

DIANA SHIPPING INC.  
Form 6-K  
January 15, 2009

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER PURSUANT TO RULE 13A-16 OR 15D-16 OF THE SECURITIES  
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the month of January 2009

Commission File Number: 001-32458

DIANA SHIPPING INC.  
(Translation of registrant's name into English)

Pendelis 16, 175 64 Palaio Faliro, Athens, Greece  
(Address of principal executive office)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F  Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1): .

Note: Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1) only permits the submission in paper of a Form 6-K if submitted solely to provide an attached annual report to security holders.

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7): .

Note: Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7) only permits the submission in paper of a Form 6-K if submitted to furnish a report or other document that the registrant foreign private issuer must furnish and make public under the laws of the jurisdiction in which the registrant is incorporated, domiciled or legally organized (the registrant's "home country"), or under the rules of the home country exchange on which the registrant's securities are traded, as long as the report or other document is not a press release, is not required to be and has not been distributed to the registrant's security holders, and, if discussing a material event, has already been the subject of a Form 6-K submission or other Commission filing on EDGAR.

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FORM 6-K REPORT

Attached to this report on Form 6-K as Exhibit 1 is a press release dated January 13, 2009 of Diana Shipping Inc. announcing that it has entered into a time charter contract for the m/v Clio.

This report on Form 6-K is incorporated by reference into the Company's F-3 Registration Statement (File No. 333-143635) that was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") with an effective date of June 15, 2007, and the Company's F-3 Registration Statement (File No. 333-150406) that was filed with the Commission with an effective date of April 24, 2008.

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For Immediate Release

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DIANA SHIPPING INC. ANNOUNCES TIME CHARTER CONTRACT FOR MV CLIO

ATHENS, GREECE, January 13, 2009 – Diana Shipping Inc. (NYSE: DSX), a global shipping company specializing in the transportation of dry bulk cargoes, today announced that it has entered into an agreement with Cargill International S.A., Geneva, to charter one of its Panamax dry bulk carriers, the m/v Clio, at a gross rate of US\$11,000 per day for a period of minimum ten (10) to a maximum thirteen (13) months, starting on February 26, 2009.

This employment is anticipated to generate approximately US\$3.3 million of gross revenues for the minimum scheduled period of the charter.

The charterer had the option to redeliver the vessel on January 27, 2009. The Company and the charterer have agreed to extend the existing charter so that from January 27 to February 26, 2009, the gross charter rate will be US\$6,000 per day. Until January 27, 2009, the gross charter rate will remain at the current rate of US\$27,000 per day.

The m/v Clio is a 73,691 dwt Panamax dry bulk carrier built in 2005.

About the Company

Diana Shipping Inc. 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.

Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

Matters discussed in this press release may constitute forward-looking statements. The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 provides safe harbor protections for forward-looking statements in order to encourage companies to provide prospective information about their business. Forward-looking statements include statements concerning plans, objectives, goals, strategies, future events or performance, and underlying assumptions and other statements, which are other than statements of historical facts.

The Company desires to take advantage of the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and is including this cautionary statement in connection with this safe harbor legislation. The words “believe,” “anticipate,” “intends,” “estimate,” “forecast,” “project,” “plan,” “potential,” “will,” “may,” “should,” “expect” “pen” expressions identify forward-looking statements.

The forward-looking statements in this press release are based upon various assumptions, many of which are based, in turn, upon further assumptions, including without limitation, our management's examination of historical operating trends, data contained in our records and other data available from third parties. Although we believe that these assumptions were reasonable when made, because these assumptions are inherently subject to significant uncertainties and contingencies which are difficult or impossible to predict and are beyond our control, we cannot assure you that we will achieve or accomplish these expectations, beliefs or projections.

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In addition to these important factors, other important factors that, in our view, could cause actual results to differ materially from those discussed in the forward-looking statements include the strength of world economies and currencies, general market conditions, including fluctuations in charter rates and vessel values, changes in demand for dry bulk shipping capacity, changes in our operating expenses, including bunker prices, drydocking and insurance costs, the market for our vessels, availability of financing and refinancing, changes in governmental rules and regulations or actions taken by regulatory authorities, potential liability from pending or future litigation, general domestic and international political conditions, potential disruption of shipping routes due to accidents or political events, vessels breakdowns and instances of off-hires and other factors. Please see our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission for a more complete discussion of these and other risks and uncertainties.

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Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

DIANA SHIPPING INC.

(registrant)

Dated: January 14, 2008

By:

/s/ Anastassis  
Margaronis  
Anastassis Margaronis  
President

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