

United States Brent Oil Fund, LP  
Form 10-Q  
May 10, 2018

**UNITED STATES**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 10-Q**

**<sup>x</sup>Quarterly report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2018.**

**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, a smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer," "smaller reporting company" and "emerging growth 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 "	
	Emerging growth company "	

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided to Section 7(a)(2)(B) of the Securities Act. "

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 4,650,000 outstanding shares as of May 7, 2018.

**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>	<u>1</u>
<u>Item 2. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations.</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.</u>	<u>31</u>
<u>Item 4. Controls and Procedures.</u>	<u>32</u>
<b><u>Part II. OTHER INFORMATION</u></b>	
<u>Item 1. Legal Proceedings.</u>	<u>32</u>
<u>Item 1A. Risk Factors.</u>	<u>32</u>
<u>Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds.</u>	<u>32</u>
<u>Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities.</u>	<u>33</u>
<u>Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures.</u>	<u>33</u>
<u>Item 5. Other Information.</u>	<u>33</u>
<u>Item 6. Exhibits.</u>	<u>33</u>

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, 2018 (Unaudited) and December 31, 2017</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Condensed Schedule of Investments (Unaudited) at March 31, 2018</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Condensed Statements of Operations (Unaudited) for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Condensed Statement of Changes in Partners' Capital (Unaudited) for the three months ended March 31, 2018</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Condensed Statements of Cash Flows (Unaudited) for the three months ended March 31, 2018 and 2017</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Notes to Condensed Financial Statements for the period ended March 31, 2018 (Unaudited)</u>	<u>7</u>

*United States Brent Oil Fund, LP**Condensed Statements of Financial Condition**At March 31, 2018 (Unaudited) and December 31, 2017*

	March 31, 2018	December 31, 2017
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents (at cost \$78,109,650 and \$78,344,087, respectively) (Notes 2 and 5)	\$ 78,109,650	\$ 78,344,087
Equity in trading accounts:		
Cash and cash equivalents (at cost \$11,078,905 and \$14,167,416, respectively)	11,078,905	14,167,416
Unrealized gain (loss) on open commodity futures contracts	4,411,970	5,587,910
Receivable from General Partner (Note 3)	390,601	331,433
Dividends receivable	27,924	16,991
Interest receivable	6,787	9,575
ETF transaction fees receivable	350	350
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$ 94,026,187</b>	<b>\$ 98,457,762</b>
<b>Liabilities and Partners' Capital</b>		
Payable for shares redeemed	\$ 1,896,992	\$ 3,597,840
General Partner management fees payable (Note 3)	52,245	61,483
Professional fees payable	241,875	243,122
Brokerage commissions payable	2,816	5,316
Directors' fees and insurance payable	2,307	1,128
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>2,196,235</b>	<b>3,908,889</b>
<b>Commitments and Contingencies</b> (Notes 3, 4 and 5)		
<b>Partners' Capital</b>		
General Partner	—	—
Limited Partners	91,829,952	94,548,873
<b>Total Partners' Capital</b>	<b>91,829,952</b>	<b>94,548,873</b>
<b>Total liabilities and partners' capital</b>	<b>\$ 94,026,187</b>	<b>\$ 98,457,762</b>
Limited Partners' shares outstanding	4,800,000	5,200,000
Net asset value per share	\$ 19.13	\$ 18.18
Market value per share	\$ 19.14	\$ 18.10

*See accompanying notes to condensed financial statements.*



**United States Brent Oil Fund, LP**  
**Condensed Schedule of Investments (Unaudited)**  
**At March 31, 2018**

	Notional Amount	Number of Contracts	Value/ Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Open Commodity Contracts	% of Partners' Capital
Open Futures Contracts - Long				
Foreign Contracts				
ICE Brent Crude Oil Futures CO June 2018 contracts, expiring April 2018*	\$87,394,190	1,324	\$ 4,411,970	4.80

	Principal Amount	Market Value	
Cash Equivalents			
United States Treasury Obligations			
U.S. Treasury Bills:			
1.19%, 4/05/2018	\$3,000,000	\$2,999,605	3.27
1.22%, 4/12/2018	2,000,000	1,999,257	2.18
1.23%, 4/19/2018	2,000,000	1,998,783	2.18
1.25%, 4/26/2018	2,000,000	1,998,278	2.18
1.27%, 5/03/2018	2,000,000	1,997,760	2.18
1.32%, 5/10/2018	2,000,000	1,997,162	2.17
1.37%, 5/17/2018	3,000,000	2,994,796	3.26
1.43%, 5/24/2018	3,000,000	2,993,750	3.26
1.43%, 5/31/2018	3,000,000	2,992,900	3.26
1.45%, 6/07/2018	3,000,000	2,991,960	3.26
1.46%, 6/14/2018	2,000,000	1,994,059	2.17
1.49%, 6/21/2018	3,000,000	2,990,010	3.26
1.50%, 6/28/2018	3,000,000	2,989,073	3.25
1.56%, 7/05/2018	3,000,000	2,987,729	3.25
1.56%, 7/12/2018	2,000,000	1,991,217	2.17
1.60%, 7/19/2018	2,000,000	1,990,372	2.17
1.61%, 7/26/2018	3,000,000	2,984,582	3.25
1.63%, 8/02/2018	3,000,000	2,983,395	3.25
1.71%, 8/09/2018	2,000,000	1,987,758	2.16
1.77%, 8/16/2018	2,000,000	1,986,642	2.16
1.82%, 8/23/2018	2,000,000	1,985,600	2.16
1.82%, 8/30/2018	3,000,000	2,977,287	3.24
1.85%, 9/06/2018	2,000,000	1,983,937	2.16
1.90%, 9/13/2018	2,000,000	1,982,721	2.16
1.92%, 9/20/2018	2,000,000	1,981,797	2.16



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

1.90%, 9/27/2018	2,000,000	1,981,329	2.16
Total Treasury Obligations		62,741,759	68.33
United States - Money Market Funds			
Fidelity Investments Money Market Funds - Government Portfolio	12,000,000	12,000,000	13.07
Goldman Sachs Financial Square Funds - Government Fund - Class FS	5,000,000	5,000,000	5.44
Morgan Stanley Institutional Liquidity Funds - Government Portfolio	5,000,000	5,000,000	5.44
Total Money Market Funds		22,000,000	23.95
Total Cash Equivalents		\$84,741,759	92.28

\* Collateral amounted to \$11,078,905 on open futures 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, 2018 and 2017*

	<b>Three months ended</b>	<b>Three months ended</b>
	<b>March 31, 2018</b>	<b>March 31, 2017</b>
Income		
Gain (loss) on trading of commodity futures contracts:		
Realized gain (loss) on closed futures contracts	\$ 5,625,960	\$ (10,110,040 )
Change in unrealized gain (loss) on open futures contracts	(1,175,940 )	1,666,380 )
Dividend income	70,829	40,228
Interest income*	249,033	101,135
ETF transaction fees	2,800	1,050
Total income (loss)	4,772,682	(8,301,247 )
Expenses		
General Partner management fees (Note 3)	175,198	198,710
Professional fees	67,167	127,058
Brokerage commissions	23,732	29,924
Directors' fees and insurance	3,364	3,019
Total expenses	269,461	358,711
Expense waiver (Note 3)	(59,168 )	(120,259 )
Net expenses	210,293	238,452
Net income (loss)	\$ 4,562,389	\$ (8,539,699 )
Net income (loss) per limited partnership share	\$ 0.95	\$ (1.20 )
Net income (loss) per weighted average limited partnership share	\$ 0.88	\$ (1.19 )
Weighted average limited partnership shares outstanding	5,158,889	7,165,000

\* Interest income does not exceed paid in kind of 5%.

*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, 2018*

	General Partner	Limited Partners	Total
Balances, at December 31, 2017	\$ —	\$ 94,548,873	\$94,548,873
Addition of 200,000 partnership shares	—	3,704,236	3,704,236
Redemption of 600,000 partnership shares	—	(10,985,546 )	(10,985,546)
Net income (loss)	—	4,562,389	4,562,389
Balances, at March 31, 2018	\$ —	\$ 91,829,952	\$91,829,952
Net Asset Value Per Share:			
At December 31, 2017			\$18.18
At March 31, 2018			\$19.13

*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, 2018 and 2017*

	Three months ended March 31, 2018	Three months ended March 31, 2017
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities:</b>		
Net income (loss)	\$ 4,562,389	\$ (8,539,699 )
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities:		
Unrealized (gain) loss on open futures contracts	1,175,940	(1,666,380 )
(Increase) decrease in receivable from General Partner	(59,168 )	(120,259 )
(Increase) decrease in dividends receivable	(10,933 )	(2,035 )
(Increase) decrease in interest receivable	2,788	—
(Increase) decrease in directors' fees and insurance receivable	—	(3,196 )
Increase (decrease) in payable due to Broker	—	1,936,460
Increase (decrease) in General Partner management fees payable	(9,238 )	(9,687 )
Increase (decrease) in professional fees payable	(1,247 )	33,054
Increase (decrease) in brokerage commissions payable	(2,500 )	(1,860 )
Increase (decrease) in directors' fees and insurance payable	1,179	(1,184 )
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	5,659,210	(8,374,786 )
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities:</b>		
Addition of partnership shares	3,704,236	764,363
Redemption of partnership shares	(12,686,394 )	(3,091,601 )
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	(8,982,158 )	(2,327,238 )
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(3,322,948 )	(10,702,024 )
<b>Total Cash, Cash Equivalents and Equity in Trading Accounts,</b> beginning of period	92,511,503	111,464,877
<b>Total Cash, Cash Equivalents and Equity in Trading Accounts,</b> end of period	\$ 89,188,555	\$ 100,762,853
<b>Components of Cash and Cash Equivalents:</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 78,109,650	\$ 92,769,457
Equity in Trading Accounts:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	11,078,905	7,993,396
<b>Total Cash, Cash Equivalents and Equity in Trading Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 89,188,555</b>	<b>\$ 100,762,853</b>

*See accompanying notes to condensed financial statements.*

**United States Brent Oil Fund, LP**

**Notes to Condensed Financial Statements**

**For the period ended March 31, 2018 (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 Fourth Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership dated as of December 15, 2017 (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.

BNO’s investment objective is *not* for its NAV or market price of shares to equal, in dollar terms, the spot price of Brent crude oil or any particular futures contract based on Brent crude oil, *nor* is BNO’s investment objective for the percentage change in its NAV to 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, 2018, BNO held 1,324 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”), the United States Agriculture Index Fund (“USAG”) and the USCF Canadian Crude Oil Index Fund (“UCCO”), 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. UCCO is currently in registration and has not commenced operations.

In addition, USCF is the sponsor of the USCF Funds Trust, a Delaware statutory trust, and each of its series, the United States 3x Oil Fund (“USOU”) and the United States 3x Short Oil Fund (“USOD”), which commenced operations on July 20, 2017. Two separate series of the USCF Funds Trust, the REX S&P MLP Fund (“RMLP”) and the REX S&P MLP Inverse Fund (“MLPD”) and together with RMLP, the “REX Funds”), which were in registration and had not commenced operations, filed to withdraw from registration on March 30, 2018.

All funds listed previously, other than UCCO and the REX Funds, 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, 2018, 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 in the United States of America (“U.S. GAAP”). 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 U.S. 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 U.S. 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 2014. 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, 2018.

## **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 two 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 transaction 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 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, 2018.

### **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 U.S. 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.

### **New Accounting Pronouncements**

In November 2016, the FASB issued Accounting Standards Update No. 2016-18, “Statement of Cash Flows (Topic 230): Restricted Cash” (“ASU 2016-18”), which amends ASC 230 to provide guidance on the classification and presentation of changes in restricted cash and restricted cash equivalents on the statement of cash flows. The ASU is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2017, and interim periods within those annual periods. At this time, management has evaluated the implications of these changes on the financial statements and adopted with no material impact.

### **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, 2018 and 2017, 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, 2018 are estimated to be a total of \$15,500 for BNO and, in the aggregate for BNO and the Related Public Funds, \$536,000.

#### **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 \$165,000 for the year ending December 31, 2018. Tax reporting costs fluctuate between years due to the number of shareholders during any given year.

## **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, 2018, USCF waived \$59,168 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 – Contracts and Agreements*.

## **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, clearing 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 months ended March 31, 2018	For the three months ended March 31, 2017
Total commissions accrued to brokers	\$ 23,732	\$ 29,924



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

Total commissions as annualized percentage of average total net assets	0.10	%	0.11	%
Commissions accrued as a result of rebalancing	\$ 23,175		\$ 29,790	
Percentage of commissions accrued as a result of rebalancing	97.65	%	99.55	%
Commissions accrued as a result of creation and redemption activity	\$ 557		\$ 134	
Percentage of commissions accrued as a result of creation and redemption activity	2.35	%	0.45	%

The decrease in total commissions accrued to brokers for the three months ended March 31, 2018, compared to the three months ended March 31, 2017, was due primarily to a lower number of Brent crude oil futures contracts being held and traded.

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

BNO may engage in the trading of futures contracts, options on futures contracts, cleared swaps and OTC 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 agreements that are eligible to be cleared by a clearinghouse, e.g., ICE Clear Europe, and 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, 2018 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 investments in Treasuries, 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, 2018 and December 31, 2017, BNO held investments in money market funds in the amounts of \$22,000,000 and \$20,000,000, 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, 2018 and December 31, 2017, BNO held cash deposits and investments in Treasuries in the amounts of \$67,188,555 and \$72,511,503, 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, 2018 and 2017 for the shareholders. This information has been derived from information presented in the condensed financial statements.

	<b>For the three months ended</b>		<b>For the three months ended</b>	
	<b>March 31, 2018</b>		<b>March 31, 2017</b>	
	<b>(Unaudited)</b>		<b>(Unaudited)</b>	
<b>Per Share Operating Performance:</b>				
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$	18.18	\$	15.70
Total income (loss)		0.99		(1.17)
Net expenses		(0.04)	)	(0.03)
Net increase (decrease) in net asset value		0.95		(1.20)
Net asset value, end of period	\$	19.13	\$	14.50
Total Return		5.23	%	(7.64)
				)%
<b>Ratios to Average Net Assets</b>				
Total income (loss)		5.04	%	(7.73)
Management fees*		0.75	%	0.75
Total expenses excluding management fees*		0.40	%	0.60
Expenses waived*		(0.25)	)%	(0.45)
Net expenses excluding management fees*		0.15	%	0.15
Net income (loss)		4.82	%	(7.95)
				)%

\* 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, 2018 using the fair value hierarchy:

At March 31, 2018	Total	Level I	Level II	Level III
Short-Term Investments	\$84,741,759	\$84,741,759	\$ —	\$ —
Exchange-Traded Futures Contracts				
Foreign Contracts	4,411,970	4,411,970	—	—

During the three months ended March 31, 2018, there were no transfers between Level I and Level II.

The following table summarizes the valuation of BNO's securities at December 31, 2017 using the fair value hierarchy:

At December 31, 2017	Total	Level I	Level II	Level III
Short-Term Investments	\$82,786,902	\$82,786,902	\$ —	\$ —
Exchange-Traded Futures Contracts				
Foreign Contracts	5,587,910	5,587,910	—	—

During the year ended December 31, 2017, 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 Accounted for as Hedging Instruments	Condensed Statements of Financial Condition Location	Fair Value At March 31, 2018	Fair Value At December 31, 2017
Futures - Commodity Contracts	Assets	\$ 4,411,970	\$ 5,587,910

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

Derivatives not Accounted for as Hedging Instruments	Location of Gain (Loss) on Derivatives Recognized in Income	For the three months ended March 31, 2018		For the three months ended March 31, 2017	
		Realized Gain (Loss) on Derivatives Recognized in Income	Change in Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Derivatives Recognized in Income	Realized Gain (Loss) on Derivatives Recognized in Income	Change in Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Derivatives Recognized in Income
Futures - Commodity Contracts	Realized gain (loss) on closed positions	\$ 5,625,960		\$(10,110,040 )	
	Change in unrealized gain (loss) on open positions		\$ (1,175,940 )		\$ 1,666,380

## **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 a specific short-term futures contract on 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 it will be measured by the futures contract that is the next month contract to expire (the “Benchmark Futures Contract”), plus interest earned on BNO’s collateral holdings, 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.

BNO’s investment objective is *not* for its NAV or market price of shares to equal, in dollar terms, the spot price of Brent crude oil or any particular futures contract based on Brent crude oil, *nor* is BNO’s investment objective for the percentage change in its NAV to 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 primarily 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 to a lesser extent, in order to comply with regulatory requirements or in view of market conditions, other 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.

USCF believes that market arbitrage opportunities will cause daily changes in BNO’s share price on the NYSE Arca on a percentage basis to closely track daily changes in BNO’s per share NAV on a percentage basis. USCF further believes that daily changes in prices of the Benchmark Futures Contract have historically closely tracked the daily changes in spot prices of Brent crude oil. USCF believes that the net effect of these relationships will be that the daily changes in the price of BNO’s shares on the NYSE Arca on a percentage basis will closely track the daily changes in the spot price of a barrel of Brent crude oil on a percentage basis, plus interest earned on BNO’s collateral holdings, less BNO’s expenses.

BNO seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing so that the average daily percentage change in BNO’s NAV for any period of 30 successive valuation days will be within plus/minus ten percent (10%) of the average daily percentage change in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contract over the same period.

## **Regulatory Disclosure**

*Accountability Levels, Position Limits and Price Fluctuation Limits.* Designated contract markets (DCMs”), such as the NYMEX and ICE Futures, 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. These levels and position limits apply to the futures contracts that BNO invests in to meet its investment objective. In addition to accountability levels and position limits, the NYMEX and ICE Futures also set daily price fluctuation limits on futures contracts. The daily price fluctuation limit establishes the maximum amount that the price of a futures contract may vary either up or down from the previous day’s settlement price. Once the daily price fluctuation limit has been reached in a particular futures contract, no trades may be made at a price beyond that limit.

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, 2018, BNO held 1,324 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, 2018, 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, 2018, 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, 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 25 physical commodity futures and option contracts as well as swaps that are economically equivalent to such contracts in the agriculture, energy and metals markets (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 size of speculative positions that a person may hold in the spot month, other individual months, and all months combined; create an exemption for positions that constitute bona fide hedging transactions; impose responsibilities on 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 certain 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. At this time, it is unclear how the Position Limit Rules may 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.

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. Under that system, the CFTC enforces federal limits on speculation in nine agricultural products (e.g., corn, wheat and soy), while futures exchanges establish and enforce position limits and accountability levels for other agricultural products 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.

Under existing and recently adopted CFTC regulations, for the purpose of position limits, a market participant is generally required, subject to certain narrow exceptions, 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 with that participant (the “Aggregation Rules”). The Aggregation Rules will also apply with

respect to the Position Limit Rules if and when such Position Limit Rules are adopted.

## OTC Swaps

In October 2015, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the FDIC, the Farm Credit Administration, and the Federal Housing Finance Agency (each an “Agency” and, collectively, the “Agencies”) jointly adopted final rules to establish minimum margin and capital requirements for registered swap dealers, major swap participants, security-based swap dealers, and major security-based swap participants (“Swap Entities”) that are subject to the jurisdiction of one of the Agencies (such entities, “Covered Swap Entities”, and the joint final rules, the “Final Margin Rules”).

The Final Margin Rules will subject non-cleared swaps and non-cleared security-based swaps between Covered Swap Entities and Swap Entities, and between Covered Swap Entities and financial end users that have material swaps exposure (i.e., an average daily aggregate notional of \$8 billion or more in non-cleared swaps calculated in accordance with the Final Margin Rules), to a mandatory two-way minimum initial margin requirement. The minimum amount of the initial margin required to be posted or collected would be either the amount calculated by the Covered Swap Entity using a standardized schedule set forth as an appendix to the Final Margin Rules, which provides the gross initial margin (as a percentage of total notional exposure) for certain asset classes, or an internal margin model of the Covered Swap Entity conforming to the requirements of the Final Margin Rules that is approved by the Agency having jurisdiction over the particular Covered Swap Entity. The Final Margin Rules specify the types of collateral that may be posted or collected as initial margin for non-cleared swaps and non-cleared security-based swaps with financial end users (generally cash, certain government, government-sponsored enterprise securities, certain liquid debt, certain equity securities, certain eligible publicly traded debt, and gold); and sets forth haircuts for certain collateral asset classes.

The Final Margin Rules require minimum variation margin to be exchanged daily for non-cleared swaps and non-cleared security-based swaps between Covered Swap Entities and Swap Entities and between Covered Swap Entities and all financial end-users (without regard to the swaps exposure of the particular financial end-user). The minimum variation margin amount is the daily mark-to-market change in the value of the swap to the Covered Swap Entity, taking into account variation margin previously posted or collected. For non-cleared swaps and security-based swaps between Covered Swap Entities and financial end-users, variation margin may be posted or collected in cash or non-cash collateral that is considered eligible for initial margin purposes. Variation margin is not subject to segregation with an independent, third-party custodian, and may, if permitted by contract, be rehypothecated.

The initial margin requirements of the Final Margin Rules are being phased in over time, and the variation margin requirements of the Final Margin Rules are currently in effect. The Fund is not a Covered Swap Entity under the Final Margin Rules but it is a financial end-user. Accordingly, the Fund is currently subject to the variation margin requirements of the Final Margin Rules. However, the Fund does not have material swaps exposure and, accordingly, the Fund will not be subject to the initial margin requirements of the Final Margin Rules.

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the “Dodd-Frank Act”) required the CFTC and the SEC to adopt their own margin rules to apply to a limited number of registered swap dealers, security-based swap dealers, major swap participants, and major security-based swap participants that are not subject to the jurisdiction of one of the Agencies. On December 16, 2015 the CFTC finalized its margin rules, which are substantially the same as the Final Margin Rules and have the same implementation timeline. The SEC has yet to finalize its margin rules.

### ***Mandatory Trading and Clearing of Swaps***

CFTC regulations require that certain swap transactions be executed on organized exchanges or “swap execution facilities” and cleared through regulated clearing organizations (“derivative clearing organizations” (“DCOs”)), if the CFTC mandates the central clearing of a particular class of swap and such swap is “made available to trade” on a swap execution facility. Currently, swap dealers, major swap participants, commodity pools, certain private funds and entities predominantly engaged in activities that are financial in nature are required to execute on a swap execution facility, and clear, certain interest rate swaps and index-based credit default swaps. As a result, if BNO enters into an interest rate or index-based credit default swaps that is subject to these requirements, such swap will be required to be executed on a swap execution facility and centrally cleared. Mandatory clearing and “made available to trade” determinations with respect to additional types of swaps are expected in the future, and, when finalized, could require BNO to electronically execute and centrally clear certain OTC instruments presently entered into and settled on a bi-lateral basis. If a swap is required to be cleared, initial and variation margin requirements are set by the relevant clearing organization, subject to certain regulatory requirements and guidelines. Additional margin may be required and held by BNO’s FCM.

### ***Other Requirements for Swaps***

In addition to the margin requirements described above, 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 other things, reporting and recordkeeping requirements and, depending on the status of the counterparties, trading documentation requirements and dispute resolution requirements.

### ***Derivatives Regulations in Non-U.S. Jurisdictions***

In addition to U.S. laws and regulations, BNO may be subject to non-U.S. derivatives laws and regulations if it engages in futures and/or swaps transactions with non-U.S. persons. For example, BNO may be impacted by European laws and regulations to the extent that it engages in futures transactions on European exchanges or derivatives transactions with European entities. Other jurisdictions impose requirements applicable to futures and derivatives that are similar to those imposed by the U.S., including position limits, margin, clearing and trade execution requirements.

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

The SEC adopted amendments to Rule 2a-7 under the Investment Company Act of 1940, which became effective in 2016, to reform money market funds (“MMFs”). While the new rule applies only to MMFs, it may indirectly affect institutional investors such as BNO. A portion of BNO’s assets that are not used for margin or collateral in the Futures Contracts currently are invested in government MMFs. BNO does not hold any non-government MMFs and, particularly in light of recent changes to the rule governing the operation of MMFs, does not anticipate investing in any non-government MMFs. However, if BNO invests in other types of MMFs besides government MMFs in the future, BNO could be negatively impacted by investing in an MMF that does not maintain a stable \$1.00 NAV or that has the potential to impose redemption fees and gates (temporary suspension of redemptions).

### ***Price Movements***

Brent crude oil futures prices were volatile and exhibited an uneven upward trend during the three months ended March 31, 2018. The price of the Benchmark Futures Contract started the period at \$66.87 per barrel. The high of the period was on January 26, 2018 when the price reached \$70.15 per barrel. The low of the period was on February 12, 2018 when the price dropped to \$62.59 per barrel. The period ended with the Benchmark Futures Contract at \$69.34 per barrel, an increase of approximately 3.69% over the period. BNO’s per share NAV began the period at \$18.18 and ended the period at \$19.13 on March 31, 2018, an increase of approximately 5.23% over the period. BNO’s per share NAV reached its high for the period on March 23, 2018 at \$19.26 and reached its low for the period on February 12, 2018 at \$17.12. The Benchmark Futures Contract prices listed above began with the March 2018 contracts and ended with the June 2018 contracts. The increase of approximately 3.69% 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 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, 2018, the Brent crude oil was primarily in a state of backwardation, meaning that the price of the near month crude Oil Futures Contract was higher than the price of the next month crude Oil Futures Contract, or contracts further away from expiration. On days when the market is in contango, the price of the near month crude Oil Futures Contract is typically lower 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, 2018, BNO had issued 22,700,000 shares, 4,800,000 of which were outstanding. As of March 31, 2018, there were 27,750,000 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, 2018, 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 & Company Inc., Nomura Securities International Inc., RBC Capital Markets LLC and Virtu Financial BD LLC.

### For the Three Months Ended March 31, 2018 Compared to the Three Months Ended March 31, 2017

	For the three months ended March 31, 2018	For the three months ended March 31, 2017		
Average daily total net assets	\$ 94,736,751	\$ 107,450,737		
Dividend and interest income earned on Treasuries, cash and/or cash equivalents	\$ 319,862	\$ 141,363		
Annualized yield based on average daily total net assets	1.37	% 0.53		%

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

Management fee	\$ 175,198	\$ 198,710		
Total fees and other expenses excluding management fees	\$ 94,263	\$ 160,001		
Total amount of the expense waiver	\$ 59,168	\$ 120,259		
Expenses before allowance for the expense waiver	\$ 269,461	\$ 358,711		
Expenses after allowance for the expense waiver	\$ 210,293	\$ 238,452		
Total commissions accrued to brokers	\$ 23,732	\$ 29,924		
Total commissions as annualized percentage of average total net assets	0.10	% 0.11		%
Commissions accrued as a result of rebalancing	\$ 23,175	\$ 29,790		
Percentage of commissions accrued as a result of rebalancing	97.65	% 99.55		%
Commissions accrued as a result of creation and redemption activity	\$ 557	\$ 134		
Percentage of commissions accrued as a result of creation and redemption activity	2.35	% 0.45		%

*Portfolio Expenses.* BNO's expenses consist of investment management fees, brokerage fees and commissions, certain offering costs, licensing fees, registration fees, 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, 2018, compared to the three months ended March 31, 2017. As a result, the amount of income earned by BNO as a percentage of average daily total net assets was higher during the three months ended March 31, 2018, compared to the three months ended March 31, 2017.

The decrease in total fees and other expenses excluding management fees for the three months ended March 31, 2018, compared to the three months ended March 31, 2017 was due primarily to BNO's smaller size as measured by total net assets.

The decrease in total commissions accrued to brokers for the three months ended March 31, 2018, compared to the three months ended March 31, 2017, was due primarily to a lower number of Crude Oil Futures Contracts being held and traded.

## 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 0.50% 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 and Other Crude Oil-Related Investments.

For the 30-valuation days ended March 31, 2018, the simple average daily change in the Benchmark Futures Contract was 0.284%, while the simple average daily change in the per share NAV of BNO over the same time period was 0.286%. The average daily difference was 0.002% (or 0.2 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 (1.731)%, 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, 2018, the simple average daily change in the Benchmark Futures Contract was 0.008%, while the simple average daily change in the per share NAV of BNO over the same time period was 0.004%. The average daily difference was (0.004)% (or (0.4) 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 (0.887)%, 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 daily changes in the last 30 valuation days ended March 31, 2018. The second graph measures monthly changes since March 31, 2013 through March 31, 2018.

***\*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, 2018, the actual total return of BNO as measured by changes in its per share NAV was 5.23%. This is based on an initial per share NAV of \$18.18 as of December 31, 2017 and an ending per share NAV as of March 31, 2018 of \$19.13. 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 \$19.11 as of March 31, 2018, for a total return over the relevant time period of 5.12%. The difference between the actual per share NAV total return of BNO of 5.23% and the expected total return based on the Benchmark Futures Contract of 5.12% was an error over the time period of 0.11%, which is to say that BNO's actual total return outperformed 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, offset by interest and dividend income, and net of positive or negative execution, tends to cause daily changes in the per share NAV of BNO to track slightly lower or higher than daily changes in the price of the Benchmark Futures Contract.

By comparison, for the three months ended March 31, 2017, the actual total return of BNO as measured by changes in its per share NAV was (7.64)%. This was based on an initial per share NAV of \$15.70 as of December 31, 2016 and an ending per share NAV as of March 31, 2017 of \$14.50. 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 \$14.51 as of March 31, 2017, for a total return over the relevant time period of (7.58)%. The difference between the actual per share NAV total return of BNO of (7.64)% and the expected total return based on the Benchmark Futures Contract of (7.58)% was an error over the time period of (0.06)%, 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, offset by interest and dividend income, and net of positive or negative execution, tended 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.

There are currently three factors that have impacted or are most likely to impact BNO's ability to accurately track 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 changes in the daily per share NAV of BNO to either be too high or too low relative to the daily changes in the Benchmark Futures Contract. During the three months ended March 31, 2018, 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 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, 2018. 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, licensing 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 may continue to increase over the near future from historical lows. However, it is anticipated that fees and expenses paid by BNO may 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, 2018, 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 futures contracts. One factor arises from “rolling” futures contracts that will expire at the end of the current month (the “near” or “front” month contract) forward each month prior to expiration. For a strategy that entails holding the near month contract, the price relationship between that futures contract and the next month futures contract will impact returns. For example, if the price of the near month futures contract is higher than the next futures month contract (a situation referred to as “backwardation”), then absent any other change, the price of a next month futures contract tends to rise in value as it becomes the near month futures contract and approaches expiration. Conversely, if the price of a near month futures contract is lower than the next month futures contract (a situation referred to as “contango”), then absent any other change, the price of a next month futures contract tends to decline in value as it becomes the near month futures contract and approaches expiration.

As an example, assume that the price of Brent crude oil for immediate delivery, is \$50 per barrel, and the value of a position in the near month futures contract is also \$50. Over time, the price of Brent crude oil will fluctuate based on a number of market factors, including demand for oil relative to supply. The value of the near month futures contract will likewise fluctuate in reaction to a number of market factors. If an investor seeks to maintain a position in a near month futures contract and not take delivery of physical barrels of Brent crude oil, the investor must sell the current near month futures contract as it approaches expiration and invest in the next month futures contract. In order to continue holding a position in the current near month futures contract, this “roll” forward of the futures contract must be executed every month.

Contango and backwardation are natural market forces that have impacted the total return on an investment in BNO’s shares during the past year relative to a hypothetical direct investment in Brent crude oil. In the future, it is likely that the relationship between the market price of BNO’s shares and changes in the spot prices of Brent crude oil will continue to be impacted by contango and backwardation. It is important to note that this comparison ignores the potential costs associated with physically owning and storing Brent crude oil, which could be substantial.

If the futures market is in backwardation, e.g., when the price of the near month futures contract is higher than the price of the next month futures contract, the investor would buy a next month futures contract for a lower price than the current near month futures contract. Assuming the price of the next month futures contract was \$49 per barrel, or 2% cheaper than the \$50 near month futures contract, then, hypothetically, and assuming no other changes (e.g., to either prevailing Brent 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 futures contract would rise to \$50 as it approaches expiration. In this example, the value of an investment in the next month futures contract would tend to outperform the spot price of Brent crude oil. As a result, it would be possible for the new near month futures contract to rise 12% while the spot price of Brent crude oil may have risen a lower amount, e.g., only 10%. Similarly, the spot price of Brent crude oil could have fallen 10% while the value of an investment in the futures contract might have fallen another amount, e.g., only 8%. Over time, if backwardation remained constant, this difference between the spot price and the futures contract price would continue to increase.



If the futures market is in contango, an investor would be buying a next month futures contract for a higher price than the current near month futures contract. Again, assuming the near month futures contract is \$50 per barrel, the price of the next month futures contract might be \$51 per barrel, or 2% more expensive than the front month futures contract. Hypothetically, and assuming no other changes, the value of the \$51 next month futures contract would fall to \$50 as it approaches expiration. In this example, the value of an investment in the second month would tend to underperform the spot price of Brent crude oil. As a result, it would be possible for the new near month futures contract to rise only 10% while the spot price of Brent crude oil may have risen a higher amount, e.g., 12%. Similarly, the spot price of Brent crude oil could have fallen 10% while the value of an investment in the second month futures contract might have fallen another amount, e.g., 12%. Over time, if contango remained constant, this difference between the spot price and the futures contract price would continue to increase.

The chart below compares the daily price of the near month Brent crude oil futures contract to the price of 13<sup>th</sup> month Brent crude oil futures contract (i.e., a contract one year forward) over the last 10 years. When the price of the near month futures contract is higher than the price of the 13<sup>th</sup> month futures contract, the market would be described as being in backwardation. When the price of the near month futures contract is lower than the 13<sup>th</sup> month futures contract, the market would be described as being in contango. Although the price of the near month futures contract and the price of the 13<sup>th</sup> month futures contract tend to move together, it can be seen that at times the near month futures contract prices are higher than the 13<sup>th</sup> month futures contract prices (backwardation) and, at other times, the near month futures contract prices are lower than the 13<sup>th</sup> month futures contract prices (contango).

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

An alternative way to view the same data is to subtract the dollar price of the 13<sup>th</sup> month Brent crude oil futures contract from the dollar price of the near month Brent crude oil futures contract, as shown in the chart below. When the difference is positive, the market is in backwardation. When the difference is negative, the market is in contango. The Brent crude oil market spent time in both backwardation and contango during the last ten years. The chart below shows the results from subtracting the average dollar price of the near 12-month contracts from the near month price for the 10-year period between March 31, 2008 and March 31, 2018. 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 roughly as often as contango since oil futures trading started in 1982. 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. U.S. benchmarked WTI crude oil experienced a period of backwardation from late-2013 to mid-2014, while Brent crude oil moved into a state of backwardation from 2011 until mid-2014. However, global crude oil inventories grew rapidly after the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (“OPEC”) decided to defend its market share against U.S. shale-oil producers in late-2014. Record surpluses in global inventories resulted in another period of contango that has persisted through December 31, 2017. However, with lower inventories Brent crude oil has shifted into backwardation for 2018.

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.* During the three months ended March 31, 2018, Brent crude oil prices have traded in a range between \$62 to \$71. Crude charged into the new year, completing a 56% uptrend from September to January as global inventories fell dramatically. Continued OPEC restraint clashed with ongoing non-OPEC production growth. Equity volatility, global tensions, and a dynamic news cycle also led to choppy markets. Brent crude ended the quarter at \$70.27, up 5.1% for the quarter. Looking ahead, expected demand growth appears strong while OPEC has proved its commitment to restoring a balanced market. Should global demand growth forecasts fail to be realized, or if OPEC is unable to counter growing U.S. production, there is a meaningful possibility that crude prices could fall again. On the other hand, increasing global tensions and the possibility of any number of conflicts escalating could lead to price shocks to the upside.

*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, 2008 and March 31, 2018, 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 somewhat correlated with the movements of large cap U.S. equities and global equities. However, movements in Brent crude oil were strongly correlated with movements in U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil and unleaded gasoline. Movements in Brent crude oil futures exhibited a somewhat inverse correlation with U.S. government bonds and limited to little correlation with diesel-heating oil.

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

	Large Cap U.S. Equities (S&P 500)	U.S. Gov't. Bonds (EFFAS U.S. Gov't. Bond Index)	Global Equities (FTSE World Index)	Crude Oil	Unleaded Gasoline	Diesel- Heating Oil	Brent Oil
Correlation Matrix March 31, 2008 – March 31, 2018*	1.000	(0.259 )	0.968	0.485	0.460	0.459	0.478
Large Cap U.S. Equities (S&P 500)		1.000	(0.231 )	(0.393)	(0.347 )	(0.337 )	(0.375)
U.S. Gov't. Bonds (EFFAS U.S. Gov't. Bond Index)			1.000	0.526	0.493	0.490	0.528
Global Equities (FTSE World Index)				1.000	0.697	0.804	0.930
Crude Oil (WTI)					1.000	0.727	0.757
Unleaded Gasoline						1.000	0.214
Diesel-Heating Oil							1.000
Brent Oil							

Source: Bloomberg, NYMEX

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, 2018, movement of Brent crude oil was somewhat correlated with the movements of large cap U.S. equities and global equities. However, movements in Brent crude oil were strongly correlated with movements in U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil. Movements in Brent crude oil futures exhibited a somewhat inverse correlation with U.S. government bonds and diesel-heating oil and little to no correlation with unleaded gasoline.

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

	Large Cap U.S. Equities (S&P 500)	U.S. Gov't. Bonds (EFFAS U.S. Gov't. Bond Index)	Global Equities (FTSE World Index)	Crude Oil	Unleaded Gasoline	Diesel- Heating Oil	Brent Oil
Correlation Matrix 12 Months ended March 31, 2018*	1.000	(0.327 )	0.970	0.679	0.081	0.360	0.558
U.S. Gov't. Bonds (EFFAS U.S. Gov't. Bond Index)		1.000	(0.199 )	(0.464)	0.496	0.253	(0.248)
Global Equities (FTSE World Index)			1.000	0.624	0.143	0.411	0.523
Crude Oil (WTI)				1.000	(0.220 )	0.572	0.936
Unleaded Gasoline					1.000	0.430	(0.074)
Diesel-Heating Oil						1.000	(0.256)
Brent Oil							1.000

Source: Bloomberg, NYMEX

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 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 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, 2018, BNO's expenses did not exceed the income BNO earned and the cash earned from the sale of Creation Baskets and the redemption of Redemption Baskets.

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, 2018, 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) licensing fees for the use of intellectual property, (iv) ongoing registration expenses in connection with offers and sales of its shares subsequent to the initial offering, (v) other expenses, including tax reporting costs, (vi) fees and expenses of the independent directors of USCF and (vii) 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 crude 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 crude oil is limited to the aggregate market value of the contracts held. However, should BNO enter into a contractual commitment to sell crude oil, it would be required to make delivery of the crude 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 crude 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 crude 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, 2018, the only foreign exchange on which BNO made investments was the ICE Futures, which is a London based futures exchange,. Those crude oil contracts are denominated in U.S. dollars.

In the future, BNO may purchase 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, 2018, BNO held cash deposits and investments in Treasuries and money market funds in the amount of \$89,188,555 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, 2018, 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, 2018 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 voluntary expense waiver is in addition to those amounts USCF is contractually obligated to pay as described in *Note 4* to the *Notes to Condensed Financial Statements (Unaudited)* 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, any licensing fees for the use of intellectual property, 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, 2018, BNO's portfolio consisted of 1,324 Brent Crude Oil Futures CO Contracts traded on the ICE Futures. As of March 31, 2018, BNO did not hold any Futures Contracts traded on the NYMEX. For a list of BNO's current holdings, please see BNO's website at [www.uscfinvestments.com](http://www.uscfinvestments.com).

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk.

***Commodity Price Risk.***

BNO is exposed to commodity price risk. In particular, BNO is exposed to Brent crude oil price risk through its holdings of Futures Contracts together with any other derivatives in which it may invest, which are discussed below. As a result, fluctuations in the value of the Futures Contracts that BNO holds in its portfolio, as described in “*Contractual Obligations*” under “*Item 2. Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations*” above, are expected to directly affect the value of BNO's shares.

***OTC Contract Risk***

BNO may purchase OTC Brent Oil Interests, such as forward contracts or swap or spot contracts. 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 Position” 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 transactions 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, 2018, 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 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, 2017, filed on March 14, 2018.

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

(a) None.

(b) Not applicable.

BNO does not purchase shares directly from its shareholders. In connection with its redemption of baskets held by Authorized Participants, BNO redeemed 12 baskets (comprising 600,000 shares) during the first quarter of the year ending December 31, 2018. The following table summarizes the redemptions by Authorized Participants during the three months ended March 31, 2018:

**Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities**

Period	Total Number of Shares Redeemed	Average Price Per Share
1/1/18 to 1/31/18	150,000	\$ 18.73
2/1/18 to 2/28/18	—	NA
3/1/18 to 3/31/18	450,000	\$ 18.17
Total	600,000	

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.uscfinvestments.com](http://www.uscfinvestments.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><u>31.1(1)</u></b>	<u>Certification by Principal Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.</u>
<b><u>31.2(1)</u></b>	<u>Certification by Principal Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.</u>
<b><u>32.1(1)</u></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.

**32.2(1)**

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.

**101.INS** XBRL Instance Document.  
**101.SCH** XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema.  
**101.CAL** XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase.  
**101.DEF** 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 10, 2018

By: /s/ Stuart P. Crumbaugh  
Stuart P. Crumbaugh  
Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal financial and accounting officer)

Date: May 10, 2018