

DIANA SHIPPING INC.
Form 6-K
February 14, 2014

FORM 6-K

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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

For the month of February 2014
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 99.1 is the Opinion of Seward & Kissel LLP, United States and Marshall Islands counsel to Diana Shipping Inc. (the “Company”), which is hereby incorporated by reference as Exhibit 5.1 to the Company's registration statement on Form F-3 (File No. 333-181540) filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission with an effective date of July 6, 2012.

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: February 14, 2014

By: /s/ Anastassis Margaronis
Anastassis Margaronis
President

Seward & Kissel llp
ONE BATTERY PARK PLAZA
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10004

Direct Dial

TELEPHONE: (212) 574-1200
FACSIMILE: (212) 480-8421
WWW.SEWKIS.COM

901 K Street, NW
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20001
TELEPHONE: (202)
737-8833
FACSIMILE: (202)
737-5184

February 14, 2014

Diana Shipping Inc.
Pendelis 16
175 64 Palaios Faliros
Athens, Greece

Re: Diana Shipping Inc.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel to Diana Shipping Inc. (the "Company") in connection with the Company's registration statement on Form F-3, File No 333-181540 (such registration statement as amended or supplemented from time to time) (the "Registration Statement") as filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") on May 18, 2012, relating to the registration under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act") and offering by the Company in one or more public offerings (collectively, the "Offering") of an aggregate of \$500,000,000 of securities, including shares of the Company's common stock, including preferred stock purchase rights (the "Preferred Stock Purchase Rights"), par value \$0.01 per share (the "Common Shares"), shares of the Company's preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "Preferred Shares"), debt securities of the Company (the "Debt Securities"), warrants to purchase the Company's securities (the "Warrants"), purchase contracts to purchase the Company's securities (the "Purchase Contracts"), rights to purchase the Company's securities (the "Rights") and units comprised of any of the foregoing securities (the "Units" and, together with the Common Shares, the Preferred Stock Purchase Rights, the Preferred Shares, the Debt Securities, the Warrants, the Purchase Contracts and the Rights, the "Securities"), and the prospectus of the Company included in the Registration Statement (the "Base Prospectus") and the preparation of a preliminary prospectus supplement to the Base Prospectus dated February 10, 2014 (the "Preliminary Prospectus Supplement") and a final prospectus supplement to the Base Prospectus dated February 10, 2014 (the "Final Prospectus Supplement") with respect to the Company's public offering of up to 2,760,000 shares of the Company's 8.875% Series B Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Shares (the "Series B Preferred Shares"), pursuant to the Company's Statement of Designation governing the Series B Preferred Shares, subject to adjustment as provided therein.

We have examined originals or copies, certified or otherwise identified to our satisfaction, of: (i) the Registration Statement; (ii) the Base Prospectus; (iii) the Second Amended and Restated Stockholders Rights Agreement dated as of October 7, 2008 (the "Rights Agreement"); and (iv) such corporate documents and records of the Company and such other instruments, certificates and documents as we have deemed necessary or appropriate as a basis for the opinions hereinafter expressed. In such examinations, we have assumed the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals, the conformity to original documents of all documents submitted to us as copies or drafts of documents to be executed, the genuineness of all signatures and the legal competence or capacity of persons or entities to complete the execution of documents. As to various questions of fact that are material to the opinions hereinafter expressed, we have relied upon statements or certificates of public officials, directors of the Company and others.

Based upon and subject to the foregoing, and having regard to such other legal considerations which we deem relevant, we are of the opinion that under the laws of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Series B Preferred Shares have been duly authorized and are validly issued, fully paid and non-assessable.

Furthermore, based upon and subject to the foregoing, and having regard to such other legal considerations which we deem relevant, we are of the opinion that under the laws of the State of New York: (i) the Preferred Stock Purchase Rights constitute binding obligations of the Company in accordance with the terms of the Rights Agreement; and (ii) the Debt Securities issued pursuant to an indenture substantially in the form examined by us, the Warrants, the Purchase Contracts, the Rights and the Units, upon due execution and delivery as contemplated in the Prospectus or any supplement thereto, will constitute valid and legally binding obligations of the Company.

This opinion is limited to the laws of the State of New York and the laws of the Republic of the Marshall Islands as in effect on the date hereof.

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement, and to each reference to us and the discussions of advice provided by us under the headings "Legal Matters" in the Preliminary Prospectus Supplement and in the Final Prospectus Supplement, without admitting we are "experts" within the meaning of the Securities Act or the rules and regulations of the Commission promulgated thereunder with respect to any part of the Registration Statement.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Seward & Kissel LLP