Resolution 35/XXXIV
Vessels without nationality

The Commission,

Concerned that vessels without nationality continue to operate in the Convention Area,

Recognising that vessels without nationality operate without governance and oversight,

Further recognising that fishing in the Convention Area by vessels without nationality undermines the objective of the Convention and effectiveness of the conservation measures adopted by the Commission,

1. Affirms that fishing in the Convention Area by vessels determined under international law to be without nationality undermines the Convention and the conservation measures adopted by the Commission and that these vessels are engaged in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

2. Encourages Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties to take measures in accordance with their applicable domestic legislation and international law, including by sharing information about the activities of vessels without nationality and, where appropriate, by enacting domestic legislation, to prevent and deter vessels without nationality from engaging in fishing or fishing-related activities in the Convention Area.

3. Encourages Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties to take action, in accordance with their applicable domestic legislation and international law, against vessels without nationality that have engaged in IUU fishing, including to prohibit the landing and transhipment of fish and fish products and access to port services¹ by such vessels.

4. Encourages Members to cooperate with non-Contracting Party Flag States to strengthen their legal, operational and institutional capacity to take action against their flagged vessels that have engaged in IUU fishing in the Convention Area, including the imposition of adequate sanctions, as an alternative to de-registering such vessels, thereby rendering such vessels without nationality.

¹ Except where such access is essential to the safety or health of the crew or the safety of the vessel.