

TIDEWATER INC
Form 4
May 19, 2006

FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
BENNETT JOSEPH M

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O TIDEWATER INC., 601
POYDRAS ST. #1900

(Street)

NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
TIDEWATER INC [TDW]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
05/19/2006

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
Sr. Vice Pres. & CAO

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price |
| Common Stock | 05/19/2006 | | M ⁽¹⁾ | | 10,000 | A | \$ 22.75 |
| Common Stock | 05/19/2006 | | S | | 10,000 | D | \$ 50.19 |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | 2,268 |
| | | | | | | I | Trustee ⁽²⁾ |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 22.75 | 05/19/2006 | | M | 10,000 | ⁽³⁾ 03/11/1999 | Common Stock | 10,000 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|----------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| BENNETT JOSEPH M C/O TIDEWATER INC. 601 POYDRAS ST. #1900 NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130 | | | Sr. Vice Pres. & CAO | |

Signatures

Joseph Bennett, by: Michael Goldblatt, Agent and Attorney-in-Fact

05/19/2006

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) Exercise of employee stock option granted under Tidewater Inc. 1997 Plan

(2) Acquired on a periodic basis by the Trustee of the Tidewater Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan. Includes shares acquired for my account through April 30, 2006.

(3) The options were exercisable in 1/3 increments on March 11, 2000, March 2001, and March 11, 2002

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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