



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
**DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES**

Fisheries Policy Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic and Outermost Regions  
**The Director**

Brussels,  
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**Subject: Access to document from Member States on bycatch provisions in 2017 TACs**

Dear Anne,

Thank you for your email of 13 March on a request for access to information sent by Member States on bycatch provisions.

You are right that a joint statement was made by Council and the Commission at the Council meeting on 12-13 December 2016, when setting the fishing opportunities for 2017. This statement took note of the requests by Member States to allow for specific provisions allowing by-catches in fisheries targeting pelagic species for a number of stocks and consequently set a deadline on 28 February 2017 for Member States to send relevant data to the Commission to be submitted for scientific assessment.

I can inform you that we have not yet received any data from the Member States following the statement at the December Council meeting.

I look forward to our continued cooperation.

Hélène Clark