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**DIANA SHIPPING INC. ANNOUNCES
DATE FOR ITS 2014 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**

ATHENS, GREECE, March 13, 2014 – Diana Shipping Inc. (NYSE: DSX) (the “Company”), a global shipping company specializing in the ownership of dry bulk vessels, announced today that its Board of Directors (the “Board”) has scheduled the Company’s Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the “Meeting”) for May 6, 2014. The Board has set a record date for the Meeting of March 24, 2014.

About the Company

Diana Shipping Inc. is a leading global provider of shipping transportation services through its ownership of dry bulk vessels. The Company’s vessels are employed primarily on medium to long-term time charters and transport a range of dry bulk cargoes, including such commodities as iron ore, coal, grain and other materials along worldwide shipping routes.