

United States Brent Oil Fund, LP  
Form 10-Q  
May 04, 2016

**UNITED STATES**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 10-Q**

Quarterly report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2016.

**OR**

Transition report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the transition period from        to        .

**Commission File Number: 001-34704**

**United States Brent Oil Fund, LP**

**(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)**

**Delaware                                27-0925904**  
**(State or other jurisdiction of        (I.R.S. Employer**  
**incorporation or organization) Identification No.)**

**1999 Harrison Street, Suite 1530**

**Oakland, California 94612**

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

(510) 522-9600

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

N/A

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. x Yes " No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). x Yes " No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large accelerated filer " Accelerated filer x

Non-accelerated filer " (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company "

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). " Yes x No

The registrant had 9,000,000 shares outstanding as of May 2, 2016.

**UNITED STATES BRENT OIL FUND, LP**

**Table of Contents**

|   | <b>Page</b> |
|---|-------------|
| <b><u>Part I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION</u></b>   |             |
| <u>Item 1. Condensed Financial Statements.</u>  | 1           |
| <u>Item 2. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.</u> | 14          |
| <u>Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.</u>                            | 27          |
| <u>Item 4. Controls and Procedures.</u>   | 28          |
| <b><u>Part II. OTHER INFORMATION</u></b>  |             |
| <u>Item 1. Legal Proceedings.</u>   | 28          |
| <u>Item 1A. Risk Factors.</u>   | 28          |
| <u>Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds.</u>                           | 28          |
| <u>Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities.</u>   | 28          |
| <u>Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures.</u>   | 29          |
| <u>Item 5. Other Information.</u>   | 29          |
| <u>Item 6. Exhibits.</u>  | 29          |

**Part I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**Item 1. Condensed Financial Statements.**

**Index to Condensed Financial Statements**

| <b>Documents</b>   | <b>Page</b> |
|--|-------------|
| <u>Condensed Statements of Financial Condition at March 31, 2016 (Unaudited) and December 31, 2015</u>           | 2           |
| <u>Condensed Schedule of Investments (Unaudited) at March 31, 2016</u>   | 3           |
| <u>Condensed Statements of Operations (Unaudited) for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015</u>         | 4           |
| <u>Condensed Statement of Changes in Partners' Capital (Unaudited) for the three months ended March 31, 2016</u> | 5           |
| <u>Condensed Statements of Cash Flows (Unaudited) for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015</u>         | 6           |
| <u>Notes to Condensed Financial Statements for the period ended March 31, 2016 (Unaudited)</u>                   | 7           |

**United States Brent Oil Fund, LP****Condensed Statements of Financial Condition****At March 31, 2016 (Unaudited) and December 31, 2015**

|  | March 31, 2016        | December 31, 2015    |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>  |                       |                      |
| Cash and cash equivalents (Notes 2 and 5)                  | \$ 95,117,071         | \$ 67,996,295        |
| Equity in trading accounts:                                |                       |                      |
| Cash and cash equivalents                                  | 20,219,937            | 20,732,135           |
| Unrealized gain (loss) on open commodity futures contracts | (5,096,230 )          | (7,442,340 )         |
| Receivable for shares sold                                 | -                     | 1,238,809            |
| Receivable from General Partner (Note 3)                   | 59,413                | 135,365              |
| Dividends receivable                                       | 2,553                 | 39                   |
| Directors' fees and insurance receivable                   | 2,570                 | -                    |
| ETF transaction fees receivable                            | 700                   | 700                  |
| <b>Total assets</b>  | <b>\$ 110,306,014</b> | <b>\$ 82,661,003</b> |
| <b>Liabilities and Partners' Capital</b>                   |                       |                      |
| General Partner management fees payable (Note 3)           | \$ 71,842             | \$ 49,275            |
| Professional fees payable                                  | 43,783                | 113,211              |
| Brokerage commissions payable                              | 7,176                 | 5,746                |
| Directors' fees and insurance payable                      | -                     | 661                  |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>                                   | <b>122,801</b>        | <b>168,893</b>       |
| <b>Commitments and Contingencies (Notes 3, 4 and 5)</b>    |                       |                      |
| <b>Partners' Capital</b>                                   |                       |                      |
| General Partner  | -                     | -                    |
| Limited Partners   | 110,183,213           | 82,492,110           |
| <b>Total Partners' Capital</b>                             | <b>110,183,213</b>    | <b>82,492,110</b>    |
| <b>Total liabilities and partners' capital</b>             | <b>\$ 110,306,014</b> | <b>\$ 82,661,003</b> |
| Limited Partners' shares outstanding                       | 8,950,000             | 6,750,000            |
| Net asset value per share                                  | \$ 12.31              | \$ 12.22             |
| Market value per share                                     | \$ 12.26              | \$ 12.24             |

*See accompanying notes to condensed financial statements.*



**United States Brent Oil Fund, LP**  
**Condensed Schedule of Investments (Unaudited)**  
**At March 31, 2016**

|  | Number of<br>Contracts | Unrealized Gain<br>(Loss)<br>on Open<br>Commodity<br>Contracts | % of<br>Partners'<br>Capital |
|--|------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Open Futures Contracts - Long  |                        |  |                              |
| Foreign Contracts  |                        |  |                              |
| ICE Brent Crude Oil Futures CO June 2016 contracts, expiring April 2016* | 2,732                  | \$ (5,096,230 )  | (4.63 )                      |

|                                    | Principal<br>Amount | Market<br>Value |       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------|
| Cash Equivalents                   |                     |                 |       |
| United States Treasury Obligations |                     |                 |       |
| U.S. Treasury Bills:               |                     |                 |       |
| 0.07%, 4/07/2016                   | \$3,000,000         | \$2,999,965     | 2.72  |
| 0.07%, 4/14/2016                   | 3,000,000           | 2,999,930       | 2.72  |
| 0.11%, 4/21/2016                   | 2,000,000           | 1,999,878       | 1.82  |
| 0.21%, 4/28/2016                   | 2,000,000           | 1,999,685       | 1.82  |
| 0.26%, 5/05/2016                   | 3,000,000           | 2,999,264       | 2.72  |
| 0.33%, 5/12/2016                   | 2,000,000           | 1,999,248       | 1.82  |
| 0.31%, 5/19/2016                   | 2,000,000           | 1,999,173       | 1.81  |
| 0.35%, 5/26/2016                   | 3,000,000           | 2,998,396       | 2.72  |
| 0.43%, 6/02/2016                   | 3,000,000           | 2,997,804       | 2.72  |
| 0.52%, 6/09/2016                   | 3,000,000           | 2,997,010       | 2.72  |
| 0.48%, 6/16/2016                   | 2,000,000           | 1,997,973       | 1.81  |
| 0.46%, 6/23/2016                   | 2,000,000           | 1,997,902       | 1.81  |
| 0.47%, 6/30/2016                   | 5,000,000           | 4,994,188       | 4.53  |
| 0.38%, 7/21/2016                   | 1,000,000           | 998,828         | 0.91  |
| 0.42%, 8/04/2016                   | 1,000,000           | 998,559         | 0.91  |
| 0.41%, 8/11/2016                   | 2,000,000           | 1,996,993       | 1.81  |
| 0.43%, 8/18/2016                   | 5,000,000           | 4,991,708       | 4.53  |
| 0.45%, 8/25/2016                   | 2,000,000           | 1,996,391       | 1.81  |
| 0.48%, 9/01/2016                   | 2,000,000           | 1,995,920       | 1.81  |
| 0.46%, 9/08/2016                   | 3,000,000           | 2,993,933       | 2.72  |
| 0.45%, 9/15/2016                   | 3,000,000           | 2,993,738       | 2.72  |
| 0.44%, 9/22/2016                   | 6,000,000           | 5,987,240       | 5.43  |
| 0.38%, 9/29/2016                   | 5,000,000           | 4,990,447       | 4.53  |
| Total Treasury Obligations         |                     | 64,924,173      | 58.92 |

United States - Money Market Funds

Edgar Filing: United States Brent Oil Fund, LP - Form 10-Q

|   |           |              |       |
|---|-----------|--------------|-------|
| Fidelity Institutional Money Market Funds - Government Portfolio  | 6,000,000 | 6,000,000    | 5.44  |
| Goldman Sachs Financial Square Funds - Government Fund - Class FS | 6,000,000 | 6,000,000    | 5.45  |
| Total Money Market Funds  |           | 12,000,000   | 10.89 |
| Total Cash Equivalents  |           | \$76,924,173 | 69.81 |

\* Collateral amounted to \$20,219,937 on open future contracts.

*See accompanying notes to condensed financial statements.*



*United States Brent Oil Fund, LP**Condensed Statements of Operations (Unaudited)**For the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015*

|  | Three months ended<br>March 31, 2016 | Three months ended<br>March 31, 2015 |         |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Income   |                                      |                                      |         |
| Gain (loss) on trading of commodity futures contracts:           |                                      |                                      |         |
| Realized gain (loss) on closed futures contracts                 | \$ 4,200,809                         | \$ 1,725,380                         |         |
| Change in unrealized gain (loss) on open futures contracts       | 2,346,110                            | (4,188,770                           | )       |
| Dividend income  | 3,755                                | 522                                  |         |
| Interest income  | 53,038                               | 8,117                                |         |
| ETF transaction fees   | 4,550                                | 10,500                               |         |
| Total income (loss)  | 6,608,262                            | (2,444,251                           | )       |
| Expenses   |                                      |                                      |         |
| General Partner management fees (Note 3)                         | 178,102                              | 153,435                              |         |
| Professional fees  | 38,228                               | 31,278                               |         |
| Brokerage commissions  | 53,272                               | 25,577                               |         |
| Directors' fees and insurance                                    | 2,448                                | 2,547                                |         |
| Total expenses   | 272,050                              | 212,837                              |         |
| Expense waiver (Note 3)  | (59,762                              | )                                    | (27,677 |
| Net expenses   | 212,288                              | 185,160                              |         |
| Net income (loss)  | \$ 6,395,974                         | \$ (2,629,411                        | )       |
| Net income (loss) per limited partnership share                  | \$ 0.09                              | \$ (1.91                             | )       |
| Net income (loss) per weighted average limited partnership share | \$ 0.75                              | \$ (0.67                             | )       |
| Weighted average limited partnership shares outstanding          | 8,493,956                            | 3,921,111                            |         |

*See accompanying notes to condensed financial statements.*

*United States Brent Oil Fund, LP*

*Condensed Statement of Changes in Partners' Capital (Unaudited)*

*For the three months ended March 31, 2016*

|  | General Partner | Limited Partners | Total          |
|--|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Balances, at December 31, 2015           | \$ -            | \$ 82,492,110    | \$ 82,492,110  |
| Addition of 2,500,000 partnership shares | -               | 25,058,476       | 25,058,476     |
| Redemption of 300,000 partnership shares | -               | (3,763,347 )     | (3,763,347 )   |
| Net income (loss)                        | -               | 6,395,974        | 6,395,974      |
| Balances, at March 31, 2016              | \$ -            | \$ 110,183,213   | \$ 110,183,213 |
| Net Asset Value Per Share:               |                 |                  |                |
| At December 31, 2015                     |                 |                  | \$12.22        |
| At March 31, 2016                        |                 |                  | \$12.31        |

*See accompanying notes to condensed financial statements.*

*United States Brent Oil Fund, LP**Condensed Statements of Cash Flows (Unaudited)**For the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015*

|  | Three months<br>ended<br>March 31, 2016 | Three months<br>ended<br>March 31, 2015 |
|--|---|---|
| Cash Flows from Operating Activities:  |   |   |
| Net income (loss)  | \$ 6,395,974                            | \$ (2,629,411 )                         |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities: |   |   |
| (Increase) decrease in commodity futures trading account - cash and cash equivalents               | 512,198                                 | (8,826,163 )                            |
| Unrealized (gain) loss on open futures contracts   | (2,346,110 )                            | 4,188,770                               |
| (Increase) decrease in receivable from General Partner   | 75,952                                  | 66,639                                  |
| (Increase) decrease in dividends receivable  | (2,514 )                                | (314 )                                  |
| (Increase) decrease in directors' fees and insurance receivable                                    | (2,570 )                                | (1,502 )                                |
| (Increase) decrease in ETF transaction fees receivable   | -                                       | 700                                     |
| Increase (decrease) in General Partner management fees payable                                     | 22,567                                  | 42,941                                  |
| Increase (decrease) in professional fees payable   | (69,428 )                               | (48,113 )                               |
| Increase (decrease) in brokerage commissions payable   | 1,430                                   | 2,860                                   |
| Increase (decrease) in directors' fees and insurance payable                                       | (661 )                                  | (338 )                                  |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities  | 4,586,838                               | (7,203,931 )                            |
| Cash Flows from Financing Activities:  |   |   |
| Addition of partnership shares   | 26,297,285                              | 70,948,692                              |
| Redemption of partnership shares   | (3,763,347 )                            | (2,041,445 )                            |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities  | 22,533,938                              | 68,907,247                              |
| Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents   | 27,120,776                              | 61,703,316                              |
| <b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b> , beginning of period   | 67,996,295                              | 36,408,502                              |
| <b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b> , end of period   | \$ 95,117,071                           | \$ 98,111,818                           |

*See accompanying notes to condensed financial statements.*

**United States Brent Oil Fund, LP**

**Notes to Condensed Financial Statements**

**For the period ended March 31, 2016 (Unaudited)**

**NOTE 1 – ORGANIZATION AND BUSINESS**

The United States Brent Oil Fund, LP (“BNO”) was organized as a limited partnership under the laws of the state of Delaware on September 2, 2009. BNO is a commodity pool that issues limited partnership shares (“shares”) that may be purchased and sold on the NYSE Arca, Inc. (the “NYSE Arca”). BNO will continue in perpetuity, unless terminated sooner upon the occurrence of one or more events as described in its Third Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership dated as of March 1, 2013 (the “LP Agreement”). The investment objective of BNO is for the daily changes in percentage terms of its shares’ per share net asset value (“NAV”) to reflect the daily changes in percentage terms of the spot price of Brent crude oil as measured by the daily changes in the price of the futures contract for Brent crude oil traded on the ICE Futures Exchange (the “ICE Futures”) that is the near month contract to expire, except when the near month contract is within two weeks of expiration, in which case the futures contract will be the next month contract to expire (the “Benchmark Futures Contract”), less BNO’s expenses. It is not the intent of BNO to be operated in a fashion such that the per share NAV will equal, in dollar terms, the spot price of Brent crude oil or any particular futures contract based on Brent crude oil. It is not the intent of BNO to be operated in a fashion such that its per share NAV will reflect the percentage change of the price of any particular futures contract as measured over a time period greater than one day. United States Commodity Funds LLC (“USCF”), the general partner of BNO, believes that it is not practical to manage the portfolio to achieve such an investment goal when investing in Futures Contracts (as defined below) and Other Crude Oil-Related Investments (as defined below). BNO accomplishes its objective through investments in futures contracts for crude oil, diesel-heating oil, gasoline, natural gas and other petroleum-based fuels that are traded on the ICE Futures, the New York Mercantile Exchange (the “NYMEX”), or other U.S. and foreign exchanges (collectively, “Futures Contracts”), and other crude oil-related investments such as cash-settled options on Futures Contracts, forward contracts for crude oil, cleared swap contracts and over-the-counter (“OTC”) transactions that are based on the price of crude oil and other petroleum-based fuels, Futures Contracts and indices based on the foregoing (collectively, “Other Crude Oil-Related Investments”). As of March 31, 2016, BNO held 2,732 Futures Contracts for Brent crude oil traded on the ICE Futures Europe and did not hold any Futures Contracts for Brent crude oil traded on the NYMEX.

BNO commenced investment operations on June 2, 2010 and has a fiscal year ending on December 31. USCF is responsible for the management of BNO. USCF is a member of the National Futures Association (the “NFA”) and became registered as a commodity pool operator with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (the “CFTC”) effective December 1, 2005 and a swaps firm on August 8, 2013. USCF is also the general partner of the United States Oil Fund, LP (“USO”), the United States Natural Gas Fund, LP (“UNG”), the United States 12 Month Oil Fund, LP (“USL”), the United States Gasoline Fund, LP (“UGA”) and the United States Diesel-Heating Oil Fund, LP (“UHN”), which listed their limited partnership shares on the American Stock Exchange (the “AMEX”) under the ticker symbols “USO” on April 10, 2006, “UNG” on April 18, 2007, “USL” on December 6, 2007, “UGA” on February 26, 2008 and “UHN” on April 9,

2008, respectively. As a result of the acquisition of the AMEX by NYSE Euronext, each of USO's, UNG's, USL's, UGA's and UHN's shares commenced trading on the NYSE Arca on November 25, 2008. USCF is also the general partner of the United States Short Oil Fund, LP ("DNO") and the United States 12 Month Natural Gas Fund, LP ("UNL"), which listed their limited partnership shares on the NYSE Arca under the ticker symbols "DNO" on September 24, 2009 and "UNL" on November 18, 2009, respectively. USCF is also the sponsor of the United States Commodity Index Fund ("USCI"), the United States Copper Index Fund ("CPER") and the United States Agriculture Index Fund ("USAG"), each a series of the United States Commodity Index Funds Trust. USCI, CPER and USAG listed their shares on the NYSE Arca under the ticker symbols "USCI" on August 10, 2010, "CPER" on November 15, 2011 and "USAG" on April 13, 2012 respectively.

All funds listed previously are referred to collectively herein as the "Related Public Funds."

BNO issues shares to certain authorized purchasers ("Authorized Participants") by offering baskets consisting of 50,000 shares ("Creation Baskets") through ALPS Distributors, Inc., as the marketing agent (the "Marketing Agent"). The purchase price for a Creation Basket is based upon the NAV of a share calculated shortly after the close of the core trading session on the NYSE Arca on the day the order to create the basket is properly received.

In addition, Authorized Participants pay BNO a \$350 fee for each order placed to create one or more Creation Baskets or to redeem one or more baskets ("Redemption Baskets"), consisting of 50,000 shares. Shares may be purchased or sold on a nationally recognized securities exchange in smaller increments than a Creation Basket or Redemption Basket. Shares purchased or sold on a nationally recognized securities exchange are not purchased or sold at the per share NAV of BNO but rather at market prices quoted on such exchange.

In May 2010, BNO initially registered 50,000,000 shares on Form S-1 with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"). On June 2, 2010, BNO listed its shares on the NYSE Arca under the ticker symbol "BNO." BNO established its' initial per share NAV by setting the price at \$50.00 and issued 200,000 shares in exchange for \$10,000,000. BNO also commenced investment operations on June 2, 2010, by purchasing Futures Contracts traded on the ICE Futures Europe based on Brent crude oil. As of March 31, 2016, BNO had registered a total of 50,000,000 shares.

The accompanying unaudited condensed financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Rule 10-01 of Regulation S-X promulgated by the SEC and, therefore, do not include all information and footnote disclosure required under generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”) in the United States of America. The financial information included herein is unaudited; however, such financial information reflects all adjustments, consisting only of normal recurring adjustments, which are, in the opinion of USCF, necessary for the fair presentation of the condensed financial statements for the interim period.

## **NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

### **Basis of Presentation**

The financial statements have been prepared in conformity with GAAP as detailed in the Financial Accounting Standards Board’s (“FASB”) Accounting Standards Codification. BNO is an investment company and follows the accounting and reporting guidance in FASB Topic 946.

### **Revenue Recognition**

Commodity futures contracts, forward contracts, physical commodities and related options are recorded on the trade date. All such transactions are recorded on the identified cost basis and marked to market daily. Unrealized gains or losses on open contracts are reflected in the condensed statements of financial condition and represent the difference between the original contract amount and the market value (as determined by exchange settlement prices for futures contracts and related options and cash dealer prices at a predetermined time for forward contracts, physical commodities, and their related options) as of the last business day of the year or as of the last date of the condensed financial statements. Changes in the unrealized gains or losses between periods are reflected in the condensed statements of operations. BNO earns income on funds held at the custodian or futures commission merchant (“FCM”) at prevailing market rates earned on such investments.

### **Brokerage Commissions**

Brokerage commissions on all open commodity futures contracts are accrued on a full-turn basis.

## **Income Taxes**

BNO is not subject to federal income taxes; each partner reports his/her allocable share of income, gain, loss deductions or credits on his/her own income tax return.

In accordance with GAAP, BNO is required to determine whether a tax position is more likely than not to be sustained upon examination by the applicable taxing authority, including resolution of any tax related appeals or litigation processes, based on the technical merits of the position. BNO files an income tax return in the U.S. federal jurisdiction, and may file income tax returns in various U.S. states. BNO is not subject to income tax return examinations by major taxing authorities for years before 2012. The tax benefit recognized is measured as the largest amount of benefit that has a greater than fifty percent likelihood of being realized upon ultimate settlement. De-recognition of a tax benefit previously recognized results in BNO recording a tax liability that reduces net assets. However, BNO's conclusions regarding this policy may be subject to review and adjustment at a later date based on factors including, but not limited to, on-going analysis of and changes to tax laws, regulations and interpretations thereof. BNO recognizes interest accrued related to unrecognized tax benefits and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits in income tax fees payable, if assessed. No interest expense or penalties have been recognized as of and for the period ended March 31, 2016.

## **Creations and Redemptions**

Authorized Participants may purchase Creation Baskets or redeem Redemption Baskets only in blocks of 50,000 shares at a price equal to the NAV of the shares calculated shortly after the close of the core trading session on the NYSE Arca on the day the order is placed.

BNO receives or pays the proceeds from shares sold or redeemed within three business days after the trade date of the purchase or redemption. The amounts due from Authorized Participants are reflected in BNO's condensed statements of financial condition as receivable for shares sold, and amounts payable to Authorized Participants upon redemption are reflected as payable for shares redeemed.

Authorized Participants pay BNO a fee of \$350 for each order placed to create one or more Creation Baskets or to redeem one or more Redemption Baskets.

## **Partnership Capital and Allocation of Partnership Income and Losses**

Profit or loss shall be allocated among the partners of BNO in proportion to the number of shares each partner holds as of the close of each month. USCF may revise, alter or otherwise modify this method of allocation as described in the LP Agreement.



### **Calculation of Per Share Net Asset Value (“NAV”)**

BNO’s per share NAV is calculated on each NYSE Arca trading day by taking the current market value of its total assets, subtracting any liabilities and dividing that amount by the total number of shares outstanding. BNO uses the closing price for the contracts on the relevant exchange on that day to determine the value of contracts held on such exchange.

### **Net Income (Loss) Per Share**

Net income (loss) per share is the difference between the per share NAV at the beginning of each period and at the end of each period. The weighted average number of shares outstanding was computed for purposes of disclosing net income (loss) per weighted average share. The weighted average shares are equal to the number of shares outstanding at the end of the period, adjusted proportionately for shares added and redeemed based on the amount of time the shares were outstanding during such period. There were no shares held by USCF at March 31, 2016.

### **Offering Costs**

Offering costs incurred in connection with the registration of additional shares after the initial registration of shares are borne by BNO. These costs include registration fees paid to regulatory agencies and all legal, accounting, printing and other expenses associated with such offerings. These costs are accounted for as a deferred charge and thereafter amortized to expense over twelve months on a straight-line basis or a shorter period if warranted.

### **Cash Equivalents**

Cash equivalents include money market funds and overnight deposits or time deposits with original maturity dates of six months or less.

### **Reclassification**

Certain amounts in the accompanying condensed financial statements were reclassified to conform to the current presentation.

### **Use of Estimates**

The preparation of condensed financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires USCF to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the condensed financial statements, and the reported amounts of the revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results may differ from those estimates and assumptions.

### **NOTE 3 – FEES PAID BY THE FUND AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

#### **USCF Management Fee**

Under the LP Agreement, USCF is responsible for investing the assets of BNO in accordance with the objectives and policies of BNO. In addition, USCF has arranged for one or more third parties to provide administrative, custody, accounting, transfer agency and other necessary services to BNO. For these services, BNO is contractually obligated to pay USCF a fee, which is paid monthly, equal to 0.75% per annum of average daily total net assets.

#### **Ongoing Registration Fees and Other Offering Expenses**

BNO pays all costs and expenses associated with the ongoing registration of its shares subsequent to the initial offering. These costs include registration or other fees paid to regulatory agencies in connection with the offer and sale of shares, and all legal, accounting, printing and other expenses associated with such offer and sale. For the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015, BNO did not incur registration fees and other offering expenses.

#### **Independent Directors' and Officers' Expenses**

BNO is responsible for paying its portion of the directors' and officers' liability insurance for BNO and the Related Public Funds and the fees and expenses of the independent directors who also serve as audit committee members of BNO and the Related Public Funds. BNO shares the fees and expenses on a pro rata basis with each Related Public Fund, as described above, based on the relative assets of each Related Public Fund computed on a daily basis. These fees and expenses for the year ending December 31, 2016 are estimated to be a total of \$10,400 for BNO and, in the

aggregate for BNO and the Related Public Funds, \$554,800.

### **Investor Tax Reporting Cost**

The fees and expenses associated with BNO's audit expenses and tax accounting and reporting requirements are paid by BNO. These costs are estimated to be \$161,000 for the year ending December 31, 2016.

### **Other Expenses and Fees and Expense Waivers**

In addition to the fees described above, BNO pays all brokerage fees and other expenses in connection with the operation of BNO, excluding costs and expenses paid by USCF as outlined in *Note 4 – Contracts and Agreements* below. USCF paid certain expenses on a discretionary basis typically borne by BNO, where expenses exceed 0.15% (15 basis points) of BNO's NAV, on an annualized basis. USCF has no obligation to continue such payments into subsequent periods. For the three months ended March 31, 2016, USCF waived \$59,762 of BNO's expenses. This voluntary expense waiver is in addition to those amounts USCF is contractually obligated to pay as described in Note 4.

## **NOTE 4 – CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS**

### **Marketing Agent Agreement**

BNO is party to a marketing agent agreement, dated as of March 31, 2010, as amended from time to time, with the Marketing Agent and USCF, whereby the Marketing Agent provides certain marketing services for BNO as outlined in the agreement. The fee of the Marketing Agent, which is borne by USCF, is equal to 0.06% on BNO's assets up to \$3 billion and 0.04% on BNO's assets in excess of \$3 billion. In no event may the aggregate compensation paid to the Marketing Agent and any affiliate of USCF for distribution-related services exceed 10% of the gross proceeds of BNO's offering.

The above fee does not include website construction and development, which are also borne by USCF.

### **Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. Agreements**

BNO is also party to a custodian agreement, dated February 8, 2010, as amended from time to time, with Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. (“BBH&Co.”) and USCF, whereby BBH&Co. holds investments on behalf of BNO. USCF pays the fees of the custodian, which are determined by the parties from time to time. In addition, BNO is party to an administrative agency agreement, dated February 8, 2010, as amended from time to time, with USCF and BBH&Co., whereby BBH&Co. acts as the administrative agent, transfer agent and registrar for BNO. USCF also pays the fees of BBH&Co. for its services under such agreement and such fees are determined by the parties from time to time.

Currently, USCF pays BBH&Co. for its services, in the foregoing capacities, a minimum amount of \$75,000 annually for its custody, fund accounting and fund administration services rendered to BNO and each of the Related Public Funds, as well as a \$20,000 annual fee for its transfer agency services. In addition, USCF pays BBH&Co. an asset-based charge of (a) 0.06% for the first \$500 million of the Related Public Funds’ combined net assets, (b) 0.0465% for the Related Public Funds’ combined net assets greater than \$500 million but less than \$1 billion, and (c) 0.035% once the Related Public Funds’ combined net assets exceed \$1 billion. The annual minimum amount will not apply if the asset-based charge for all accounts in the aggregate exceeds \$75,000. USCF also pays BBH&Co. transaction fees ranging from \$7 to \$15 per transaction.

### Brokerage and Futures Commission Merchant Agreements

On October 8, 2013, BNO entered into a brokerage agreement with RBC Capital Markets, LLC (“RBC Capital” or “RBC”) to serve as BNO’s FCM effective October 10, 2013. The agreement with RBC requires it to provide services to BNO in connection with the purchase and sale of Futures Contracts and Other Crude Oil-Related Investments that may be purchased and sold by or through RBC Capital for BNO’s account. In accordance with the agreement, RBC Capital charges BNO commissions of approximately \$7 to \$8 per round-turn trade, including applicable exchange and NFA fees for Futures Contracts and options on Futures Contracts. Such fees include those incurred when purchasing Futures Contracts and options on Futures Contracts when BNO issues shares as a result of a Creation Basket, as well as fees incurred when selling Futures Contracts and options on Futures Contracts when BNO redeems shares as a result of a Redemption Basket. Such fees are also incurred when Futures Contracts and options on Futures Contracts are purchased or redeemed for the purpose of rebalancing the portfolio. BNO also incurs commissions to brokers for the purchase and sale of Futures Contracts, Other Crude Oil-Related Investments or short-term obligations of the United States of two years or less (“Treasuries”).

|   | For the three<br>months ended<br>March 31, 2016 | For the three<br>months ended<br>March 31, 2015 |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| Total commissions accrued to brokers  | \$ 53,272                                       | \$ 25,577                                       |   |  |
| Total commissions as an annualized percentage of average net assets               | 0.22  | % 0.13  | % |  |
| Commissions accrued as a result of rebalancing                                    | \$ 51,031                                       | \$ 22,561                                       |   |  |
| Percentage of commissions accrued as a result of rebalancing                      | 95.79   | % 88.21   | % |  |
| Commissions accrued as a result of creation and redemption activity               | \$ 2,241  | \$ 3,016  |   |  |
| Percentage of commissions accrued as a result of creation and redemption activity | 4.21  | % 11.79   | % |  |

The increase in the total commissions accrued to brokers for the three months ended March 31, 2016, as compared to the three months ended March 31, 2015, was primarily due to a greater number of futures contracts being held and traded as a result of BNO's larger size as measured by total net assets and due to the lower price of the benchmark futures contract, which allowed BNO to hold more contracts per basket.

## **NOTE 5 – FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, OFF-BALANCE SHEET RISKS AND CONTINGENCIES**

BNO engages in the trading of futures contracts, options on futures contracts and in cleared swaps (collectively, “derivatives”). BNO is exposed to both market risk, which is the risk arising from changes in the market value of the contracts, and credit risk, which is the risk of failure by another party to perform according to the terms of a contract.

BNO may enter into futures contracts, options on futures contracts and cleared swaps to gain exposure to changes in the value of an underlying commodity. A futures contract obligates the seller to deliver (and the purchaser to accept) the future delivery of a specified quantity and type of a commodity at a specified time and place. Some futures contracts may call for physical delivery of the asset, while others are settled in cash. The contractual obligations of a buyer or seller may generally be satisfied by taking or making physical delivery of the underlying commodity or by making an offsetting sale or purchase of an identical futures contract on the same or linked exchange before the designated date of delivery. Cleared swaps are OTC agreements that are eligible to be cleared by a clearinghouse, e.g., ICE Clear Europe, but which are not traded on an exchange. A cleared swap is created when the parties to an off-exchange, OTC swap transaction agree to extinguish their OTC swap and replace it with a cleared swap. Cleared swaps are intended to provide the efficiencies and benefits that centralized clearing on an exchange offers to traders of futures contracts, including credit risk intermediation and the ability to offset positions initiated with different counterparties.

The purchase and sale of futures contracts, options on futures contracts and cleared swaps require margin deposits with an FCM. Additional deposits may be necessary for any loss on contract value. The Commodity Exchange Act requires an FCM to segregate all customer transactions and assets from the FCM’s proprietary activities.

Futures contracts, options on futures contracts and cleared swaps involve, to varying degrees, elements of market risk (specifically commodity price risk) and exposure to loss in excess of the amount of variation margin. The face or contract amounts reflect the extent of the total exposure BNO has in the particular classes of instruments. Additional risks associated with the use of futures contracts are an imperfect correlation between movements in the price of the futures contracts and the market value of the underlying securities and the possibility of an illiquid market for a futures contract. Buying and selling options on futures contracts exposes investors to the risks of purchasing or selling futures contracts.

All of the futures contracts held by BNO through March 31, 2016 were exchange-traded. The risks associated with exchange-traded contracts are generally perceived to be less than those associated with OTC swaps since, in OTC swaps, a party must rely solely on the credit of its respective individual counterparties. However, in the future, if BNO were to enter into non-exchange traded contracts, it would be subject to the credit risk associated with counterparty non-performance. The credit risk from counterparty non-performance associated with such instruments is the net unrealized gain, if any, on the transaction. BNO has credit risk under its futures contracts since the sole counterparty to all domestic and foreign futures contracts is the clearinghouse for the exchange on which the relevant contracts are

traded. In addition, BNO bears the risk of financial failure by the clearing broker.

BNO's cash and other property, such as Treasuries, deposited with an FCM are considered commingled with all other customer funds, subject to the FCM's segregation requirements. In the event of an FCM's insolvency, recovery may be limited to a pro rata share of segregated funds available. It is possible that the recovered amount could be less than the total of cash and other property deposited. The insolvency of an FCM could result in the complete loss of BNO's assets posted with that FCM; however, the majority of BNO's assets are held in cash and/or cash equivalents with BNO's custodian and would not be impacted by the insolvency of an FCM. The failure or insolvency of BNO's custodian however, could result in a substantial loss of BNO's assets.

USCF invests a portion of BNO's cash in money market funds that seek to maintain a stable per share NAV. BNO is exposed to any risk of loss associated with an investment in such money market funds. As of March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015, BNO held investments in money market funds in the amounts of \$12,000,000 and \$3,000,000, respectively. BNO also holds cash deposits with its custodian. Pursuant to a written agreement with BBH&Co., uninvested overnight cash balances are swept to offshore branches of U.S. regulated and domiciled banks located in Toronto, Canada; London, United Kingdom; Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands; and Nassau, Bahamas; which are subject to U.S. regulation and regulatory oversight. As of March 31, 2016 and December 31, 2015, BNO held cash deposits and investments in Treasuries in the amounts of \$103,337,008 and \$85,728,430, respectively, with the custodian and FCM. Some or all of these amounts may be subject to loss should BNO's custodian and/or FCM cease operations.



For derivatives, risks arise from changes in the market value of the contracts. Theoretically, BNO is exposed to market risk equal to the value of futures contracts purchased and unlimited liability on such contracts sold short. As both a buyer and a seller of options, BNO pays or receives a premium at the outset and then bears the risk of unfavorable changes in the price of the contract underlying the option.

BNO's policy is to continuously monitor its exposure to market and counterparty risk through the use of a variety of financial, position and credit exposure reporting controls and procedures. In addition, BNO has a policy of requiring review of the credit standing of each broker or counterparty with which it conducts business.

The financial instruments held by BNO are reported in its condensed statements of financial condition at market or fair value, or at carrying amounts that approximate fair value, because of their highly liquid nature and short-term maturity.

#### NOTE 6 – FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following table presents per share performance data and other supplemental financial data for the three months ended March 31, 2016 and 2015 for the shareholders. This information has been derived from information presented in the condensed financial statements.

|  | For the three<br>months ended<br>March 31, 2016<br>(Unaudited) |    | For the three<br>months ended<br>March 31, 2015<br>(Unaudited) |    |
|--|--|----|--|----|
| Per Share Operating Performance:           |  |    |  |    |
| Net asset value, beginning of period       | \$ 12.22   |    | \$ 22.39   |    |
| Total income (loss)                        | 0.11   |    | (1.86  | )  |
| Net expenses                               | (0.02  | )  | (0.05  | )  |
| Net increase (decrease) in net asset value | 0.09   |    | (1.91  | )  |
| Net asset value, end of period             | \$ 12.31   |    | \$ 20.48   |    |
| <br>                                       |  |    |  |    |
| Total Return                               | 0.74   | %  | (8.53  | )% |
| <br>                                       |  |    |  |    |
| Ratios to Average Net Assets               |  |    |  |    |
| Total income (loss)                        | 6.92   | %  | (2.95  | )% |
| Management fees*                           | 0.75   | %  | 0.75   | %  |
| Total expenses excluding management fees*  | 0.40   | %  | 0.29   | %  |
| Expenses waived*                           | (0.25  | )% | (0.13  | )% |

Edgar Filing: United States Brent Oil Fund, LP - Form 10-Q

|   |      |   |       |    |
|---|------|---|-------|----|
| Net expenses excluding management fees* | 0.15 | % | 0.16  | %  |
| Net income (loss)                       | 6.70 | % | (3.17 | )% |

\* Annualized.

Total returns are calculated based on the change in value during the period. An individual shareholder's total return and ratio may vary from the above total returns and ratios based on the timing of contributions to and withdrawals from BNO.

**NOTE 7 – FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

BNO values its investments in accordance with Accounting Standards Codification 820 – Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures (“ASC 820”). ASC 820 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in generally accepted accounting principles, and expands disclosures about fair value measurement. The changes to past practice resulting from the application of ASC 820 relate to the definition of fair value, the methods used to measure fair value, and the expanded disclosures about fair value measurement. ASC 820 establishes a fair value hierarchy that distinguishes between: (1) market participant assumptions developed based on market data obtained from sources independent of BNO (observable inputs) and (2) BNO’s own assumptions about market participant assumptions developed based on the best information available under the circumstances (unobservable inputs). The three levels defined by the ASC 820 hierarchy are as follows:

Level I – Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for *identical* assets or liabilities that the reporting entity has the ability to access at the measurement date.

Level II – Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level I that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. Level II assets include the following: quoted prices for *similar* assets or liabilities in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active, inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, and inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means (market-corroborated inputs).

Level III – Unobservable pricing input at the measurement date for the asset or liability. Unobservable inputs shall be used to measure fair value to the extent that observable inputs are not available.

In some instances, the inputs used to measure fair value might fall within different levels of the fair value hierarchy. The level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement in its entirety falls shall be determined based on the lowest input level that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety.



The following table summarizes the valuation of BNO's securities at March 31, 2016 using the fair value hierarchy:

| At March 31, 2016                 | Total        | Level I      | Level II | Level III |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|-----------|
| Short-Term Investments            | \$76,924,173 | \$76,924,173 | \$ —     | \$ —      |
| Exchange-Traded Futures Contracts |              |              |          |           |
| Foreign Contracts                 | (5,096,230 ) | (5,096,230 ) | —        | —         |

During the three months ended March 31, 2016, there were no transfers between Level I and Level II.

The following table summarizes the valuation of BNO's securities at December 31, 2015 using the fair value hierarchy:

| At December 31, 2015              | Total        | Level I      | Level II | Level III |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|-----------|
| Short-Term Investments            | \$64,945,289 | \$64,945,289 | \$ —     | \$ —      |
| Exchange-Traded Futures Contracts |              |              |          |           |
| Foreign Contracts                 | (7,442,340 ) | (7,442,340 ) | —        | —         |

During the year ended December 31, 2015, there were no transfers between Level I and Level II.

BNO has adopted the provisions of Accounting Standards Codification 815 – Derivatives and Hedging, which require presentation of qualitative disclosures about objectives and strategies for using derivatives, quantitative disclosures about fair value amounts and gains and losses on derivatives.

### Fair Value of Derivative Instruments

| Derivatives not<br>Accounted for as<br>Hedging Instruments | Condensed Statements<br>of Financial Condition<br>Location | Fair Value<br>At March<br>31, 2016 | Fair Value<br>At December<br>31, 2015 |
|--|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Futures - Commodity Contracts                              | Assets   | \$(5,096,230)                      | \$(7,442,340 )                        |

### The Effect of Derivative Instruments on the Condensed Statements of Operations

| Derivatives not<br>Accounted for as<br>Hedging<br>Instruments | Location of Gain (Loss) on<br>Derivatives Recognized in<br>Income                                    | For the three months ended<br>March 31, 2016                               |  | For the three months ended<br>March 31, 2015                               |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
|   |  | Realized<br>Gain (Loss)<br>on<br>Derivatives<br>Recognized<br>in<br>Income | Change in<br>Unrealized<br>Gain<br>(Loss) on<br>Derivatives<br>Recognized in<br>Income | Realized<br>Gain<br>(Loss) on<br>Derivatives<br>Recognized<br>in<br>Income | Change in<br>Unrealized<br>Gain<br>(Loss) on<br>Derivatives<br>Recognized in<br>Income |
| Futures – Commodity<br>Contracts                              | Realized gain (loss) on closed<br>positions<br>Change in unrealized gain (loss)<br>on open positions | \$4,200,809  | \$ 2,346,110   | \$1,725,380  | \$ (4,188,770 )  |

**NOTE 8 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

BNO has performed an evaluation of subsequent events through the date the condensed financial statements were issued. This evaluation did not result in any subsequent events that necessitated disclosures and/or adjustments.

## **Item 2. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.**

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the condensed financial statements and the notes thereto of the United States Brent Oil Fund, LP (“BNO”) included elsewhere in this quarterly report on Form 10-Q.

### *Forward-Looking Information*

This quarterly report on Form 10-Q, including this “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations,” contains forward-looking statements regarding the plans and objectives of management for future operations. This information may involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause BNO’s actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by any forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements, which involve assumptions and describe BNO’s future plans, strategies and expectations, are generally identifiable by use of the words “may,” “will,” “should,” “expect,” “anticipate,” “estimate,” “believe,” “intend” or “project,” the negative of these words or variations on these words or comparable terminology. These forward-looking statements are based on assumptions that may be incorrect, and BNO cannot assure investors that the projections included in these forward-looking statements will come to pass. BNO’s actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements as a result of various factors.

BNO has based the forward-looking statements included in this quarterly report on Form 10-Q on information available to it on the date of this quarterly report on Form 10-Q, and BNO assumes no obligation to update any such forward-looking statements. Although BNO undertakes no obligation to revise or update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, investors are advised to consult any additional disclosures that BNO may make directly to them or through reports that BNO in the future files with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”), including annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K.

### **Introduction**

BNO, a Delaware limited partnership, is a commodity pool that issues shares that may be purchased and sold on the NYSE Arca, Inc. (the “NYSE Arca”). The investment objective of BNO is for the daily changes, in percentage terms, of its shares’ per share net asset value (“NAV”) to reflect the daily changes, in percentage terms, of the spot price of Brent crude oil, as measured by the daily changes in the price of the futures contract for Brent crude oil traded on the ICE Futures Exchange (“ICE Futures”) that is the near month contract to expire, except when the near month contract is within two weeks of expiration, in which case it will be measured by the futures contract that is the next month

contract to expire (the “Benchmark Futures Contract”), less BNO’s expenses. “Near month contract” means the next contract traded on the ICE Futures due to expire. “Next month contract” means the first contract traded on the ICE Futures due to expire after the near month contract. It is not the intent of BNO to be operated in a fashion such that the per share NAV will equal, in dollar terms, the spot price of Brent crude oil or any particular futures contract based on Brent crude oil. It is not the intent of BNO to be operated in a fashion such that its per share NAV will reflect the percentage change of the price of any particular futures contract as measured over a time period greater than one day. The general partner of BNO, United States Commodity Funds LLC (“USCF”), believes that it is not practical to manage the portfolio to achieve such an investment goal when investing in Futures Contracts (as defined below) and Other Crude Oil-Related Investments (as defined below).

BNO invests in futures contracts for crude oil, diesel-heating oil, gasoline, natural gas and other petroleum-based fuels that are traded on the ICE Futures, the New York Mercantile Exchange (the “NYMEX”), or other U.S. and foreign exchanges (collectively, “Futures Contracts”) and other crude oil-related investments such as cash-settled options on Futures Contracts, forward contracts for crude oil, cleared swap contracts and over-the-counter (“OTC”) swaps that are based on the price of crude oil and other petroleum-based fuels, Futures Contracts and indices based on the foregoing (collectively, “Other Crude Oil-Related Investments”). For convenience and unless otherwise specified, Futures Contracts and Other Crude Oil-Related Investments collectively are referred to as “Crude Oil Interests” in this quarterly report on Form 10-Q.

BNO seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing in a combination of Futures Contracts and Other Crude Oil-Related Investments such that daily changes in its per share NAV, measured in percentage terms, will closely track the daily changes in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contract, also measured in percentage terms. USCF believes the daily changes in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contract have historically exhibited a close correlation with the daily changes in the spot price of Brent crude oil. It is not the intent of BNO to be operated in a fashion such that the per share NAV will equal, in dollar terms, the spot price of Brent crude oil or any particular futures contract based on Brent crude oil. It is not the intent of BNO to be operated in a fashion such that its per share NAV will reflect the percentage change of the price of any particular futures contract as measured over a time period greater than one day. USCF believes that it is not practical to manage the portfolio to achieve such an investment goal when investing in Futures Contracts and Other Crude Oil-Related Investments.

## **Regulatory Disclosure**

*Impact of Accountability Levels, Position Limits and Price Fluctuation Limits.* Futures contracts include typical and significant characteristics. Most significantly, the futures exchanges and, for certain contracts, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (the “CFTC”) have established accountability levels and position limits on the maximum net long or net short futures contracts in commodity interests that any person or group of persons under common trading control (other than as a hedge, which an investment by BNO is not) may hold, own or control. The net position is the difference between an individual’s or firm’s open long contracts and open short contracts in any one commodity. In addition, most U.S.-based futures exchanges, such as the NYMEX, limit the daily price fluctuation for futures contracts. Currently, the ICE Futures imposes position and accountability limits that are similar to those imposed by U.S.-based futures exchanges and also limits the maximum daily price fluctuation, while some other non-U.S. futures exchanges have not adopted such limits.





The accountability levels for the Benchmark Futures Contract and other Futures Contracts traded on U.S.-based futures exchanges, such as the NYMEX are not a fixed ceiling, but rather a threshold above which the NYMEX may exercise greater scrutiny and control over an investor's positions. The current accountability level for investments for any one-month in the Benchmark Futures Contract is 10,000 net futures contracts. In addition, the NYMEX imposes an accountability level for all months of 20,000 net futures contracts for investments in futures contracts for oil. If BNO and the Related Public Funds exceed these accountability levels for investments in the futures contracts for oil, the NYMEX and the ICE Futures will monitor BNO's and the Related Public Funds' exposure and may ask for further information on their activities, including the total size of all positions, investment and trading strategy, and the extent of liquidity resources of BNO and the Related Public Funds. If deemed necessary by the NYMEX and/or ICE Futures, BNO could be ordered to reduce its net futures contracts back to the accountability level. In contrast, the position limits for the ICE Futures maintain that when 100 lots or more are traded, the activity must be reported to the exchange on a daily basis. ICE Futures also maintains that an Expiration Limit of 6,000 lots, long or short, will apply for the five business days up to and including the expiration date. As of March 31, 2016, BNO held 2,732 Futures Contracts traded on the ICE Futures Europe and did not hold any Futures Contracts for Brent crude oil traded on the NYMEX. For the three months ended March 31, 2016, BNO did not exceed accountability levels imposed by the ICE Futures and the NYMEX.

Position limits differ from accountability levels in that they represent fixed limits on the maximum number of futures contracts that any person may hold and cannot allow such limits to be exceeded without express CFTC authority to do so. In addition to accountability levels and position limits that may apply at any time, the NYMEX and the ICE Futures impose position limits on contracts held in the last few days of trading in the near month contract to expire. It is unlikely that BNO will run up against such position limits because BNO's investment strategy is to close out its positions and "roll" from the near month contract to expire to the next month contract beginning two weeks from expiration of the contract. For the three months ended March 31, 2016, BNO did not exceed any position limits imposed by the ICE Futures or the NYMEX.

The regulation of commodity interest trading in the United States and other countries is an evolving area of the law. The various statements made in this summary are subject to modification by legislative action and changes in the rules and regulations of the SEC, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA"), CFTC, the National Futures Association (the "NFA"), the futures exchanges, clearing organizations and other regulatory bodies.

### ***Futures Contracts and Position Limits***

The CFTC is generally prohibited by statute from regulating trading on non-U.S. futures exchanges and markets. The CFTC, however, has adopted regulations relating to the marketing of non-U.S. futures contracts in the United States. These regulations permit certain contracts on non-U.S. exchanges to be offered and sold in the United States.

The CFTC has proposed to adopt limits on speculative positions in 28 physical commodity futures and option contracts and swaps that are economically equivalent to such contracts in the agriculture, energy and metals markets and rules addressing the circumstances under which market participants would be required to aggregate their positions with other persons under common ownership or control (the “Position Limit Rules”). The Position Limit Rules would, among other things: identify which contracts are subject to speculative position limits; set thresholds that restrict the number of speculative positions that a person may hold in a spot month, individual month, and all months combined; create an exemption for positions that constitute bona fide hedging transactions; impose responsibilities on designated contract markets (“DCMs”) and swap execution facilities (“SEFs”) to establish position limits or, in some cases, position accountability rules; and apply to both futures and swaps across four relevant venues: OTC, DCMs, SEFs as well as non-U.S. located platforms. The CFTC’s first attempt at finalizing the Position Limit Rules, in 2011, was successfully challenged by market participants in 2012 and, since then, the CFTC has re-proposed them and solicited comments from market participants multiple times.

Until such time as the Position Limit Rules are adopted, the regulatory architecture in effect prior to the adoption of the Position Limit Rules will govern transactions in commodities and related derivatives (collectively, “Referenced Contracts”). Under that system, the CFTC enforces federal limits on speculation in agricultural products (e.g., corn, wheat and soy), while futures exchanges enforce position limits and accountability levels for agricultural and certain energy products (e.g., oil and natural gas). As a result, BNO may be limited with respect to the size of its investments in any commodities subject to these limits. Finally, subject to certain narrow exceptions, the Position Limit Rules require the aggregation, for purposes of the position limits, of all positions in the 28 Referenced Contracts held by a single entity and its affiliates, regardless of whether such position existed on U.S. futures exchanges, non-U.S. futures exchanges, in cleared swaps or in OTC swaps. Under the CFTC’s existing position limits requirements and the Position Limit Rules, a market participant is generally required to aggregate all positions for which that participant controls the trading decisions with all positions for which that participant has a 10 percent or greater ownership interest in an account or position, as well as the positions of two or more persons acting pursuant to an express or implied agreement or understanding. At this time, it is unclear how the Position Limit Rules affect BNO, but the effect may be substantial and adverse. By way of example, the Position Limit Rules may negatively impact the ability of BNO to meet its investment objectives through limits that may inhibit USCF’s ability to sell additional Creation Baskets of BNO.

### ***“Swap” Transactions***

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the “Dodd-Frank Act”) imposes regulatory requirements on certain “swap” transactions that BNO is authorized to engage in that may ultimately impact the ability of BNO to meet its investment objective. The term “swap” is broadly defined to include various types of OTC derivatives, including swaps and options.

CFTC regulations require that certain transactions ultimately falling within the definition of “swap” be executed on organized exchanges or “swap execution facilities” and cleared through regulated clearing organizations (“CCPs”). “Clearing” refers to the process by which a trade that is bilaterally executed by two parties is submitted to a CCP, via a clearing member (*i.e.*, an FCM), and replaced by two mirror swaps, with the CCP becoming the counterparty to both of the initial parties to the swap. CCPs have several layers of protection against default including margin, member capital contributions and FCM guarantees of their customers’ transactions with the CCP. FCMs also pre-qualify the counterparties to all swaps that are sent to the CCP from a credit perspective, setting limits for each counterparty and collecting initial and variation margin daily from each counterparty for changes in the value of cleared swaps. The margin collected from both parties to the swap protects against credit risk in the event a counterparty defaults. The initial and variation margin requirements are set by and held for the benefit of the CCP. Additional initial margin may be required and held by the FCM, due to its guarantees of its customers’ trades with the CCP.

Current rules and regulations require enhanced customer protections, risk management programs, internal monitoring and controls, capital and liquidity standards, customer disclosures and auditing and examination programs for FCMs. The rules are intended to afford greater assurances to market participants that customer segregated funds and secured amounts are protected, customers are provided with appropriate notice of the risks of futures trading and of the FCMs with which they may choose to do business, FCMs are monitoring and managing risks in a robust manner, the capital and liquidity of FCMs are strengthened to safeguard the continued operations and the auditing and examination programs of the CFTC and the self-regulatory organizations are monitoring the activities of FCMs in a thorough manner.

Certain index-based credit default swaps and interest rate swaps are subject to mandatory clearing. If BNO enters into index-based credit default swaps or interest rate swaps that are subject to mandatory clearing, BNO will be required to centrally clear those swaps.

To the extent that a swap is required to be cleared, it must also be executed on a SEF or DCM if it is designated as “made available to trade” by a SEF or DCM. “Made available to trade” refers to the regulatory process by which the SEF or DCM execution requirement is implemented by the CFTC. To date, only certain of the index-based credit default swaps and interest rate swaps that are required to be cleared are made available to trade on a SEF. If BNO enters into index-based credit default swaps or interest rate swaps that are subject to mandatory clearing, BNO will be required to

execute those swaps on a SEF if they are designated as made available to trade. In order to execute swaps on a SEF, BNO will have to be a member of a SEF or it may access the SEF through an intermediary. Members of a SEF are subject to additional requirements under CFTC regulations and are subject to the rules and jurisdiction of the relevant SEF.

Swaps that are not required to be cleared and executed on a SEF but that are executed bilaterally are also subject to various requirements pursuant to CFTC regulations, including, among others, reporting and recordkeeping requirements and, depending on the status of the counterparties, trading documentation requirements and dispute resolution requirements. In addition, U.S. regulators are in the process of adopting rules to impose initial and variation margin requirements that will apply to swap dealers and major swap participants and their counterparties. If BNO engages in non-cleared swap transactions it may be subject to some or all of these requirements.

In addition to the rules and regulations imposed under the Dodd-Frank Act, swap dealers that are European banks may also be subject to European Market Infrastructure Regulation (“EMIR”). EMIR imposes requirements on non-cleared derivatives that are similar to those imposed by the CFTC and other regulators in the United States and which are described above. BNO may be indirectly impacted by EMIR to the extent that it engages in derivatives transactions with entities that are subject to EMIR.

On August 12, 2013, the CFTC issued final rules establishing compliance obligations for commodity pool operators (“CPOs”) of investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the “Investment Company Act”) that are required to register due to recent changes to CFTC Regulation 4.5. The final rules were issued in a CFTC release entitled “Harmonization of Compliance Obligations for Registered Investment Companies Required to Register as Commodity Pool Operators.” Although BNO is not a registered investment company under the Investment Company Act, the Harmonization Rules amended certain CFTC disclosure rules to make the requirements for all CPOs to periodically update their disclosure documents consistent with those of the SEC. This change will decrease the burden to BNO and USCF of having to comply with inconsistent regulatory requirements. It is not known whether the CFTC will make additional amendments to its disclosure, reporting and recordkeeping rules to further harmonize these obligations with those of the SEC as they apply to BNO and USCF, but any such further rule changes could result in additional operating efficiencies for BNO and USCF.

### ***Money Market Reform***

On July 23, 2014, the SEC adopted to reform money market funds such that institutional prime money market funds will float their net asset value as well as impose rules such that all money market funds’ boards of directors will be required implement rules to discourage and prevent runs by investors through the use of redemption fees and gates. Money market funds have two years from the date of adoption to implement the reform. BNO currently invests in money market funds, as well as Treasuries with a maturity date of two years or less, as an investment for assets not used for margin or collateral in the Futures Contracts. It is unclear at this time what the impact of money market reform would have on BNO’s ability to hedge risk, however, the imposition of a floating net asset value could cause BNO to limit remaining assets solely to Treasuries and cash.

As the regulatory requirements are constantly evolving, it is difficult to predict the effect any regulatory changes may have on BNO.

## Price Movements

Brent crude oil futures prices were volatile and exhibited an uneven upward trend during the three months ended March 31, 2016. The price of the Benchmark Futures Contract started the period at \$37.28 per barrel. The Benchmark Futures Contract reached its high for the period on March 22, 2016 at \$42.33 per barrel and reached its low for the period on January 20, 2016 when the price dropped to \$28.25 per barrel. The period ended with the Benchmark Futures Contract at \$40.33 per barrel, an increase of approximately 8.18% over the period. BNO's per share NAV began the period at \$12.22 and ended the period at \$12.31 on March 31, 2016, an increase of approximately 0.74% over the period. BNO's per share NAV reached its high for the period on March 22, 2016 at \$12.98 and reached its low for the period on January 20, 2016 at \$9.04. The Benchmark Futures Contract prices listed above began with the February 2016 contract and ended with the May 2016 contract. The increase of approximately 8.18% on the Benchmark Futures Contract listed above is a hypothetical return only and could not actually be achieved by an investor holding Futures Contracts. An investment in Futures Contracts would need to be rolled forward during the time period described in order to simulate such a result. Furthermore, the change in the nominal price of these differing crude oil Futures Contracts, measured from the start of the period to the end of the period, does not represent the actual benchmark results that BNO seeks to track, which are more fully described below, in the section titled "*Tracking BNO's Benchmark.*"

During the three months ended March 31, 2016, Brent crude oil was primarily in a state of contango, meaning that the price of the near month crude Oil Futures Contract was lower than the price of the next month crude Oil Futures Contract, and contracts further away from expiration. By contrast, the crude oil futures market was predominately in backwardation during the three months ended March 31, 2016. On days when the market was in backwardation, the price of the near month crude oil Futures Contract was typically higher than the price of the next month crude oil Futures Contract, or contracts further away from expiration. For a discussion of the impact of backwardation and contango on total returns, see "*Term Structure of Crude Oil Prices and the Impact on Total Returns*" below.

## Valuation of Futures Contracts and the Computation of the Per Share NAV

The per share NAV of BNO's shares is calculated once each NYSE Arca trading day. The per share NAV for a particular trading day is released after 4:00 p.m. New York time. Trading during the core trading session on the NYSE Arca typically closes at 4:00 p.m. New York time. BNO's administrator uses the ICE Futures settlement price (a weighted average price of trades during a three minute settlement period from 2:27 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. New York time) for the contracts held on the ICE Futures, but calculates or determines the value of all other BNO investments, including NYMEX contracts or other futures contracts, as of the earlier of the close of the NYSE Arca or 4:00 p.m. New York time.

## Results of Operations and the Crude Oil Market

*Results of Operations.* On June 2, 2010, BNO listed its shares on the NYSE Arca under the ticker symbol “BNO.” On that day, BNO established its initial offering price at \$50.00 per share and issued 200,000 shares to the initial Authorized Participant in exchange for \$10,000,000 in cash.

Since its initial offering of 50,000,000 shares, BNO has not registered any subsequent offerings of its shares. On August 26, 2013, BNO executed a 2-for-1 forward share split for all shareholders of record as of the close of markets on August 26, 2013. The 2-for-1 forward share split was payable after the close of markets on August 28, 2013. BNO began trading at its post-split price on August 29, 2013. As a result of the forward share split, every one pre-split share of BNO was automatically exchanged for two post-split shares. Immediately prior to the forward share split, there were 450,000 shares of BNO issued and outstanding, representing a per share NAV of \$89.92. After the forward share split, the number of issued and outstanding shares of BNO increased to 900,000, and the per share NAV decreased to \$44.96. As of March 31, 2016, BNO had issued 18,250,000 shares, 8,950,000 of which were outstanding. As of March 31, 2016, there were 32,200,000 shares registered but not yet issued.

More shares may have been issued by BNO than are outstanding due to the redemption of shares. Unlike funds that are registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, shares that have been redeemed by BNO cannot be resold by BNO. As a result, BNO contemplates that additional offerings of its shares will be registered with the SEC in the future in anticipation of additional issuances and redemptions.

As of March 31, 2016, BNO had the following Authorized Participants: Citadel Securities LLC, Credit Suisse Securities USA LLC, Deutsche Bank Securities Inc., JP Morgan Securities Inc., Merrill Lynch Professional Clearing Corp., Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, Nomura Securities International Inc., RBC Capital Markets LLC and Virtu Financial BD LLC.

For the Three months Ended March 31, 2016 Compared to the Three months Ended March 31, 2015

|   | For the three<br>months ended<br>March 31, 2016 | For the three<br>months ended<br>March 31, 2015 |  |   |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| Average daily total net assets  | \$ 95,509,378                                   | \$ 82,968,693                                   |  |   |
| Dividend and interest income earned on Treasuries, cash and/or cash equivalents   | \$ 56,793                                       | \$ 8,639  |  |   |
| Annualized yield based on average daily total net assets                          | 0.24  | % 0.04  |  | % |
| Management fee  | \$ 178,102                                      | \$ 153,435                                      |  |   |
| Total fees and other expenses excluding management fees                           | \$ 93,948                                       | \$ 59,402                                       |  |   |
| Fees and expenses related to the registration or offering of additional shares    | \$ -  | \$ -  |  |   |
| Total amount of the expense waiver  | \$ 59,762                                       | \$ 27,677                                       |  |   |
| Expenses before allowance for the expense waiver                                  | \$ 272,050                                      | \$ 212,837                                      |  |   |
| Expenses after allowance for the expense waiver                                   | \$ 212,288                                      | \$ 185,160                                      |  |   |
| Total commissions accrued to brokers  | \$ 53,272                                       | \$ 25,577                                       |  |   |
| Total commissions as annualized percentage of average total net assets            | 0.22  | % 0.13  |  | % |
| Commissions accrued as a result of rebalancing                                    | \$ 51,031                                       | \$ 22,561                                       |  |   |
| Percentage of commissions accrued as a result of rebalancing                      | 95.79   | % 88.21   |  | % |
| Commissions accrued as a result of creation and redemption activity               | \$ 2,241  | \$ 3,016  |  |   |
| Percentage of commissions accrued as a result of creation and redemption activity | 4.21  | % 11.79   |  | % |

*Portfolio Expenses.* BNO's expenses consist of investment management fees, brokerage fees and commissions, certain offering costs, the fees and expenses of the independent directors of USCF and expenses relating to tax accounting and reporting requirements. The management fee that BNO pays to USCF is calculated as a percentage of the total net assets of BNO. The fee is accrued daily and paid monthly.

Average interest rates earned on short-term investments held by BNO, including cash, cash equivalents and Treasuries, were higher during the three months ended March 31, 2016, compared to the three months ended March 31, 2015. As a result, the amount of income earned by BNO as a percentage of average total net assets was higher during the three months ended March 31, 2016 compared to the three months ended March 31, 2015.

The increase in total fees and expenses excluding management fees for the three months ended March 31, 2016, compared to the three months ended March 31, 2015, was due to an increase in brokerage commissions as a result of BNO's greater size as measured by total net assets.



The increase in the total commissions accrued to brokers by BNO for the three months ended March 31, 2016, as compared to the three months ended March 31, 2015, was due to a greater number of futures contracts being held and traded as a result of BNO's greater size as measured by total net assets and due to the lower price of the benchmark futures contract, which allowed BNO to hold more contracts per basket.

### **Tracking BNO's Benchmark**

USCF seeks to manage BNO's portfolio such that changes in its average daily per share NAV, on a percentage basis, closely track the daily changes in the average price of the Benchmark Futures Contract, also on a percentage basis. Specifically, USCF seeks to manage the portfolio such that over any rolling period of 30-valuation days, the average daily change in BNO's per share NAV is within a range of 90% to 110% (0.9 to 1.1) of the average daily change in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contract. As an example, if the average daily movement of the price of the Benchmark Futures Contract for a particular 30-valuation day time period was 0.5% per day, USCF would attempt to manage the portfolio such that the average daily movement of the per share NAV during that same time period fell between 0.45% and 0.55% (*i.e.*, between 0.9 and 1.1 of the benchmark's results). BNO's portfolio management goals do not include trying to make the nominal price of BNO's per share NAV equal to the nominal price of the current Benchmark Futures Contract or the spot price for Brent crude oil. USCF believes that it is not practical to manage the portfolio to achieve such an investment goal when investing in Futures Contracts.

For the 30-valuation days ended March 31, 2016, the simple average daily change in the Benchmark Futures Contracts was 0.441% while the simple average daily change in the per share NAV of BNO over the same time period was 0.440%. The average daily difference was 0.001% (or (0.1) basis points, where 1 basis point equals 1/100 of 1%). As a percentage of the daily movement of the Benchmark Futures Contract, the average error in daily tracking by the per share NAV was 1.753%, meaning that over this time period BNO's tracking error was within the plus or minus 10% range established as its benchmark tracking goal.

Since the commencement of the offering of BNO's shares to the public on June 2, 2010 to March 31, 2016, the simple average daily change in the Benchmark Futures Contract was (0.027)%, while the simple average daily change in the per share NAV of BNO over the same time period was (0.030)%. The average daily difference was (0.003)% (or (0.3) basis points, where 1 basis point equals 1/100 of 1%). As a percentage of the daily movement of the Benchmark Futures Contract, the average error in daily tracking by the per share NAV was (1.148)% meaning that over this time period BNO's tracking error was within the plus or minus 10% range established as its benchmark tracking goal. The following two graphs demonstrate the correlation between the changes in BNO's NAV and the changes in the Benchmark Futures Contract. The first graph exhibits the changes for the last 30 valuation days ended March 31, 2016; the second graph measures monthly changes from March 31, 2011 through March 31, 2016.

***\*PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY INDICATIVE OF FUTURE RESULTS***

***\*PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY INDICATIVE OF FUTURE RESULTS***

An alternative tracking measurement of the return performance of BNO versus the return of its Benchmark Futures Contract can be calculated by comparing the actual return of BNO, measured by changes in its per share NAV, versus the expected changes in its per share NAV under the assumption that BNO's returns had been exactly the same as the daily changes in its Benchmark Futures Contract.

For the three months ended March 31, 2016, the actual total return of BNO as measured by changes in its' per share NAV was 0.74%. This is based on an initial per share NAV of \$12.22 as of December 31, 2015 and an ending per share NAV as of March 31, 2016 of \$12.31. During this time period, BNO made no distributions to its shareholders. However, if BNO's daily changes in its per share NAV had instead exactly tracked the changes in the daily total return of the Benchmark Futures Contract, BNO would have had an estimated per share NAV of \$12.33 as of March 31, 2016, for a total return over the relevant time period of 0.90%. The difference between the actual per share NAV total return of BNO of 0.74% and the expected total return based on the Benchmark Futures Contracts of 0.90% was an error over the time period of (0.16)%, which is to say that BNO's actual total return underperformed the benchmark result by that percentage. BNO incurs expenses primarily composed of the management fee, brokerage commissions for the buying and selling of futures contracts, and other expenses. The impact of these expenses tends to cause daily changes in the per share NAV of BNO to track slightly lower than daily changes in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contract.



By comparison, for the three months ended March 31, 2015, the actual total return of BNO as measured by changes in its per share NAV was (8.53)%. This was based on an initial per share NAV, taking into account the forward share split, of \$22.39 as of December 31, 2014 and an ending per share NAV as of March 31, 2015 of \$20.48. During this time period, BNO made no distributions to its shareholders. However, if BNO's daily changes in its per share NAV had instead exactly tracked the changes in the daily total return of the Benchmark Futures Contract, BNO would have had an estimated per share NAV of \$20.70 as of March 31, 2015, for a total return over the relevant time period of (8.36)%. The difference between the actual per share NAV total return of BNO of (8.53)% and the expected total return based on the Benchmark Futures Contract of (8.36)% was an error over the time period of (0.17)%, which is to say that BNO's actual total return underperformed the benchmark result by that percentage. BNO incurred expenses primarily composed of the management fee, brokerage commissions for the buying and selling of futures contracts, and other expenses. The impact of these expenses tends to cause daily changes in the per share NAV of BNO to track slightly lower than daily changes in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contract. BNO incurred expenses primarily composed of the management fee, brokerage commissions for the buying and selling of futures contracts, and other expenses. The impact of these expenses tended to cause daily changes in the per share NAV of BNO to track slightly lower than the daily changes in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contract.

There are currently three factors that have impacted or are most likely to impact BNO's ability to accurately track its Benchmark Futures Contract.

First, BNO may buy or sell its holdings in the then current Benchmark Futures Contract at a price other than the closing settlement price of that contract on the day during which BNO executes the trade. In that case, BNO may pay a price that is higher, or lower, than that of the Benchmark Futures Contract, which could cause the daily changes in the daily per share NAV of BNO to either be too high or too low relative to the changes in the Benchmark Futures Contract. During the three months ended March 31, 2016, USCF attempted to minimize the effect of these transactions by seeking to execute its purchase or sale of the Benchmark Futures Contract at, or as close as possible to, the end of the day settlement price. However, it may not always be possible for BNO to obtain the closing settlement price and there is no assurance that failure to obtain the closing settlement price in the future will not adversely impact BNO's attempt to track the Benchmark Futures Contract over time.

Second, BNO incurs expenses primarily composed of the management fee, brokerage commissions for the buying and selling of futures contracts, and other expenses. The impact of these expenses tends to cause daily changes in the per share NAV of BNO to track slightly lower than the inverse of daily changes in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contract. At the same time, BNO earns dividend and interest income on its cash, cash equivalents and Treasuries. BNO is not required to distribute any portion of its income to its shareholders and did not make any distributions to shareholders during the three months ended March 31, 2016. Interest payments, and any other income, were retained within the portfolio and added to BNO's NAV. When this income exceeds the level of BNO's expenses for its management fee, brokerage commissions and other expenses (including ongoing registration fees and the fees and expenses of the independent directors of USCF), BNO will realize a net yield that will tend to cause daily changes in the per share NAV of BNO to track slightly higher than daily changes in the Benchmark Futures Contract. If short-term interest rates rise above the current levels, the level of deviation created by the yield would decrease. Conversely, if short-term interest rates were to decline, the amount of error created by the yield would

increase. When short-term yields drop to a level lower than the combined expenses of the management fee and the brokerage commissions, then the tracking error becomes a negative number and would tend to cause the daily returns of the per share NAV to underperform the daily returns of the Benchmark Futures Contract. USCF anticipates that interest rates will continue to remain at historical lows and, therefore, it is anticipated that fees and expenses paid by BNO will continue to be higher than interest earned by BNO. As such, USCF anticipates that BNO will continue to underperform its benchmark until such a time when interest earned at least equals or exceeds the fees and expenses paid by BNO.

Third, BNO may hold Other Crude Oil-Related Investments in its portfolio that may fail to closely track the Benchmark Futures Contract's total return movements. In that case, the error in tracking the Benchmark Futures Contract could result in daily changes in the per share NAV of BNO that are either too high, or too low, relative to the daily changes in the Benchmark Futures Contract. During the three months ended March 31, 2016, BNO did not hold any Other Crude Oil-Related Investments. If BNO increases in size, and due to its obligations to comply with regulatory limits, BNO may invest in Other Crude Oil-Related Investments, which may have the effect of increasing transaction related expenses and may result in increased tracking error.

*Term Structure of Crude Oil Futures Prices and the Impact on Total Returns.* Several factors determine the total return from investing in a futures contract position. One factor that impacts the total return that will result from investing in near month Futures Contracts and "rolling" those contracts forward each month is the price relationship between the current near month contract and the next month contract. For example, if the price of the near month contract is higher than the next month contract (a situation referred to as "backwardation" in the futures market), then absent any other change there is a tendency for the price of a next month contract to rise in value as it becomes the near month contract and approaches expiration. Conversely, if the price of a near month contract is lower than the next month contract (a situation referred to as "contango" in the futures market), then absent any other change there is a tendency for the price of a next month contract to decline in value as it becomes the near month contract and approaches expiration.

As an example, assume that the price of crude oil for immediate delivery (the "spot" price), was \$50 per barrel, and the value of a position in the near month futures contract was also \$50. Over time, the price of the barrel of crude oil will fluctuate based on a number of market factors, including demand for oil relative to its supply. The value of the near month contract will likewise fluctuate in reaction to a number of market factors. If investors seek to maintain their position in a near month contract and not take delivery of the oil, every month they must sell their current near month contract as it approaches expiration and invest in the next month contract.

If the futures market is in backwardation, *e.g.*, when the expected price of crude oil in the future would be less, the investor would be buying a next month contract for a lower price than the current near month contract. Using the \$50 per barrel price above to represent the front month price, the price of the next month contract could be \$49 per barrel, that is, 2% cheaper than the front month contract. Hypothetically, and assuming no other changes to either prevailing crude oil prices or the price relationship between the spot price, the near month contract and the next month contract (and ignoring the impact of commission costs and the income earned on cash and/or cash equivalents), the value of the \$49 next month contract would rise as it approaches expiration and becomes the new near month contract with a price of \$50. In this example, the value of an investment in the second month contract would tend to rise faster than the spot price of crude oil, or fall slower. As a result, it would be possible in this hypothetical example for the spot price of crude oil to have risen 10% after some period of time, while the value of the investment in the second month futures contract would have risen 12%, assuming backwardation is large enough or enough time has elapsed. Similarly, the spot price of crude oil could have fallen 10% while the value of an investment in the futures contract could have fallen only 8%. Over time, if backwardation remained constant, the difference would continue to increase.

If the futures market is in contango, the investor would be buying a next month contract for a higher price than the current near month contract. Using again the \$50 per barrel price above to represent the front month price, the price of the next month contract could be \$51 per barrel, that is, 2% more expensive than the front month contract. Hypothetically, and assuming no other changes to either prevailing crude oil prices or the price relationship between the spot price, the near month contract and the next month contract (and ignoring the impact of commission costs and the income earned on cash and/or cash equivalents), the value of the next month contract would fall as it approaches expiration and becomes the new near month contract with a price of \$50. In this example, it would mean that the value of an investment in the second month would tend to rise slower than the spot price of crude oil, or fall faster. As a result, it would be possible in this hypothetical example for the spot price of crude oil to have risen 10% after some period of time, while the value of the investment in the second month futures contract will have risen only 8%, assuming contango is large enough or enough time has elapsed. Similarly, the spot price of crude oil could have fallen 10% while the value of an investment in the second month futures contract could have fallen 12%. Over time, if contango remained constant, the difference would continue to increase.

The chart below compares the price of the near month contract to the average price of the near 12 month contracts over the last 10 years. When the price of the near month contract is higher than the average price of the near 12 month contracts, the market would be described as being in backwardation. When the price of the near month contract is lower than the average price of the near 12-month contracts, the market would be described as being in contango. Although the prices of the near month contract and the average price of the near 12 month contracts do tend to move up or down together, it can be seen that at times the near month prices are clearly higher than the average price of the near 12 month contracts (backwardation), and other times they are below the average price of the near 12 month contracts (contango).

***\*PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY INDICATIVE OF FUTURE RESULTS***

An alternative way to view the same data is to subtract from the dollar price of the near month contract the average dollar price of the near 12 months contracts for Brent crude oil. If the resulting number is a positive number, then the near month price is higher than the average price of the near 12 months contracts and the market could be described as being in backwardation. If the resulting number is a negative number, then the near month price is lower than the average price of the near 12 months contracts and the market could be described as being in contango. The chart below shows the results from subtracting from the near 12 months contracts price the price of the next month contract for the 10-year period between March 31, 2006 and March 31, 2016. Investors will note that the Brent crude oil market spent time in both backwardation and contango.

***\*PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY INDICATIVE OF FUTURE RESULTS***

Historically, the crude oil futures markets have experienced periods of contango and backwardation, with backwardation being in place more often than contango since oil futures trading started in 1982. In recent years, U.S. crude oil markets experienced long periods of contango, while Brent crude oil moved into a state of backwardation in 2011. Following the global financial crisis in the fourth quarter of 2008, the crude oil market moved into contango and remained in contango for a period of several years. During parts of 2009, the level of contango was unusually steep as a combination of slack U.S. and global demand for crude oil and issues involving the physical transportation and storage of crude oil at Cushing, Oklahoma, the primary pricing point for oil traded in the U.S., led to unusually high inventories of crude oil. A combination of improved transportation and storage capacity, along with growing demand for crude oil globally, has moderated the inventory build-up and led to reduced levels of contango by 2011. The Brent crude oil futures market finished the period ended March 31, 2016 in a state of contango.

Periods of contango or backwardation do not materially impact BNO's investment objective of having the daily percentage changes in its per share NAV track the daily percentage changes in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contract since the impact of backwardation and contango tend to equally impact the daily percentage changes in price of both BNO's shares and the Benchmark Futures Contract. It is impossible to predict with any degree of certainty whether backwardation or contango will occur in the future. It is likely that both conditions will occur during different periods.

*Brent Crude Oil Market.* Brent crude oil prices finished the first quarter of 2016 approximately 8.18% higher than at the beginning of the year. Prices fluctuated as investors weighed the possibility that global inventories may stabilize in 2016. On a global level, hopes that OPEC members and other large oil producing nations would agree to freeze production were somewhat offset by concerns that new sources of production, such as from Iran following the lifting of sanctions, would exacerbate the global oversupply. (Subsequent to quarter end, OPEC failed to reach an agreement to freeze production.) Should supply continue to grow or should the global economic situation decline, there is a meaningful possibility that crude oil prices could fall further, while disruptions due to conflict in the Middle East



would likely have the opposite effect.

*Brent Crude Oil Price Movements in Comparison to Other Energy Commodities and Investment Categories.* USCF believes that investors frequently measure the degree to which prices or total returns of one investment or asset class move up or down in value in concert with another investment or asset class. Statistically, such a measure is usually done by measuring the correlation of the price movements of the two different investments or asset classes over some period of time. The correlation is scaled between 1 and -1, where 1 indicates that the two investment options move up or down in price or value together, known as “positive correlation,” and -1 indicates that they move in completely opposite directions, known as “negative correlation.” A correlation of 0 would mean that the movements of the two are neither positively nor negatively correlated, known as “non-correlation.” That is, the investment options sometimes move up and down together and other times move in opposite directions.

For the ten-year time period between March 31, 2006 and March 31, 2016, the table below compares the monthly movements of Brent crude oil prices versus the monthly movements of the prices of several other energy commodities, such as natural gas, diesel-heating oil, and unleaded gasoline, as well as several major non-commodity investment asset classes, such as large cap U.S. equities, U.S. government bonds and global equities. It can be seen that over this particular time period, the movement of Brent crude oil on a monthly basis was neither strongly correlated nor inversely correlated with the movements of large cap U.S. equities, or diesel-heating oil. However, movements in Brent crude oil were strongly correlated to movements in global equities, U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil and unleaded gasoline. Movements in Brent crude oil futures also exhibited some inverse correlation to U.S. government bonds.

| Correlation Matrix<br>March 31, 2006-<br>2016*   | Large<br>Cap U.S.<br>Equities<br>(S&P 500) | U.S. Gov't.<br>Bonds<br>(EFFAS U.S. Gov't.<br>Bond<br>Index) | Global<br>Equities<br>(FTSE<br>World<br>Index) | Crude<br>Oil | Unleaded<br>Gasoline | Diesel-<br>Heating<br>Oil | Brent<br>Oil |
|--|--|--|--|--------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Large Cap U.S. Equities (S&P 500)                | 1.000                                      | (0.311 )   | 0.965  | 0.441        | 0.438                | 0.428                     | 0.447        |
| U.S. Gov't. Bonds (EFFAS U.S. Gov't. Bond Index) |  | 1.000  | (0.286 )                                       | (0.372)      | (0.395 )             | (0.322 )                  | (0.363)      |
| Global Equities (FTSE World Index)               |  |  | 1.000  | 0.518        | 0.488                | 0.489                     | 0.528        |
| Crude Oil (WTI)                                  |  |  |  | 1.000        | 0.754                | 0.801                     | 0.930        |
| Unleaded Gasoline                                |  |  |  |              | 1.000                | 0.738                     | 0.812        |
| Diesel-Heating Oil                               |  |  |  |              |                      | 1.000                     | 0.224        |
| Brent Oil  |  |  |  |              |                      |                           | 1.000        |

Source: Bloomberg, NYMEX

***\*PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY INDICATIVE OF FUTURE RESULTS***

The table below covers a more recent, but much shorter, range of dates than the above table. It can be seen that over the one-year period ended March 31, 2016, movement of Brent crude oil was neither strongly correlated nor inversely correlated with the movements of large cap U.S. equities, U.S. government bonds, global equities or diesel-heating oil. However, movements in Brent crude oil were strongly correlated to movements in WTI crude oil and unleaded gasoline.

| Correlation Matrix<br>12 Months ended March<br>31, 2016* | Large<br>Cap U.S.<br>Equities<br>(S&P | U.S. Gov't.<br>Bonds<br>(EFFAS<br>U.S. | Global<br>Equities<br>(FTSE<br>World | Crude<br>Oil | Unleaded<br>Gasoline | Diesel-<br>Heating<br>Oil | Brent<br>Oil |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
|  |                                       |  |                                      |              |                      |                           |              |

Edgar Filing: United States Brent Oil Fund, LP - Form 10-Q

|  | 500)  | Gov't. Bond Index) |          |         |          |          |         |  |
|--|-------|--------------------|----------|---------|----------|----------|---------|--|
| Large Cap U.S. Equities (S&P 500)                | 1.000 | (0.280 )           | 0.986    | 0.284   | 0.638    | 0.191    | 0.270   |  |
| U.S. Gov't. Bonds (EFFAS U.S. Gov't. Bond Index) |       | 1.000              | (0.326 ) | (0.457) | (0.413 ) | (0.255 ) | (0.349) |  |
| Global Equities (FTSE World Index)               |       |                    | 1.000    | 0.400   | 0.718    | 0.291    | 0.381   |  |
| Crude Oil (WTI)                                  |       |                    |          | 1.000   | 0.732    | 0.942    | 0.975   |  |
| Unleaded Gasoline                                |       |                    |          |         | 1.000    | 0.657    | 0.682   |  |
| Diesel-Heating Oil                               |       |                    |          |         |          | 1.000    | 0.139   |  |
| Brent Oil  |       |                    |          |         |          |          | 1.000   |  |

Source: Bloomberg, NYMEX

***\*PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY INDICATIVE OF FUTURE RESULTS***

Investors are cautioned that the historical price relationships between Brent crude oil and various other energy commodities, as well as other investment asset classes, as measured by correlation may not be reliable predictors of future price movements and correlation results. The results pictured above would have been different if a different range of dates had been selected. USCF believes that Brent crude oil has historically not demonstrated a strong correlation with equities or bonds over long periods of time. However, USCF also believes that in the future it is possible that Brent crude oil could have long-term correlation results that indicate prices of Brent crude oil more closely track the movements of equities or bonds. In addition, USCF believes that, when measured over time periods shorter than ten years, there will always be some periods where the correlation of Brent crude oil to equities and bonds will be either more strongly positively correlated or more strongly negatively correlated than the long-term historical results suggest.

The correlations between Brent crude oil, WTI Crude Oil, diesel-heating oil and gasoline are relevant because USCF endeavors to invest BNO's assets in Futures Contracts and Other Crude Oil-Related Investments so that daily changes in percentage terms in BNO's per share NAV correlate as closely as possible with daily changes in percentage terms in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contract. If certain other fuel-based commodity futures contracts do not closely correlate with the Benchmark Futures Contract, then their use could lead to greater tracking error. As noted above, USCF also believes that the changes in percentage terms in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contract will closely correlate with changes in percentage terms in the spot price of Brent crude oil.

## **Critical Accounting Policies**

Preparation of the condensed financial statements and related disclosures in compliance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires the application of appropriate accounting rules and guidance, as well as the use of estimates. BNO's application of these policies involves judgments and actual results may differ from the estimates used.

USCF has evaluated the nature and types of estimates that it makes in preparing BNO's condensed financial statements and related disclosures and has determined that the valuation of its investments, which are not traded on a United States or internationally recognized futures exchange (such as forward contracts and OTC swaps) involves a critical accounting policy. The values which are used by BNO for its Futures Contracts are provided by its commodity broker who uses market prices when available, while OTC swaps are valued based on the present value of estimated future cash flows that would be received from or paid to a third party in settlement of these derivative contracts prior to their delivery date and valued on a daily basis. In addition, BNO estimates interest and dividend income on a daily basis using prevailing rates earned on its cash and cash equivalents. These estimates are adjusted to the actual amount received on a monthly basis and the difference, if any, is not considered material.

## **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

BNO has not made, and does not anticipate making, use of borrowings or other lines of credit to meet its obligations. BNO has met, and it is anticipated that BNO will continue to meet, its liquidity needs in the normal course of business from the proceeds of the sale of its investments, or from the Treasuries, cash and/or cash equivalents that it intends to hold at all times. BNO's liquidity needs include: redeeming shares, providing margin deposits for its existing Futures Contracts or the purchase of additional Futures Contracts and posting collateral for its OTC swaps, if applicable, and, except as noted below, payment of its expenses, summarized below under "Contractual Obligations."

BNO currently generates cash primarily from: (i) the sale of baskets consisting of 50,000 shares ("Creation Baskets") and (ii) income earned on Treasuries, cash and/or cash equivalents. BNO has allocated substantially all of its net assets to trading in Crude Oil Interests. BNO invests in Crude Oil Interests to the fullest extent possible without being leveraged or unable to satisfy its current or potential margin or collateral obligations with respect to its investments in Futures Contracts and Other Crude Oil-Related Investments. A significant portion of BNO's NAV is held in cash and cash equivalents that are used as margin and as collateral for its trading in Crude Oil Interests. The balance of the assets is held in BNO's account at its custodian bank and in investments in Treasuries at the FCM. Income received from BNO's investments in money market funds and Treasuries is paid to BNO. During the three months ended March 31, 2016, BNO's expenses exceeded the income BNO earned and the cash earned from the sale of Creation Baskets and the redemption of Redemption Baskets. During the three months ended March 31, 2016, BNO used other assets to pay expenses, which could cause a decrease in BNO's NAV over time. To the extent expenses exceed income, BNO's

NAV will be negatively impacted.

BNO's investments in Crude Oil Interests may be subject to periods of illiquidity because of market conditions, regulatory considerations and other reasons. For example, most commodity exchanges limit the fluctuations in futures contracts prices during a single day by regulations referred to as "daily limits." During a single day, no trades may be executed at prices beyond the daily limit. Once the price of a futures contract has increased or decreased by an amount equal to the daily limit, positions in the contracts can neither be taken nor liquidated unless the traders are willing to effect trades at or within the specified daily limit. Such market conditions could prevent BNO from promptly liquidating its positions in Futures Contracts. During the three months ended March 31, 2016, BNO did not purchase or liquidate any of its positions while daily limits were in effect; however, BNO cannot predict whether such an event may occur in the future.

Since the initial offering of shares, BNO has been responsible for expenses relating to: (i) management fees, (ii) brokerage fees and commissions, (iii) ongoing registration expenses in connection with offers and sales of its shares subsequent to the initial offering, (iv) other expenses, including tax reporting costs, (v) fees and expenses of the independent directors of USCF and (vi) other extraordinary expenses not in the ordinary course of business, while USCF has been responsible for expenses relating to the fees of BNO's Marketing Agent, Administrator and Custodian and registration expenses relating to the initial offering of shares. If USCF and BNO are unsuccessful in raising sufficient funds to cover these respective expenses or in locating any other source of funding, BNO will terminate and investors may lose all or part of their investment.

## **Market Risk**

Trading in Futures Contracts and Other Crude Oil-Related Investments, such as forwards, involves BNO entering into contractual commitments to purchase or sell oil at a specified date in the future. The aggregate market value of the contracts will significantly exceed BNO's future cash requirements since BNO intends to close out its open positions prior to settlement. As a result, BNO is generally only subject to the risk of loss arising from the change in value of the contracts. BNO considers the "fair value" of its derivative instruments to be the unrealized gain or loss on the contracts. The market risk associated with BNO's commitments to purchase oil is limited to the aggregate market value of the contracts held. However, should BNO enter into a contractual commitment to sell oil, it would be required to make delivery of the oil at the contract price, repurchase the contract at prevailing prices or settle in cash. Since there are no limits on the future price of oil, the market risk to BNO could be unlimited.

BNO's exposure to market risk depends on a number of factors, including the markets for oil, the volatility of interest rates and foreign exchange rates, the liquidity of the Futures Contracts and Other Crude Oil-Related Investments markets and the relationships among the contracts held by BNO. Drastic market occurrences could ultimately lead to the loss of all or substantially all of an investor's capital.

## **Credit Risk**

When BNO enters into Futures Contracts and Other Crude Oil-Related Investments, it is exposed to the credit risk that the counterparty will not be able to meet its obligations. The counterparty for the Futures Contracts traded on the ICE Futures and on most other futures exchanges is the clearinghouse associated with the particular exchange. In general, in addition to margin required to be posted by the clearinghouse in connection with cleared trades, clearinghouses are backed by their members who may be required to share in the financial burden resulting from the nonperformance of one of their members and, therefore, this additional member support should significantly reduce credit risk. BNO is not currently a member of any clearinghouse. Some foreign exchanges are not backed by their clearinghouse members but may be backed by a consortium of banks or other financial institutions. There can be no assurance that any counterparty, clearinghouse, or their members or their financial backers will satisfy their obligations to BNO in such circumstances.

USCF attempts to manage the credit risk of BNO by following various trading limitations and policies. In particular, BNO generally posts margin and/or holds liquid assets that are approximately equal to the market value of its obligations to counterparties under the Futures Contracts and Other Crude Oil-Related Investments it holds. USCF has implemented procedures that include, but are not limited to, executing and clearing trades only with creditworthy parties and/or requiring the posting of collateral or margin by such parties for the benefit of BNO to limit its credit exposure. An FCM, when acting on behalf of BNO in accepting orders to purchase or sell Futures Contracts on United States exchanges, is required by CFTC regulations to separately account for and segregate as belonging to BNO, all assets of BNO relating to domestic Futures Contracts trading. These FCMs are not allowed to commingle BNO's assets with their other assets. In addition, the CFTC requires commodity brokers to hold in a secure account BNO's assets related to foreign Futures Contracts trading. During the three months ended March 31, 2016, the only foreign exchange on which BNO made investments was the ICE Futures Europe, which is a London based futures exchange. Those crude oil contracts are denominated in U.S. dollars.

If, in the future, BNO purchases OTC swaps, see "*Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk*" in this quarterly report on Form 10-Q for a discussion of OTC swaps.

As of March 31, 2016, BNO held cash deposits and investments in Treasuries and money market funds in the amount of \$115,337,008 with the custodian and FCM. Some or all of these amounts held by a custodian or an FCM, as applicable, may be subject to loss should BNO's custodian or FCM, as applicable, cease operations.

## **Off Balance Sheet Financing**

As of March 31, 2016, BNO had no loan guarantee, credit support or other off-balance sheet arrangements of any kind other than agreements entered into in the normal course of business, which may include indemnification provisions relating to certain risks that service providers undertake in performing services, which are in the best interests of BNO. While BNO's exposure under these indemnification provisions cannot be estimated, they are not expected to have a material impact on BNO's financial position.

### **European Sovereign Debt**

BNO had no direct exposure to European sovereign debt as of March 31, 2016 and has no direct exposure to European sovereign debt as of the filing of this quarterly report on Form 10-Q.

### **Redemption Basket Obligation**

In order to meet its investment objective and pay its contractual obligations described below, BNO requires liquidity to redeem shares, which redemptions must be in blocks of 50,000 shares called "Redemption Baskets." BNO has to date satisfied this obligation by paying from the cash or cash equivalents it holds or through the sale of its Treasuries in an amount proportionate to the number of shares being redeemed.

### **Contractual Obligations**

BNO's primary contractual obligations are with USCF. In return for its services, USCF is entitled to a management fee calculated daily and paid monthly as a fixed percentage of BNO's NAV, currently 0.75% of NAV on its average daily total net assets.

USCF agreed to pay the start-up costs associated with the formation of BNO, primarily its legal, accounting and other costs in connection with USCF's registration with the CFTC as a CPO and the registration and listing of BNO and its shares with the SEC, FINRA and NYSE Arca (formerly, AMEX), respectively. However, since BNO's initial offering of shares, offering costs incurred in connection with registering and listing additional shares of BNO have been directly borne on an ongoing basis by BNO, and not by USCF.

USCF pays the fees of the marketing agent and the fees of BBH&Co., as well as BBH&Co.'s fees for performing administrative services, including those in connection with the preparation of BNO's condensed financial statements and its SEC, NFA and CFTC reports. BNO pays the fees and expenses associated with its tax accounting and reporting requirements. USCF has paid certain expenses normally borne by BNO on a discretionary basis where such expenses exceeded 0.15% (15 basis points) of BNO's NAV, on an annualized basis. USCF has no obligation to continue such payments into subsequent periods. This discretionary expense waiver is in addition to those amounts USCF is contractually obligated to pay as described in *Note 4* in *Item 1* of this quarterly report on Form 10-Q.

In addition to USCF's management fee, BNO pays its brokerage fees (including fees to an FCM), OTC dealer spreads and, subsequent to the initial offering, registration and other fees paid to the SEC, FINRA, or other regulatory agencies in connection with the offer and sale of shares, as well as legal, printing, accounting and other expenses associated therewith, and extraordinary expenses. The latter are expenses not incurred in the ordinary course of BNO's business, including expenses relating to the indemnification of any person against liabilities and obligations to the extent permitted by law and under the LP Agreement, the bringing or defending of actions in law or in equity or otherwise conducting litigation and incurring legal expenses and the settlement of claims and litigation. Commission payments to an FCM are on a contract-by-contract, or round turn, basis. BNO also pays a portion of the fees and expenses of the independent directors of USCF. See *Note 3* to the *Notes to Condensed Financial Statements (Unaudited)* in *Item 1* of this quarterly report on Form 10-Q.

The parties cannot anticipate the amount of payments that will be required under these arrangements for future periods, as BNO's per share NAVs and trading levels to meet its investment objective will not be known until a future date. These agreements are effective for a specific term agreed upon by the parties with an option to renew, or, in some cases, are in effect for the duration of BNO's existence. Either party may terminate these agreements earlier for certain reasons described in the agreements.

As of March 31, 2016, BNO's portfolio consisted of 2,732 Brent Crude Oil Futures CO contracts traded on the ICE Futures Europe. As of March 31, 2016, BNO did not hold any Futures Contracts for Brent crude oil traded on NYMEX. For a list of BNO's current holdings, please see BNO's website at [www.unitedstatescommodityfunds.com](http://www.unitedstatescommodityfunds.com).

### **Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.**

#### *OTC Derivatives*

BNO may purchase OTC swaps. Unlike most exchange-traded futures contracts or exchange-traded options on such futures, each party to an OTC swap bears the credit risk that the other party may not be able to perform its obligations



under its contract.

BNO may enter into certain transactions where an OTC component is exchanged for a corresponding futures contract (“Exchange for Related Positions” or “EFRP” transactions). In the most common type of EFRP transaction entered into by BNO, the OTC component is the purchase or sale of one or more baskets of BNO shares. These EFRP transactions may expose BNO to counterparty risk during the interim period between the execution of the OTC component and the exchange for a corresponding futures contract. Generally, the counterparty risk from the EFRP transaction will exist only on the day of execution.

Swap transactions, like other financial transactions, involve a variety of significant risks. The specific risks presented by a particular swap transaction necessarily depend upon the terms and circumstances of the transaction. In general, however, all swap transactions involve some combination of market risk, credit risk, counterparty credit risk, funding risk, liquidity risk and operational risk.

Highly customized swap transactions in particular may increase liquidity risk, which may result in a suspension of redemptions. Highly leveraged transactions may experience substantial gains or losses in value as a result of relatively small changes in the value or level of an underlying or related market factor.

In evaluating the risks and contractual obligations associated with a particular swap transaction, it is important to consider that a swap transaction may be modified or terminated only by mutual consent of the original parties and subject to agreement on individually negotiated terms. Therefore, it may not be possible for USCF to modify, terminate or offset BNO’s obligations or its exposure to the risks associated with a transaction prior to its scheduled termination date.

To reduce the credit risk that arises in connection with such contracts, BNO will generally enter into an agreement with each counterparty based on the Master Agreement published by the International Swaps and Derivatives Association that provides for the netting of its overall exposure to its counterparty, if the counterparty is unable to meet its obligations to BNO due to the occurrence of a specified event, such as the insolvency of the counterparty.

USCF assesses or reviews, as appropriate, the creditworthiness of each potential or existing counterparty to an OTC swap pursuant to guidelines approved by USCF’s board of directors (the “Board”). Furthermore, USCF on behalf of BNO only enters into OTC swaps with counterparties who are, or are affiliates of, (a) banks regulated by a United States federal bank regulator, (b) broker-dealers regulated by the SEC, (c) insurance companies domiciled in the United States, or (d) producers, users or traders of energy, whether or not regulated by the CFTC. Any entity acting as a counterparty shall be regulated in either the United States or the United Kingdom unless otherwise approved by the Board after consultation with its legal counsel. Existing counterparties are also reviewed periodically by USCF. BNO will also require that the counterparty be highly rated and/or provide collateral or other credit support. Even if collateral is used to reduce counterparty credit risk, sudden changes in the value of OTC swaps may leave a party open to financial risk due to a counterparty default since the collateral held may not cover a party’s exposure on the

transaction in such situations.

In general, valuing OTC derivatives is less certain than valuing actively traded financial instruments such as exchange-traded futures contracts and securities or cleared swaps because the price and terms on which such OTC derivatives are entered into or can be terminated are individually negotiated, and those prices and terms may not reflect the best price or terms available from other sources. In addition, while market makers and dealers generally quote indicative prices or terms for entering into or terminating OTC swaps, they typically are not contractually obligated to do so, particularly if they are not a party to the transaction. As a result, it may be difficult to obtain an independent value for an outstanding OTC derivatives transaction.

During the three month reporting period ended March 31, 2016, BNO limited its OTC activities to EFRP transactions.

BNO anticipates that the use of Other Crude Oil-Related Investments together with its investments in Futures Contracts will produce price and total return results that closely track the investment goals of BNO. However, there can be no assurance of this. OTC swaps may result in higher transaction-related expenses than the brokerage commissions paid in connection with the purchase of Futures Contracts, which may impact BNO's ability to successfully track the Benchmark Futures Contract.

#### **Item 4. Controls and Procedures.**

##### **Disclosure Controls and Procedures**

BNO maintains disclosure controls and procedures that are designed to ensure that material information required to be disclosed in BNO's periodic reports filed or submitted under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time period specified in the SEC's rules and forms.

The duly appointed officers of USCF, including its chief executive officer and chief financial officer, who perform functions equivalent to those of a principal executive officer and principal financial officer of BNO if BNO had any officers, have evaluated the effectiveness of BNO's disclosure controls and procedures and have concluded that the disclosure controls and procedures of BNO have been effective as of the end of the period covered by this quarterly report on Form 10-Q.

##### **Change in Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

There were no changes in BNO's internal control over financial reporting during BNO's last fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, BNO's internal control over financial reporting.

## **Part II. OTHER INFORMATION**

### **Item 1. Legal Proceedings.**

Not applicable.

### **Item 1A. Risk Factors.**

There have been no material changes to the risk factors previously disclosed in BNO's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015, filed on March 11, 2016.

### **Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds.**

Not applicable.

### **Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities.**

Not applicable.

**Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures.**

Not applicable.

**Item 5. Other Information.**

**Monthly Account Statements**

Pursuant to the requirement under Rule 4.22 under the Commodity Exchange Act, each month BNO publishes an account statement for its shareholders, which includes a Statement of Income (Loss) and a Statement of Changes in Net Asset Value. The account statement is furnished to the SEC on a current report on Form 8-K pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act and posted each month on BNO's website at [www.unitedstatescommodityfunds.com](http://www.unitedstatescommodityfunds.com).

**Item 6. Exhibits.**

Listed below are the exhibits, which are filed as part of this quarterly report on Form 10-Q (according to the number assigned to them in Item 601 of Regulation S-K):

| <b>Exhibit Number</b> | <b>Description of Document</b>   |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>31.1(1)</b>        | Certification by Principal Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.  |
| <b>31.2(1)</b>        | Certification by Principal Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.  |
| <b>32.1(1)</b>        | Certification by Principal Executive Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| <b>32.2(1)</b>        | Certification by Principal Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| <b>101.INS</b>        | XBRL Instance Document.  |
| <b>101.SCH</b>        | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema.  |
| <b>101.CAL</b>        | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase.  |
| <b>101.DEF</b>        | XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase.   |

**101.LAB** XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase.

**101.PRE** XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase.

(1) Filed herewith.

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

United States Brent Oil Fund, LP (Registrant)

By:

United States Commodity Funds LLC, its general partner

By: /s/ John P. Love

John P. Love

President and Chief Executive Officer

(Principal executive officer)

Date: May 4, 2016

By: /s/ Stuart P. Crumbaugh

Stuart P. Crumbaugh

Chief Financial Officer

(Principal financial and accounting officer)

Date: May 4, 2016