



TECH IT OUT

by Tom Melton

SHIMANO LUCANUS JIG SYSTEM



For as long as I can remember, Shimano has been on the cutting edge of the tackle industry. What I did not know was that it all started when a Japanese visionary named Shozaburo Shimano, who in 1921 declared "I aim to make Shimano's products the best in Kansai, then the best in Japan, and finally the best in the world."

Here it is, 87 years later, and Shimano continues to press on its founder's mission, fishing at greater depths, and introducing comprehensive new fishing systems like the Lucanus Jig system; sure to be a force in the angling world for years to come.

BEETLE, BUG OR SQUID?

I have looked at, and fished with the Lucanus Jig and still have not really figured out exactly what is trying to replicate, baitfish wise. I have seen it called a beetle and bug, but to me it kind of looks like a small squid. In actuality, the lucanus is a type of stag beetle that the jig resembles; but the design itself is meant to attract and hook fish, pure and simple.

According to designer Ted Saki of Shimano, the jig sinks very quickly, even in heavy currents due to its sleek aerodynamic design. After sinking, the jig will also stabilize, making it fishable instantly. The dual eyelet allows for an extra trace of mono for added weight in really deep water or strong currents.

I recently fished the jig aboard the *Sea Otter* in Montauk, NY. The 5-ounce model made it to the bottom quickly, and then was easily fished and did not waver in the current despite other anglers around me using 16 ounces to hold bottom. The tentacles are made of silicone, which remains pliable and life-like. The colors will attract, and the glow eyes will aid in deeper water. Multiple Owner hooks round out the jig specifics. If you want to add scent, slide a small strip of clam or other stringy type bait to the hook. Keep the strip slender, similar to the tentacles. You also could use a spray-on scent as well.

Jigs come in 2, 3, 3-1/2, 5-1/4 and 7 ounces. The smaller ones will be perfect for fluke, sea bass and other inshore species. In fact, I'll bet stripers and weakfish will suck these up in no time. As for colors, you'll have a choice between

blue/silver, chartreuse/white, black/gold, green/gold, orange/white and purple/red.

ROD AND REEL

The reel is a Calcutta 400LJV (Lucanus Jig Version) that offers an adjustable handle shank and 5:0.1 gear ratio that aids in the slower retrieve needed, plus gives the power to winch in the big boys. If you have fished any of the Calcutta reels, you know the quality features they afford an angler like high efficiency gearing and anti-rust bearings.

The rods – Tescata - are designed specifically with tapers to meet every jig weight. The rods offer an extra fast taper, but with the back-bone to handle larger fish with ease. The sensitivity of the rod, which is enhanced by the use of braid in the 10- to 50-pound test range, allows the angler to feel the light taps on the jig, which will signal a fish is slowly inhaling the jig.

The Lucanus system works best when the jig moves as slowly as possible. Tescata rods are specially designed with an extra soft rod tip; when you see the fish bite, rather than setting the hook an angler just keeps reeling slowly. Bottom fish keep coming up on the attack, and after inhaling, the two smallish Owner hooks inevitably self-hook the fish, making the hook-up similar to circle hooks where you just lift and begin reeling.

The Tescata comes in four 8-foot conventional models and three 7-foot spin models. The spinning models are best suited for the Stella or more economical Spheros reels in the 5000 to 6000 size. All rods offer Fuji Alconite guides a high modulus TC4 construction Fuji reel seat. The Lucanus system also offers specially designed wind-on leaders in 20-, 30- and 40-pound strengths, along with replacement skirts and trailers - in all six jig colors - along with two-piece packs of #3 and #1/0 replacement multiple hooks.

Lucanus jigs themselves range in price from \$14.95 to \$17.99; the CTE 400LJV retails at \$450, while Tescata rods are priced at just under \$200. Learn more at www.lucanusjig.com or check out the full Shimano product line at your local tackle shop. spiny dogfish impact juvenile cod was ignored by the Dogfish Committee. 🐟