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Sounds from a neonate harbour porpoise and their potential use in acoustic monitoring

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Harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) emit ultrasonic (130 kHz) clicks with a stereotyped source parameters for echolocation and communication. Recently it was observed that the first days of living, a neonate harbour porpoise emitted contact calls of much a much lower frequency emphasis, around a few kHz. The echolocation clicks produced by the calf significantly differed in duration and band width during the first four months post partum. The acoustic signals from harbour porpoise calves are ideal for automated detection and therefore as a tool in population studies of this species. Both hydrophone array systems towed from boats, and automated click detectors (such as T-PODs) may incorporate routines for automated detection of young calves. These findings may have a large potential for facilitating biologists in gathering important biological data from this otherwise very difficult-to-study species of marine mammals.