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**DIANA SHIPPING INC. SCHEDULES FIRST QUARTER 2011 EARNINGS
RELEASE AND CONFERENCE CALL**

ATHENS, GREECE, April 21, 2011 – 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, 2011 are scheduled to be released before the opening of the U.S. financial markets on Friday, May 6, 2011.

The Company's management will conduct a conference call and simultaneous Internet webcast to review these results at 9:00 A.M. (Eastern Time) on Friday, May 6, 2011.

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 1-877-407-8291 (for U.S.-based callers) or 1-201-689-8345 (for international callers), and asking the operator for the Diana Shipping Inc. conference call.

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 1-877-660-6853 (for U.S.-based callers) or 1-201-612-7415 (for international callers), and providing the Account number 362 and Replay ID number 371556.

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.