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**DIANA SHIPPING INC. SCHEDULES FIRST QUARTER 2009
EARNINGS RELEASE AND CONFERENCE CALL**

ATHENS, GREECE, April 28, 2009 – 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 first quarter ended March 31, 2009 are scheduled to be released before the opening of the U.S. financial markets on Wednesday, May 6, 2009.

The Company's management will conduct a conference call and simultaneous Internet webcast to review these results at 8:30 A.M. (Eastern Daylight Time) on Monday, May 11, 2009.

Investors may access the webcast by visiting the Company's website at www.dianashippinginc.com, and clicking on the webcast link. The conference call also may be accessed by telephone by dialing 1-877-870-4399 (for U.S.-based callers) or 1-706-679-6101 (for international callers), and providing the operator with the Conference ID number 97436447.

A replay of the webcast will be available soon after the completion of the call and will be accessible on www.dianashippinginc.com. A telephone replay will be available by dialing 1-800-642-1687 (for U.S.-based callers) or 1-706-645-9291 (for international callers), and providing the Conference ID number 97436447.

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.