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DIANA SHIPPING INC.
Form 6-K
November 08, 2006

Report of Foreign Private Issuer
Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of November 2006

Commission File Number: 001-32458

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

Diana Shipping Inc.
Pendelis 16
175 64 Palaio Faliro
Athens, Greece
(Address of principal executive offices)

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): ____

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: ____

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Yes No

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): _____.

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FORM 6-K REPORT

Attached to this Report on Form 6-K as Exhibit 1 is a press release issued by Diana Shipping Inc. (the "Company") announcing the Company's financial results for the third quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2006 and a declaration of a cash dividend of 40 cents per share for the third quarter of 2006.

Exhibit 1

Corporate Contact:
Ioannis Zafirakis
Director and Vice-President
Telephone: + 30-210-9470100
Email: izafirakis@dianashippinginc.com

Investor and Media Relations:
Edward Nebb
Euro RSCG Magnet

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Telephone: + 1-212-367-6848
Email: ed.nebb@eurorscg.com

DIANA SHIPPING INC. REPORTS FINANCIAL RESULTS
FOR THE THIRD QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2006
AND
DECLARES CASH DIVIDEND OF 40 CENTS PER SHARE
FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2006

ATHENS, GREECE, November 7, 2006 - Diana Shipping Inc. (NYSE: DSX), a global shipping transportation company specializing in dry bulk cargoes, today reported net income of \$16.7 million for the third quarter of 2006, compared to net income of \$16.4 million reported for the same period of 2005.

Voyage and time charter revenues were \$30.6 million for the third quarter of 2006, compared to \$25.8 million for the same period of 2005. This increase was due to an increase in the number of vessels in the Company's fleet, which was partially offset by decreased hire rates.

Net income for the nine months ended September 30, 2006, amounted to \$41.6 million compared to net income of \$51.1 million for the same period of 2005. Net income available to common stockholders during the period, after the non-recurring preferential deemed dividend of \$20.3 million relating to the purchase of Diana Shipping Services S.A. on April 1, 2006, was \$21.4 million. Voyage and time charter revenues were \$80.9 million for the first nine months of 2006, compared to \$79.1 million for the same period of 2005.

Dividend Declaration

The Company has declared a cash dividend on its common stock of \$0.40 per share, based on the Company's results from operations during the third quarter ended September 30, 2006. The cash dividend will be payable on or about November 30, 2006 to shareholders of record as of November 22, 2006. The Company has 53.05 million shares of common stock outstanding.

"We are pleased that our earnings per share performance has continued its positive trend during the first three quarters of 2006. EPS rose to US\$0.32 in the third quarter, up from US\$0.28 in the second quarter (before the non-recurring preferential deemed dividend), and US\$0.26 in the first quarter. Our successful strategies to grow our fleet, while maintaining a flexible chartering policy that permits the Company to benefit from the dynamic of our marketplace, also have resulted in our being able to increase our dividend for the third quarter of 2006 to 40 cents per share," said Simeon Palios, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Diana Shipping Inc.

Fleet Employment Profile

Currently Diana's fleet is employed as follows:

Name	Sister ships(3)	Year Built	DWT	Employment (1)
Nirefs	A	2001	75,311	4TCs Average(4) + 4.5%
Alcyon	A	2001	75,247	\$22,582
Triton	A	2001	75,336	\$17,000
Oceanis	A	2001	75,211	\$17,000

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Dione	A	2001	75,172	\$17,000
Danae	A	2001	75,106	\$30,000
Protefs	B	2004	73,630	4TCs Average(4)
Calipso	B	2005	73,691	\$26,750
Clio	B	2005	73,691	4TCs Average(4) +\$850
Thetis	B	2004	73,583	\$25,000
Naias	B	2006	73,546	\$21,000
Erato	C	2004	74,444	\$21,000
Coronis	C	2006	74,381	\$21,000
Pantelis SP	-	1999	169,883	\$47,500
Sideris GS(5)	D	2006	175,000	see footnote 7
Hull H1107(6)	D	2010	177,000	-
Hull H1108(6)	D	2010	177,000	-
Total:			1,667,232	

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- (1) Gross time charter rate per day.
 - (2) Charterers' optional period to redeliver the vessel to owners.
 - (3) Each vessel is a sister ship of the other vessels that have the same letter.
 - (4) Adjustable every 15 days based on the average of four main pre-determined time charter routes, as published by the Baltic Exchange.
 - (5) Expected to be delivered in December 2006.
 - (6) Expected to be delivered in the second quarter of 2010.
 - (7) The daily time charter rate will be \$46,000 during the first year; \$43,000 during the second year; \$39,000 during the third year and \$36,000 during the fourth year.
 - (8) The charterer has the option to employ the vessel for a further 11-13 month period, counting from the end of the 48th month, at the daily time charter rate of \$48,500.

Summary of Selected Financials & Other Data

	Three Months Ended September 30,		20
	2006	2005	
	----- (unaudited)	----- (unaudited)	----- (una
INCOME STATEMENT DATA (in thousands of US Dollars):			
Voyage and time charter revenues	\$ 30,595	\$ 25,802	\$
Voyage expenses	1,417	1,551	
Vessel operating expenses	5,988	4,045	
Net income	16,725	16,444	
Net income available to common stockholders	16,725	16,444	
FLEET DATA			
Average number of vessels	13.6	10.0	
Number of vessels	14.0	10.0	
Weighted average age of fleet (in years)	4.0	4.0	
Ownership days	1,247	920	
Available days	1,247	892	
Operating days	1,247	891	
Fleet utilization	100.0%	99.9%	
AVERAGE DAILY RESULTS			
Time charter equivalent (TCE) rate (1)	\$ 23,399	\$ 27,187	\$
Daily vessel operating expenses (2)	\$ 4,802	\$ 4,397	\$

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- (1) Time charter equivalent rates, or TCE rates, are defined as our voyage and time charter revenues less voyage expenses during a period divided by the number of our available days during the period, which is consistent with industry standards. Voyage expenses include port charges, bunker (fuel) expenses, canal charges and commissions. TCE rate is a standard shipping industry performance measure used primarily to compare daily earnings generated by vessels on time charters with daily earnings generated by vessels on voyage charters, because charter hire rates for vessels on voyage charters are generally not expressed in per day amounts while charter hire rates for vessels on time charters are generally expressed in such amounts.
 - (2) Daily vessel operating expenses, which include crew wages and related costs, the cost of insurance, expenses relating to repairs and maintenance, the costs of spares and consumable stores, tonnage taxes and other miscellaneous expenses, are calculated by dividing vessel operating expenses by ownership days for the relevant period.

Conference Call and Webcast Information

Diana Shipping Inc. will conduct a conference call and simultaneous Internet webcast to review these results at 9:00 A.M. (Eastern Standard Time) on Wednesday, November 8, 2006. 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.viaavid.net, by clicking on the Diana Shipping link under "Events". The conference call also may be accessed by telephone by dialing 1-877-692-2086 (for U.S.-based callers) or 1-973-935-8599 (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.viaavid.net. A telephone replay will be available by dialing 1-877-519-4471 (for U.S.-based callers) or 1-973-341-3080 (for international callers); callers must use the PIN number 8051663.

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," "expect," "anticipate," "intends," "estimate," "forecast," "project," "plan," "potential," "will," "may," "should," "expect" "pending and similar expressions identify forward-looking statements.

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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.

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.

(See financial tables attached)

DIANA SHIPPING INC. FINANCIAL TABLES

Expressed in thousands of U.S. Dollars, except share, per day and fleet

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

	Three Months Ended September 30, 2006	2005	
	----- (unaudited)	----- (unaudited)	-----
REVENUES:			
Voyage and time charter revenues	\$ 30,595	\$ 25,802	\$
EXPENSES:			
Voyage expenses	1,417	1,551	
Vessel operating expenses	5,988	4,045	
Depreciation and amortization of deferred charges	4,238	2,629	
Management fees	-	450	
Executive management services and rent	-	38	
General and administrative expenses	1,870	696	
Foreign currency losses (gains)	(60)	(11)	
Operating income	----- 17,142	----- 16,404	
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES):			
Interest and finance costs	(699)	(257)	
Interest Income	282	297	

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	-----	-----	-----
Total other income (expenses), net	(417)	40	
	-----	-----	-----
Net Income	\$ 16,725	\$ 16,444	\$
	=====	=====	=====
Preferential deemed dividend	-	-	
	-----	-----	-----
Net income available to common stockholders	\$ 16,725	\$ 16,444	\$
	=====	=====	=====
Earnings per common share, basic and diluted	\$ 0.32	\$ 0.41	\$
	=====	=====	=====
Weighted average number of common shares, basic and diluted	53,050,000	40,000,000	
	=====	=====	=====

BALANCE SHEET DATA

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents
Other current assets
Advances for vessels under construction and acquisitions and other vessel costs
Vessels' net book value
Other fixed assets, net
Other non-current assets

Total assets

September 20

(unaud)

LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Current liabilities, including current portion of long term debt
Long-term debt, net of current portion
Other non-current liabilities
Total stockholders' equity

Total liabilities and stockholders' equity

OTHER FINANCIAL DATA

Three Months Ended
September 30,
2006 2005

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	----- (unaudited)	----- (unaudited)	----- (unaudited)
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ 22,838	\$ 17,381	\$
Net cash used in investing activities	(53,910)	(4,470)	
Net cash provided by(used in) financing activities	20,767	(21,600)	

SIGNATURES

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: November 8, 2006

By: /s/ Anastassis Margaronis

Anastassis Margaronis
President

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