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In 2002, the Journal published volumes 47 and 48, each consisting of four issues and together comprising 44 papers. Following the trend of the last few years, most (18 out of 26) of the papers published in the regular issues of the Journal dealt with diverse aspects of marine coastal macrozoobenthic communities, covering a wide geographical range from Vestfjorden, Norway (68 °N) to the Beagle Channel in Tierra del Fuego (54 °S). Two of the Special Issues, viz. 47 (3/4) and 48 (4), were dedicated to Processes of Vertical Exchange in Shelf Seas (PROVESH), an interdisciplinary study of vertical fluxes throughout the water column from the sea surface to the seabed.

Another Special Issue of 2002 (Volume 48 — Issue 3) embodied Part I of the Proceedings of the Symposium "*Structuring Factors of Shallow Marine Coastal Communities*", which was held in November 2001 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Journal and the 125th anniversary of the institute. This issue was published in October 2002, i.e. within one year after the symposium was held. It comprises contributions by Jef Huisman (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands), Gerhard Cadée (Royal NIOZ), Jan Beukema (Royal NIOZ), Karsten Reise (AWI Sylt, Germany), John Widdows (Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UK) and Tim Wootton (University of Chicago, USA). The second part of the Proceedings, containing papers by the other speakers at the symposium, will be published in spring 2003 (Volume 49 - Issue 2).

Tragically, the year 2002 will be remembered most for the fatal traffic accident of our colleague and editor Wim van Raaphorst. Wim joined the editorial board of the Journal of Sea Research in 1999. As members of the editorial office, we have always admired his wide scientific expertise and interests, his sincerity and his empathy. These qualities made him an inspiring colleague, an ideal editor, and a joy to work with. Even after he had accepted the position of head of the Department of Marine Chemistry and Geology at NIOZ in 2001, he continued his editorial work with the same dedication and enthusiasm. We will always be grateful for his contributions, both on a professional and a personal level.



Wim van Raaphorst (right) chairing the JSR-Symposium in November 2001.