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**DIANA SHIPPING INC. SCHEDULES THIRD QUARTER 2008 EARNINGS
RELEASE, DIVIDEND DECLARATION AND CONFERENCE CALL**

ATHENS, GREECE, October 23, 2008 – Diana Shipping Inc. (NYSE: DSX), a global shipping company specializing in the transportation of dry bulk cargoes, today announced that its financial results for the third quarter ended September 30, 2008 are scheduled to be released before the opening of the U.S. financial markets on Wednesday, November 12, 2008.

The declaration of the Company's cash dividend for the quarter ended September 30, 2008 also will be announced at that time.

The Company's management will conduct a conference call and simultaneous Internet webcast to review these results at 9:00 A.M. (Eastern Standard Time) on Wednesday, November 12, 2008.

Investors may access the webcast by visiting the Company's website at www.dianashippinginc.com, and clicking on the webcast link. The webcast also is accessible at www.viavid.net, by clicking on the Diana Shipping link under "Events". The conference call also may be accessed by telephone by dialing 1-800-762-8779 (for U.S.-based callers) or 1-480-629-9041 (for international callers).

A replay of the webcast will be available soon after the completion of the call and will be accessible on both www.dianashippinginc.com and www.viavid.net. A telephone replay will be available by dialing 1-800-406-7325 (for U.S.-based callers) or 1-303-590-3030 (for international callers); callers must use the PIN number 3934891.

About the Company

Diana Shipping Inc. (NYSE: DSX) is a global provider of shipping transportation services. The Company specializes in transporting dry bulk cargoes, including such commodities as iron ore, coal, grain and other materials along worldwide shipping routes.