose liabilities against us, our general partner or such directors and officers in original actions brought in the Marshall Islands, based on these laws.

LEGAL MATTERS

Unless otherwise stated in the applicable prospectus supplement, (a) the validity of the debt securities under New York law and certain other legal matters will be passed upon for us by Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. and (b) the validity of the equity securities and certain other legal matters with respect to the laws of the Republic of the Marshall Islands will be passed upon for us by Watson Farley & Williams LLP. Any underwriters will be advised about other issues relating to any offering by their own legal counsel.

EXPERTS

The financial statements in our annual report on Form 20-F for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016 have been incorporated by reference into this registration statement in reliance on the report of Ernst & Young AS, independent registered public accounting firm, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

Ernst & Young AS is located at Dronning Eufemias Gate 6, 0191 Oslo, Norway.

Table of Contents**EXPENSES**

The following table sets forth the costs and expenses, other than the underwriting discounts and commissions, in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities covered by this prospectus. All amounts are estimated, except the SEC registration fee and the FINRA fee.

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission registration fee	\$ 114,814
Financial Industry Regulatory Authority filing fee	*
New York Stock Exchange listing fee	*
Legal fees and expenses	*
Accounting fees and expenses	*
Printing and engraving costs	*
Transfer agent fees and other	*
Miscellaneous	*
Total	\$ *

- * To be provided in a prospectus supplement or in a Report on Form 6-K subsequently incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

Table of Contents

KNOT Offshore Partners LP
3,000,000 Common Units
Representing Limited Partner Interests

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

BofA Merrill Lynch
, 2017