



SHIPS OF VALUE

S O V

W H I T E P A P E R

The World's First NFT-Backed Real Cargo Ship Purchase

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shipsofvalue.com

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Executive Summary

Ships of Value (SOV) is a blockchain-based maritime investment project that uses Ethereum NFT technology to democratize access to the commercial cargo shipping industry — one of the most essential and profitable industries on Earth, yet historically inaccessible to ordinary investors.



The SOV Mini Ship NFT collection consists of 10,000 unique tokens on the Ethereum blockchain. Each token represents a proportional fractional ownership stake in a real commercial cargo vessel. When all 10,000 NFTs are minted, the vessel purchase is automatically triggered. Collectively, all 10,000 holders own 30% of the ship, with profit-sharing distributed from active cargo operations.

SOV is not just a digital collectible. It is a mechanism for fractional ownership of a physical asset generating real revenue from global trade.

This whitepaper outlines the project concept, market opportunity, technical architecture, tokenomics, operational framework, revenue model, and roadmap for Ships of Value.

1. Introduction

Every day, approximately 90% of everything you own began its journey on a ship. The clothes you wear, the electronics you use, the food you eat — all transported across the world's oceans by a fleet of commercial cargo vessels operating 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The global cargo shipping industry is one of the most fundamental pillars of the modern economy. It is an industry that does not slow down, does not go out of fashion, and generates tens of billions of dollars in revenue annually. Yet for all its scale and importance, participation in this industry has been almost entirely closed to ordinary people.

Until now.

Our Mission

Ships of Value was founded on a single conviction: the shipping industry is too important and too profitable to remain the exclusive domain of corporations, hedge funds, and ultra-high-net-worth individuals. Through the application of blockchain technology and Ethereum-based NFTs, we are opening the door to fractional ownership of a real commercial cargo vessel — and genuine profit participation — to anyone, anywhere, with any budget.

The SOV Difference

The NFT market has been widely criticized for producing digital assets with no underlying value. Profile pictures, generative art, and speculative tokens have dominated the conversation. SOV represents a deliberate departure from this model.

Every SOV Mini Ship NFT is backed by a real, tangible, revenue-generating asset: a commercial cargo vessel operating on international trade routes. This is not a promise. It is a contractual mechanism embedded in the project's structure — the vessel purchase is triggered automatically when the collection reaches full mint.

2. Market Opportunity

The Global Shipping Industry

The commercial shipping industry is the backbone of international trade. According to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), approximately 90% of world trade is carried by sea, making the shipping industry indispensable to the global economy.

Metric	Value	Source
Global shipping revenue	\$20B+ annually	UNCTAD
World trade carried by sea	~90%	IMO
Global merchant fleet size	~100,000 vessels	IMO
Single vessel cost range	\$10M — \$150M+	Industry average
Cargo vessel daily rate	\$15,000 — \$80,000	Baltic Exchange

The Retail Investment Gap

Despite the scale and stability of the shipping industry, retail participation is virtually nonexistent. The barriers to entry are structural and extreme:

- A single mid-size cargo vessel costs between \$10 million and \$150 million to purchase
- Operating a vessel requires specialized licenses, crew management, port relationships, and regulatory compliance
- Shipping investment funds typically require minimum investments of \$1 million or more
- There are no widely accessible public markets for fractional ship ownership

The result is a multi-trillion-dollar asset class that is entirely off-limits to the 99% of investors who cannot write a \$10 million check.

The NFT Market Opportunity

The global NFT market, despite recent corrections, represents a massive and growing community of digital asset holders who are actively seeking projects with real utility and underlying value. The convergence of the NFT market with real-world asset (RWA) tokenization represents one of the most significant opportunities in Web3.

Ships of Value sits at the exact intersection of these two markets: a battle-tested, multi-billion dollar physical industry, and a digitally-native, blockchain-powered ownership mechanism.

3. The Problem We Solve

Problem 1: Shipping Ownership is Inaccessible

The minimum investment required to participate in commercial shipping as an owner is prohibitively high. A single Handysize bulk carrier costs approximately \$25–35 million. A Panamax vessel runs \$35–60 million. A Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) can exceed \$100 million. These figures place direct vessel ownership far beyond the reach of individual retail investors.

The few retail investment vehicles that exist in shipping — listed shipping companies, REITs, limited partnerships — offer indirect exposure with limited transparency and high management fees. There is no mechanism for direct fractional ownership of a specific vessel with proportional revenue sharing.

Problem 2: NFTs Lack Real-World Utility

The NFT market generated enormous hype and capital between 2020 and 2022, yet the vast majority of projects offered holders nothing of tangible value. Digital artwork, generative profile pictures, and speculative tokens created a perception problem for the entire asset class: that NFTs are purely speculative instruments with no connection to the real economy.

This perception has contributed to significant market corrections and eroded public trust in NFT projects. The market is actively searching for projects that demonstrate genuine utility — NFTs backed by real-world assets with measurable cash flows.

Problem 3: The Missing Bridge

The technology to bridge these two worlds — blockchain-based fractional ownership of physical assets — exists and has been proven in real estate tokenization, art investment platforms, and commodity markets. Yet no one has applied it to the shipping industry in a way that is accessible to retail NFT buyers.

Ships of Value is building that bridge. The result is a product that solves both problems simultaneously: it opens the shipping industry to retail investors, and it gives the NFT market a genuinely utility-backed digital asset.

4. The SOV Solution

Ships of Value addresses both problems through a single, elegantly structured product: the SOV Mini Ship NFT collection.

What is an SOV Mini Ship?

An SOV Mini Ship is an ERC-721 NFT on the Ethereum blockchain. Each of the 10,000 Mini Ships is a unique digital token with its own traits, rarity tier, and visual representation. But unlike conventional NFTs, each Mini Ship also confers a contractual fractional ownership interest in a real commercial cargo vessel.

The Core Mechanism

Step 1: Mint	Each Mini Ship NFT is available for purchase on OpenSea. Minting is open to the public — no whitelist, no presale, no gatekeeping.
Step 2: Trigger	When all 10,000 NFTs are minted, the vessel purchase is automatically triggered. There is no discretionary delay — the mechanism is structural.
Step 3: Acquire	The SOV team executes the cargo vessel purchase using the capital raised through the mint. Operational contracts and logistics partnerships are already in place.
Step 4: Deploy	The vessel is immediately deployed on active cargo routes. Cargo clients are pre-arranged — the ship goes to work on day one.
Step 5: Distribute	Revenue generated from cargo operations is distributed proportionally to all 10,000 Mini Ship holders. 10,000 holders = 30% of vessel ownership.

What Holders Receive

- A unique, verifiable ERC-721 NFT with rarity traits and collectible value
- Fractional ownership stake in a real commercial cargo vessel (1/10,000 of 30%)
- Proportional profit-sharing from the vessel's cargo revenue
- Membership in the SOV community and governance discussions
- Full transferability — Mini Ships can be sold on the secondary market at any time

5. How It Works

The Mint Process

The SOV Mini Ship collection consists of 10,000 unique NFTs deployed on the Ethereum mainnet as ERC-721 tokens. Each NFT is minted through the OpenSea platform and is immediately transferable and tradeable on the secondary market.

The mint price is set to ensure that the combined proceeds cover the cost of vessel acquisition, operational setup costs, and a reserve fund for ongoing operations. The pricing structure is transparent and verifiable.

The Purchase Trigger

The vessel acquisition is structured to trigger automatically upon full sellout of the 10,000-piece collection. This mechanism is contractual and removes discretionary risk from the equation — the SOV team cannot delay or redirect the purchase.

The SOV team has already identified the target vessel, negotiated preliminary terms with the seller, and established the operational and legal framework for the acquisition. All pre-purchase due diligence — vessel inspection, title verification, flag state registration, and insurance — has been completed.

Vessel Identification & Due Diligence

The target vessel has been identified based on the following criteria:

- Age and condition: vessel is within optimal operating range for cost-efficiency and longevity
- Route suitability: vessel dimensions and specifications match the pre-arranged cargo routes
- Regulatory compliance: vessel meets all flag state and international maritime regulations
- Revenue potential: cargo rate projections support the projected profit-sharing distributions

Profit Distribution

Revenue generated from cargo operations is collected and distributed to Mini Ship holders on a regular schedule. Each of the 10,000 holders receives an equal share of 30% of net operating revenue. Distributions are made in ETH or stablecoin directly to the wallet address holding each Mini Ship NFT.

6. Tokenomics

Collection Structure

Parameter	Value
Token Standard	ERC-721 (Ethereum)
Total Supply	10,000 Mini Ships
Blockchain	Ethereum Mainnet
Marketplace	OpenSea
Collective Vessel Ownership	30%
Ownership per NFT	0.003% (1/10,000 of 30%)
Profit Distribution	Pro-rata to all holders
Secondary Royalty	To be announced

Rarity Tiers

The 10,000 Mini Ships are distributed across four rarity tiers, each with unique visual traits and attributes. Rarity is assigned at mint and is permanently recorded on-chain.

Tier	Supply	% of Collection	Visual Traits
Common	6,000	60%	Standard cargo vessel
Rare	2,500	25%	Enhanced vessel details
Epic	1,200	12%	Special class vessel
Legendary	300	3%	Flagship vessel

Mint Proceeds Allocation

The proceeds from the 10,000 NFT mint are allocated as follows:

- Vessel Acquisition: Primary use of funds — purchase of the target cargo vessel
- Operational Reserve: Working capital for initial crew, fuel, port fees, and insurance
- Legal & Compliance: Maritime law, flag state registration, and corporate structure
- Development Reserve: Technology infrastructure, smart contract maintenance, and distribution system
- Team & Operations: Core team compensation and ongoing project management

7. Technical Architecture

Smart Contract

The SOV Mini Ship collection is deployed as an ERC-721 compliant smart contract on the Ethereum mainnet. The contract governs minting, ownership records, transferability, and the profit distribution mechanism.

Key smart contract features include:

- Standard ERC-721 implementation for full marketplace compatibility
- On-chain metadata storage for permanent trait records
- Ownership-gated distribution function — only verified wallet holders receive distributions
- Transparent, publicly auditable transaction history on Etherscan

Profit Distribution Mechanism

Revenue distributions are executed via a smart contract function that calculates each holder's proportional share based on the number of Mini Ships held in their wallet at the time of distribution. The distribution process is:

- Transparent: all distributions are recorded on-chain and publicly verifiable
- Automatic: the distribution function is triggered on a fixed schedule
- Non-custodial: holders receive distributions directly to their wallet — no intermediary holds funds

Blockchain Infrastructure

Ships of Value operates on the Ethereum mainnet, leveraging the security, decentralization, and liquidity of the world's most established smart contract platform. All contract interactions are processed through standard Ethereum transactions and are permanently recorded on the blockchain.

Security

The SOV smart contract has been developed following industry best practices for security and reliability. The contract code is publicly available for community review on Etherscan.

8. Vessel Operations

Operational Framework

Ships of Value has established a comprehensive operational framework for the management and deployment of the cargo vessel. This framework encompasses crew management, route planning, cargo procurement, port operations, regulatory compliance, and financial reporting.

Cargo Operations

The vessel will operate on established cargo routes with pre-arranged clients. Cargo types include:

- Dry bulk commodities: grain, coal, iron ore, and other raw materials
- General cargo: consumer goods, manufactured products, and packaged freight
- Project cargo: specialized or oversized industrial equipment

Cargo clients have been engaged in advance of vessel acquisition, ensuring the ship is revenue-generating from the first voyage.

Crew & Management

The vessel will be crewed and managed by experienced maritime professionals with established track records in commercial shipping operations. The management team brings decades of combined experience in vessel operations, cargo logistics, and international maritime law.

Regulatory Compliance

The vessel will operate under full compliance with:

- International Maritime Organization (IMO) regulations
- SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea) Convention requirements
- MARPOL environmental protection standards
- Flag state requirements of the vessel's registered jurisdiction
- Port state control requirements in all operating regions

Insurance

The vessel will carry comprehensive maritime insurance including Hull & Machinery (H&M) coverage, Protection & Indemnity (P&I) insurance, and cargo liability coverage. Insurance costs are factored into the operational reserve.

9. Revenue Model

Revenue Sources

The primary revenue source for the SOV vessel is cargo freight charges — the fees paid by cargo clients to transport their goods. Revenue is generated on a per-voyage basis and is directly tied to the vessel's utilization rate and prevailing freight rates.

Freight Rate Benchmarks

Freight rates in the commercial shipping industry are tracked by indices including the Baltic Dry Index (BDI) for dry bulk and the Baltic Exchange for tanker and general cargo rates. Key benchmarks for comparable vessels:

Vessel Class	Daily Rate Range	Annual Revenue Potential
Handysize Bulk	\$10,000 — \$25,000/day	\$3.6M — \$9.1M
Supramax Bulk	\$15,000 — \$35,000/day	\$5.5M — \$12.8M
General Cargo	\$8,000 — \$20,000/day	\$2.9M — \$7.3M

Holder Distribution

Of the vessel's net operating revenue (gross revenue minus operating costs), 30% is distributed proportionally to all 10,000 Mini Ship holders. With 10,000 NFTs representing equal shares, each holder receives 0.003% of the 30% pool — or 1/10,000 of all distributions.

At a conservative annual net revenue of \$2 million distributed to holders, each Mini Ship would receive approximately \$200 per year — with no upper limit if the vessel outperforms projections.

Operating Cost Structure

Operating costs for a commercial cargo vessel of this class typically include:

- Crew wages and benefits
- Fuel (bunker) costs — the largest variable expense
- Port fees, pilotage, and canal dues
- Maintenance and repair
- Insurance premiums
- Management fees
- Regulatory compliance and certification costs

10. Roadmap

Phase	Milestones
Phase 1 — Launch	NFT collection deployed on Ethereum. OpenSea listing live. Community building begins. shipsofvalue.com launched.
Phase 2 — Growth	Marketing campaign. Press outreach. Community growth across Reddit, Discord, and Telegram. 2,500 Mini Ships minted.
Phase 3 — Momentum	5,000 Mini Ships minted. Vessel documentation finalized. Crew contracts signed. Cargo client agreements confirmed.
Phase 4 — Acquisition	10,000 Mini Ships minted. Purchase trigger executed. Vessel acquired. Flag state registration complete.
Phase 5 — Deployment	Vessel deployed on first cargo route. First revenue generated. Distribution mechanism tested.
Phase 6 — Distribution	First profit distribution to all 10,000 Mini Ship holders. Ongoing quarterly distributions established.
Phase 7 — Expansion	Evaluation of second vessel acquisition. SOV fleet expansion roadmap published. Community governance introduced.

Timelines for each phase are contingent on mint progress and market conditions. The SOV team is committed to transparency throughout the process and will provide regular updates to the community via all official channels.

11. Team & Advisors

Captain SOV

Founder and project lead. Maritime industry veteran with extensive experience in commercial vessel operations, cargo logistics, and international shipping law. Pioneered the application of blockchain technology to real-world shipping asset ownership.

Core Team

The Ships of Value core team brings together expertise across maritime operations, blockchain development, legal and compliance, and financial management. Team backgrounds span commercial shipping, DeFi protocol development, maritime law, and institutional investment management.

Advisors

The project is supported by an advisory board with experience in:

- International maritime law and flag state regulations
- Commercial vessel brokerage and acquisition
- Ethereum smart contract development and auditing
- NFT project launch and community management
- Institutional maritime investment and fund management

Full team profiles and advisor bios are available on shipsofvalue.com.

12. Risk Factors

Prospective participants should carefully consider the following risk factors before minting or purchasing an SOV Mini Ship NFT.

Mint Risk

The vessel purchase is contingent on the full sellout of all 10,000 Mini Ships. If the collection does not reach full mint, the purchase trigger is not activated. In this scenario, Mini Ships remain tradeable NFTs on the secondary market, but the ownership and profit-sharing mechanics do not activate.

Market Risk

The cargo shipping industry is subject to cyclical market conditions. Freight rates fluctuate based on global trade volumes, fuel prices, geopolitical events, and vessel supply. Revenue distributions will vary accordingly.

Operational Risk

Commercial vessel operations involve inherent operational risks including mechanical failure, weather delays, port congestion, crew issues, and cargo disputes. These risks are mitigated through insurance, experienced management, and diversified cargo routes — but cannot be eliminated entirely.

Regulatory Risk

The regulatory environment for both blockchain-based assets and maritime operations is evolving. Changes in securities law, NFT regulations, flag state requirements, or international maritime law could affect the project's structure or operations.

Smart Contract Risk

As with all blockchain-based systems, the SOV smart contracts are subject to the risk of undiscovered vulnerabilities. The contracts are publicly auditable and have been developed following security best practices.

Cryptocurrency Market Risk

The value of ETH and the broader cryptocurrency market is highly volatile. The value of Mini Ships on the secondary market will be affected by general market conditions independent of the underlying vessel's performance.

13. Conclusion

Ships of Value represents a genuine innovation at the intersection of two powerful forces: the multi-trillion-dollar global shipping industry and the blockchain-native ownership mechanisms enabled by Ethereum NFTs.

For the first time, ordinary people anywhere in the world can hold a fractional stake in a real commercial cargo vessel and share in the profits of international trade. Not through a fund, not through an intermediary, not through a promise — but through a blockchain-verified ownership mechanism that is transparent, automatic, and permanent.

The shipping industry has kept the world's economy moving for centuries. It has generated fortunes for those with the access and capital to participate. Ships of Value is ending that exclusivity.

The ocean was never meant for just the whales. Welcome aboard.

Contact & Resources

Website	shipsofvalue.com
NFT Marketplace	OpenSea — search 'Ships of Value'
Community	Discord & Telegram — links at shipsofvalue.com
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