

Traditional lures and methods were not producing tuna Monday when Capt. Dave Bender turned to the SureCatch Power Jigs and a Japanese method of fishing.

The switch kept Dave Gradzilla and party, Bridgewater, busy in the cockpit of the Jenny Lee from then on.

Yellowfins up to 60 pounds were thick 90 feet under the boat in the Lindenkohl Canyon when the jigs went down, and within minutes anglers were hooked up. Where they had seen their anchovy and fresh squid baits ignored, they found the rods bent and straining under the attack.

They wound up with 13 yellowfins to 60 pounds, a 50-pound longfin and they released two small yellowfins.

Grant Toman, co-owner of The Reel Seat, Brielle, anticipates that the new lures, tackle and methods will bring a dynamic change in the local fishery.

"I believe that it will totally change the way people go chunking and jigging in the future," he said. "It's a revolutionary system."

Toman said this method of fishing was developed in Japan in 1991 in response to fewer fish and smaller catches with traditional methods.

The SureCatch Power Jigs were designed to be used with the Japanese butterfly jig system or extreme jigging, a form of vertical jigging.

"It's a very subtle jigging system that requires a sensitive rod and a reel with a very fast retrieve," Toman said. "The jigs are heavy at the tail end, and when they are slowed down the tail weight makes them fall slowly like a Zara Spook, but on a vertical plane.

"It's so effective it's unbelievable," Toman said.

The ultimate results from the



**SureCatch Power Jig**

SureCatch Power Jigs are achieved with the balance of rod, reel, line, rigging and technique.

Toman said the lures, when used for tuna, range in weight from about 3 1/2 ounces to 5 1/2 ounces with 5/0 to 6/0 Mustad assist hooks. They come in green back with a glow belly, blue back with a glow belly and all-glow.

Bender had the most success with the green back and glow belly version. The blue produced a single fish and the all-glow was not effective.

When they tried the small versions, Bender and co-captain Rick Petschauer found that they could not get through the dolphin down to the tuna. The dolphin hit continuously.

Toman said the Shimano company has the ideal outfit for butterfly jigging, but it will not be officially released until Nov. 1.

"The secret is the 6-6 Shimano Trevala rod," he said. "No one has duplicated it yet, and it only sells for \$100. The closest thing is the Tsunami inshore rod with a Daiwa Saltist reel."

When Shimano starts pushing the new outfit, it will include the Shimano Torsa reel.

"It's a small reel but it has great cranking power," Toman said. "It has big gears and a big handle. It's a little reel, but it will handle big fish."

Other Shimano reels that will fill the bill include the Trinidad and the Torium, reels with power and the capability of putting line on the spool in a hurry.

"You need a reel that will retrieve 35 inches of line per turn of the handle," Toman said. "The Daiwa Saltist will do it with a 6.4:1 rate of retrieve. The Saltiga is another."

Toman said high-tech braided lines are a must with this system. Monofilament has too much bulk, stretch and water resistance to allow the jig to work right.

The outfit is pricey with even the jigs costing \$28 to get started, but Toman said they are extremely popular, and anglers know that they can switch from tuna to stripers and get the same spectacular results.

"Shimano field-tested the whole system last winter in Florida, and they had great results on groupers, jacks and other species," he said. "It's incredible what you can do with this outfit; it's going to revolutionize things around here."

Capt. Burt Greene, owner of the Mirage, Crystal Point Yacht Club, Point Pleasant, said the vessel will sail open boat to the canyons on 24-hour trips that leave at 10 a.m. Sept. 27, Oct. 4, 11, 18 and 25.

The limit will be six anglers at \$475 each or \$570 each for five passengers. Payment must be made five days before the trip and prices do not include tips for the mates.

The trips will be broken up into three hours of trolling and 12 hours of chunking. Capt. Bruce Miller is booking agent for the trips.