

TIDEWATER INC
Form 4
March 10, 2006

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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., SUITE 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)
03/08/2006

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)
Vice Pres., Controller, & 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 Ownership (Instr. 4) | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|------------------------|
| | | | | (A) or (D) | Price | | | | |
| | | | | Code | V | Amount | | | |
| Common Stock | 03/08/2006 | | M ⁽¹⁾ | A | 4,667 | \$ 39 | 18,994 | D | |
| Common Stock | 03/08/2006 | | S | D | 4,667 | \$ 49.1708 | 14,327 | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | 2,251 | I | Trustee ⁽²⁾ |

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

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number.

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⁾ | \$ 39 | 03/08/2006 | | M | 4,667 | ⁽³⁾ 03/26/2006 | Common Stock | 4,667 |

Reporting Owners

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

Signatures

Joseph Bennett, by: Michael Goldblatt, Agent and Attorney-in-Fact 03/10/2006

__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. 1992 Stock Option Plan.
- (2) Acquired on a periodic basis by the Trustee of the Tidewater Inc. 401(k) Savings Plan. Include shares acquired for my account through February 28, 2006.
- (3) The options were exercisable in 1/3 increments on March 26, 1997, March 26, 1998, and March 1999.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.