

## THE CURRENT AIR TEMPERATURE COOLING IN THE NORTH OF THE ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

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Series of surface air temperature available for the north of the Antarctic Peninsula are used to present the cooling tendency observed in the last 11 years. In particular, the data from the Islands of Orcadas and King George/Admiralty Bay are considered because they comprise the longest series available in the region; the former started in 1902 and the latter in 1949. Although a long-term increase of  $\sim 0.25^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$  characterizes the sequences, the last 20 years show no significant gradient and the last 11 years, starting with 1998-99, present a cooling trend of  $\sim 0.6^{\circ}\text{C}/\text{decade}$ . The sequences of air temperature data are analyzed also according to the four seasons and the results indicate that the variations of the temperature gradients follow different patterns. 2007, the coolest in the last 20 years, is used as an example to show how the temperature in the region is highly dependent on the geographical origin of the air masses.