

DIANA SHIPPING INC.

Form 8-A12B

January 15, 2016

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-A

FOR REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN CLASSES OF SECURITIES

PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR 12(g) OF THE

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Diana Shipping Inc.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Republic of the Marshall Islands N/A

(State of Incorporation or Organization) (IRS Employer Identification No.)

Pendelis 16, 175 64 Palaio Faliro

Athens, Greece

(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of Each Class

to be so Registered

Common Stock, \$0.01 par value

Name of Each Exchange on Which

Each Class is to be Registered

The New York Stock Exchange

Preferred Stock Purchase Rights under Stockholders Rights Agreement The New York Stock Exchange

If this form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act and is effective upon filing pursuant to General Instruction A.(c) please check the following box.

If this form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act and is effective upon filing pursuant to General Instruction A.(d), please check the following box.

Securities Act registration statement file number to which this form relates: N/A

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

If this fo

None

(Title of Class)

Item 1. Description of Registrant's Securities to be Registered.

On January 13, 2016, the Board of Directors (the "Board") of Diana Shipping Inc. (the "Company") authorized and declared a dividend distribution of one right (a "Right") for each outstanding share of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "Common Shares"), of the Company to stockholders of record as of the close of business on January 26, 2016 (the "Record Date"). Each Right entitles the registered holder to purchase from the Company one one-thousandth of a share of Series A Participating Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "Preferred Shares"), of the Company at an exercise price of \$40.00 per one one-thousandth of a Preferred Share, subject to adjustment (the "Exercise Price"). The complete terms of the Rights are set forth in a Stockholders Rights Agreement (the "Rights Agreement"), dated as of January 15, 2016, between the Company and Computershare Trust Company, N.A., as rights agent.

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The Board adopted the Rights Agreement to protect stockholders from coercive or otherwise unfair takeover tactics. In general terms, it works by imposing a significant penalty upon any person or group that acquires 18.5% or more of the Common Shares without the approval of the Board. As a result, the overall effect of the Rights Agreement and the issuance of the Rights may be to render more difficult or discourage a merger, tender or exchange offer or other business combination involving the Company that is not approved by the Board. However, neither the Rights Agreement nor the Rights should interfere with any merger, tender or exchange offer or other business combination approved by the Board.

The following is a summary of the terms of the Rights Agreement. The summary does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Rights Agreement, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit 4.1 and incorporated herein by reference.

#### Distribution and Transfer of Rights; Rights Certificates

The Board has declared a dividend of one Right for each outstanding Common Share. Prior to the Distribution Date referred to below:

- the Rights will be evidenced by and trade with the certificates for the Common Shares (or, with respect to any uncertificated Common Shares registered in book entry form, by notation in book entry), and no separate rights certificates will be distributed;
- new Common Shares certificates issued after the Record Date will contain a legend incorporating the Rights Agreement by reference (for uncertificated Common Shares registered in book entry form, this legend will be contained in a notation in book entry); and
- the surrender for transfer of any certificates for Common Shares (or the surrender for transfer of any uncertificated Common Shares registered in book entry form) will also constitute the transfer of the Rights associated with such Common Shares.

Rights will accompany any new Common Shares that are issued after the Record Date.

#### Distribution Date

Subject to certain exceptions specified in the Rights Agreement, the Rights will separate from the Common Shares and become exercisable following the earlier of (i) the 10th calendar day (or such later date as may be determined by the Board) after the public announcement that a person or group of affiliated or associated persons (an "Acquiring Person") has acquired beneficial ownership of 18.5% or more of the Common Shares; or (ii) the 10th business day (or such later date as may be determined by the Board) after a person or group announces a tender or exchange offer that would result in ownership by a person or group of 18.5% or more of the Common Shares. For purposes of the Rights Agreement, beneficial ownership is defined to include the ownership of derivative securities.

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The date on which the Rights separate from the Common Shares and become exercisable is referred to as the "Distribution Date."

After the Distribution Date, the Company will mail Rights certificates to the Company's stockholders as of the close of business on the Distribution Date and the Rights will become transferable apart from the Common Shares. Thereafter, such Rights certificates alone will represent the Rights.

**Preferred Shares Purchasable Upon Exercise of Rights**

After the Distribution Date, each Right will entitle the holder to purchase, for the Exercise Price, one one-thousandth of a Preferred Share having economic and other terms similar to that of one Common Share. This portion of a Preferred Share is intended to give the stockholder approximately the same dividend, voting and liquidation rights as would one Common Share, and should approximate the value of one Common Share.

More specifically, each one one-thousandth of a Preferred Share, if issued, will:

- not be redeemable;

- entitle holders to quarterly dividend payments in an amount per share equal to 1,000 times the aggregate per share amount of all cash dividends, and 1,000 times the aggregate per share amount (payable in kind) of all non-cash dividends or other distributions other than a dividend payable in Common Shares or a subdivision of the outstanding Common Shares (by reclassification or otherwise), declared on the Common Shares since the immediately preceding quarterly dividend payment date; and

- entitle holders of Series A Participating Preferred Stock to 1,000 votes on all matters submitted to a vote of the stockholders of the Company.

**Flip-In Trigger**

If an Acquiring Person obtains beneficial ownership of 18.5% or more of the Common Shares, then each Right will entitle the holder thereof to purchase, for the Exercise Price, a number of Common Shares (or, in certain circumstances, cash, property or other securities of the Company) having a then-current market value of twice the Exercise Price. However, the Rights are not exercisable following the occurrence of the foregoing event until such time as the Rights are no longer redeemable by the Company, as further described below.

Following the occurrence of an event set forth in the preceding paragraph, all Rights that are or, under certain circumstances specified in the Rights Agreement, were beneficially owned by an Acquiring Person or certain of its transferees will be null and void.

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#### Flip-Over Trigger

If, after an Acquiring Person obtains 18.5% or more of the Common Shares, (i) the Company merges into another entity; (ii) an acquiring entity merges into the Company; or (iii) the Company sells or transfers 50% or more of its assets, cash flow or earning power, then each Right (except for Rights that have previously been voided as set forth above) will entitle the holder thereof to purchase, for the Exercise Price, a number of shares of common stock of the person engaging in the transaction having a then-current market value of twice the Exercise Price.

#### Redemption of the Rights

The Rights will be redeemable at the Company's option for \$0.01 per Right (payable in cash, Common Shares or other consideration deemed appropriate by the Board) at any time on or prior to the 10th business day (or such later date as may be determined by the Board) after the public announcement that an Acquiring Person has acquired beneficial ownership of 18.5% or more of the Common Shares. Immediately upon the action of the Board ordering redemption, the Rights will terminate and the only right of the holders of the Rights will be to receive the \$0.01 redemption price. The redemption price will be adjusted if the Company undertakes a stock dividend or a stock split.

#### Exchange Provision

At any time after the date on which an Acquiring Person beneficially owns 18.5% or more of the Common Shares and prior to the acquisition by the Acquiring Person of 50% of the Common Shares, the Board may exchange the Rights (except for Rights that have previously been voided as set forth above), in whole or in part, for Common Shares at an exchange ratio of one Common Share per Right (subject to adjustment). In certain circumstances, the Company may elect to exchange the Rights for cash or other securities of the Company having a value approximately equal to one Common Share.

#### Expiration of the Rights

The Rights expire on the earliest of (i) 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on January 14, 2026 (unless such date is extended); or (ii) the redemption or exchange of the Rights as described above.

#### Amendment of Terms of Rights Agreement and Rights

The terms of the Rights and the Rights Agreement may be amended in any respect without the consent of the holders of the Rights on or prior to the Distribution Date. Thereafter, the terms of the Rights and the Rights Agreement may be amended without the consent of the holders of Rights in order to (i) cure any ambiguities; (ii) shorten or lengthen any time period pursuant to the Rights Agreement; or (iii) make changes that do not adversely affect the interests of holders of the Rights (other than an Acquiring Person or an affiliate or associate of an Acquiring Person).

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Voting Rights; Other Stockholder Rights

The Rights will not have any voting rights. Until a Right is exercised, the holder thereof, as such, will have no separate rights as stockholder of the Company.

Anti-Dilution Provisions

The Board may adjust the Exercise Price, the number of Preferred Shares issuable and the number of outstanding Rights to prevent dilution that may occur from a stock dividend, a stock split or a reclassification of the Preferred Shares or Common Shares.

Taxes

The distribution of Rights should not be taxable for federal income tax purposes. However, following an event that renders the Rights exercisable or upon redemption of the Rights, stockholders may recognize taxable income.

Item 2. Exhibits.

Exhibit

- 3.1 Certificate of Designations of Rights, Preferences and Privileges of Series A Participating Preferred Stock, dated February 21, 2005.
  - 4.1 Stockholders Rights Agreement, dated as of January 15, 2016.
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Pursuant to the requirements of Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereto duly authorized.

DIANA SHIPPING INC.

Dated: January 15, 2016

By: /s/ Ioannis Zafirakis

Name: Ioannis Zafirakis

Title: Chief Operating Officer

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EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description of Exhibit
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