# HARBOR CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES FUND

BlueCove Limited

Subadvisor Since 03/01/2023

Total Net Assets – All Classes
Fixed Income Assets:

Cash & Other Assets Less Liabilities: 3.69%

Benchmark Name:

\$25,450,470 96.31% 3.69% ICE BofA US Convertible Index

## **Portfolio Managers**







Benjamin Brodsky, CFA Michael Harper, CFA

Benoy Thomas, CFA

## **Investment Philosophy**

The Fund invests primarily in convertible securities of U.S. and non-U.S. corporate issuers. Convertible securities are "hybrid" securities that possess both fixed income and equity characteristics, and include corporate bonds, preferred stocks and other types of securities that are convertible into common stock or its equivalent value. While the Fund has broad discretion to invest in all types of convertible securities, the Fund focuses primarily on investments in convertible bonds. The Fund also focuses primarily on convertible securities of corporate issuers with debt rated below investment grade, commonly referred to as "high yield" or "junk bonds." The Fund invests primarily in U.S. dollar denominated securities; however the Fund may invest in securities denominated in other currencies.

## **CHARACTERISTICS & ALLOCATION**

As of 09/30/2024

| Portfolio Characteristics |           |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|                           | Portfolio | Benchmark |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Effective Duration        | 1.87      | 1.81      |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wtd. Avg. Maturity (yrs)  | 11.04     | 9.78      |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Average Market Coupon     | 2.28      | 2.31      |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Beta vs. Fund Benchmark   | 0.84      |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |

| Maturity   |                  |          |  |  |  |  |
|------------|------------------|----------|--|--|--|--|
|            | Portfolio % Bend | chmark % |  |  |  |  |
| 0-1 yr     | 10.58            | 12.17    |  |  |  |  |
| 1-3 yr     | 34.30            | 41.53    |  |  |  |  |
| 3-5 yr     | 38.82            | 31.45    |  |  |  |  |
| 5-7 yr     | 6.19             | 8.25     |  |  |  |  |
| 7-10 yr    | 1.31             | 0.34     |  |  |  |  |
| 10-20 yr   | 0.15             | 0.32     |  |  |  |  |
| 20-30 yr   | 1.24             | 2.26     |  |  |  |  |
| Over 30 yr | 4.56             | 3.67     |  |  |  |  |

| Economic Sectors         |                         |       |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|
|                          | Portfolio % Benchmark 9 |       |  |  |  |  |  |
| Technology & Electronics | 25.37                   | 27.20 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Healthcare               | 13.49                   | 14.90 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Utility                  | 10.70                   | 10.90 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Leisure                  | 8.12                    | 6.84  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Financial Services       | 7.56                    | 6.75  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Media                    | 5.03                    | 5.57  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Basic Industry           | 4.26                    | 3.13  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Real Estate              | 4.21                    | 4.72  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Capital Goods            | 3.40                    | 2.80  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Banking                  | 3.27                    | 3.49  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total                    | 85.41                   | 86.30 |  |  |  |  |  |

|   | Credit Quality |                |                         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|   |                | Portfolio % Be | Portfolio % Benchmark % |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ) | US Govt/Agency | 0.00           | 0.00                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ) | AAA            | 0.00           | 0.00                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ) | AA             | 0.00           | 0.00                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| , | Α              | 0.88           | 0.74                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| + | BBB            | 16.66          | 19.15                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ) | BB             | 4.91           | 3.55                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7 | В              | 0.00           | 2.34                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | CCC            | 0.00           | 0.20                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | CC             | 1.67           | 1.56                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ) | С              | 0.00           | 0.00                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9 | Below C        | 0.00           | 0.00                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ) | Non-Rated      | 73.04          | 72.44                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |



## **PERFORMANCE**

As of 09/30/2024

## **Average Annual Returns**



| Share Class                   | Ticker | CUSIP     | 3 Months | YTD   | 1 Yr.  | 3 Yr.  | 5 Yr.  | 10 Yr. | Since<br>Inception | Inception Date | Net Expense<br>Ratio % | Gross<br>Expense<br>Ratio % |
|-------------------------------|--------|-----------|----------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Institutional                 | HACSX  | 411512734 | 5.61%    | 8.61% | 16.82% | 0.57%  | 7.76%  | 6.30%  | 6.16%              | 05/01/11       | 0.71                   | 1.08                        |
| Investor                      | HICSX  | 411512718 | 5.54%    | 8.26% | 16.37% | 0.22%  | 7.39%  | 5.91%  | 5.77%              | 05/01/11       | 1.07                   | 1.44                        |
| Retirement                    | HNCVX  | 411512387 | 5.54%    | 8.57% | 16.91% | 0.64%  | 7.78%  | 6.37%  | 6.21%              | 03/01/16       | 0.63                   | 1.00                        |
| ICE BofA US Convertible Index |        |           | 5.27%    | 7.50% | 14.68% | -0.47% | 10.49% | 8.88%  | 9.08%              | 05/01/11       |                        |                             |

## MANAGER COMMENTARY

As of 09/30/2024

"We believe that risky market valuations do not adequately reflect the current backdrop of macroeconomic uncertainty and fragility."

BlueCove Limited

## **Market in Review**

Risky assets continued their upward trend during the third quarter of 2024, with U.S. equities (S&P 500 Index) higher by 5.89%, U.S. high yield (ICE BofA US High Yield Index) up 5.28%, and U.S. convertible bond returns (ICE BofA US Convertible Index) up 5.27%, as interest rates trended lower. These returns masked significant intraperiod volatility, as markets sold off in the middle of the period. This was on the back of a weaker outlook from the Information Technology sector, increased geopolitical tensions, weak labor market data in the U.S., and concerns about the outlook for growth in China. Markets rebounded on the 0.50% rate cut from the U.S. Federal Reserve ("Fed") with hopes that this action would stem recessionary concerns, while fiscal stimulus in China also supported the positive tone. Shifts in volatility during the quarter were supportive of the Harbor Convertible Securities Fund ("Fund") security selection focus.

Retirement Class shares commenced operations on March 1, 2016. The performance attributed to the Retirement Class shares prior to that date is that of the Institutional Class shares. Performance prior to March 1, 2016 has not been adjusted to reflect the lower expenses of Retirement Class shares. During this period, Retirement Class shares would have had returns similar to, but somewhat higher than, Institutional Class shares due to the fact that Retirement Class shares represent interests in the same portfolio as Institutional Class shares but are subject to lower expenses.

Expense ratio information is as of the Fund's current prospectus, as supplemented. Gross expenses are the Fund's total annual operating expenses. The net expense ratios for this fund are subject to a contractual management fee waiver and/or expense limitation agreement, excluding interest expense and acquired fund fees and expenses (if any), through 02/28/2025.

Performance data shown represents past performance and is no guarantee of future results. Past performance is net of management fees and expenses and reflects reinvested dividends and distributions. Past performance reflects the beneficial effect of any expense waivers or reimbursements, without which returns would have been lower. Investment returns and principal value will fluctuate and when redeemed may be worth more or less than their original cost. Returns for periods less than one year are not annualized. Current performance may be higher or lower and is available through the most recent month end at harborcapital.com or by calling 800-422-1050.

## MANAGER COMMENTARY

As of 09/30/2024



### **Portfolio Performance**

During the quarter, the Harbor Convertible Securities Fund (Institutional Class) outperformed its benchmark, the ICE BofA US Convertible Index, by 0.34%. Returns from security selection were strongly positive, driven by names in the Information Technology sector. Sentiment and valuation insights drove performance, with the strongest returns coming from the medium and high delta convertibles (delta is the theoretical estimate of how much an option's value may change given a \$1 move up or down in the underlying security. The delta values range from -1 to +1, with zero representing an option where the premium barely moves relative to price changes in the underlying stock.).

## **Portfolio Positioning**

The Fund seeks to be broadly neutral in duration, yield curve, and equity delta exposure versus the index. During the quarter, the largest sector positions were an overweight to Consumer Cyclicals and an underweight to Electrics.

A large portion of the convertible bond universe is not rated. The Fund does not target a specific credit-quality focus. Risk continues to be focused on security selection in convertible bonds, with the Fund well matched on delta exposures versus the benchmark. The Fund seeks to invest only in index-eligible securities, currently invests only in USD securities, and does not emphasize country selection versus the benchmark.

#### Outlook

Over the third quarter, the soft-landing scenario gathered support as the strong consensus investor view, while risk appetite remained strong. However, we remain wary that the market's bullish sentiment may wane. Potential triggers for a correction or flight-to-quality include disappointment if the Fed delivers a slower pace of policy easing, further escalation of the Middle East and/or Ukrainian conflicts, and a higher uncertainty premium for political risk associated with the outcome of the U.S. election. Within corporate credit markets, the downward trend observed in trailing global high-yield default rates paused in September. In the absence of a significant shock, we anticipate this to trend lower but remain significantly above long-term median levels, reflecting the continuing adversity of corporates with weak credit profiles. We believe that risky market valuations do not adequately reflect the current backdrop of macroeconomic uncertainty and fragility. An increase in market volatility can be a positive backdrop for convertible bond returns as an asset class and supports a scientific approach to security selection that seeks to capture this volatility through company-specific insights.

Performance data shown represents past performance and is no guarantee of future results. Past performance is net of management fees and expenses and reflects reinvested dividends and distributions. Past performance reflects the beneficial effect of any expense waivers or reimbursements, without which returns would have been lower. Investment returns and principal value will fluctuate and when redeemed may be worth more or less than their original cost. Returns for periods less than one year are not annualized. Current performance may be higher or lower and is available through the most recent month end at harborcapital.com or by calling 800-422-1050.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION



#### **Risks**

All investments involve risk including the possible loss of principal. Fixed income securities fluctuate in price in response to various factors, including changes in interest rates, changes in market conditions and issuer-specific events, and the value of your investment in the Fund may go down. There is a greater risk that the Funds will lose money because they invest in below- investment grade fixed income securities and unrated securities of similar credit quality (commonly referred to as "high-yield securities" or "junk bonds"). These securities are considered speculative because they have a higher risk of issuer default, are subject to greater price volatility and may be illiquid. The market for convertible securities is less liquid than the market for non-convertible corporate bonds. There are limitations inherent in every quantitative model. The value of securities selected using quantitative analysis can react differently to issuer, political, market, and economic developments than the market as a whole or securities selected using only fundamental analysis. Because the Funds may invest in securities of foreign issuers, an investment in the Funds is subject to special risks in addition to those of U.S. securities. These risks include heightened political and economic risks, greater volatility, currency fluctuations, higher transaction costs, delayed settlement, possible foreign controls on investment, possible sanctions by government bodies of other countries and less stringent investor protection and disclosure standards of foreign markets.

#### **Benchmarks**

The ICE BofA US Convertible Index is a market-capitalization weighted index that tracks the performance of publicly issued US dollar denominated convertible securities of US companies. Convertible securities where the underlying is a basket of equities qualify for inclusion in the index, as do mandatory and convertible preferred securities. This unmanaged index does not reflect fees and expenses and is not available for direct investment.

#### **Disclosures**

All data except for top holdings, performance, and yields is provided by the subadvisor.

Credit quality ratings for the underlying securities of the portfolio are composite ratings calculated by ICE Data Indices, LLC ("ICE") and based on the simple averages of ratings from Moody's, S&P, and Fitch. If a security rating is unavailable from ICE, composite ratings calculated by Bloomberg Financial L.P. ("BFLP") and based on the simple averages of ratings from security's Moody's, S&P, Fitch, and DBRS, are used. The composite rating from ICE is calculated by assigning a numeric equivalent to the ratings in each agency's scale. The average of the numeric equivalents for each agency that rates a bond is rounded to the nearest integer and then converted back to an equivalent composite rating using a scale that ranges from AAA (highest) to D (lowest). If only two of the designated agencies rate a bond, the composite rating is based on an average of the two. Likewise, if only one of the designated agencies rates a bond, the composite rating is based on that one rating. For the composite rating from BFLP, the rating agencies are evenly weighted when calculating the composite. It is calculated by taking the average of the existing ratings, rounded down to the lower rating in case the composite is between two ratings. A composite will not be generated if the bond is rated by only one of the four rating agencies. Ratings range from AAA (highest) to D (lowest). Mortgages: Short term and long-term ratings are used to generate a composite. The composite ratings are not intended to be a credit opinion. Unrated securities are not rated by the national ratings agencies stated above. Ratings, which are subject to change, apply to the creditworthiness of the issuers of the underlying securities and not to the Fund or its shares. Totals may not sum to 100% due to the exclusion of certain assets and liabilities.

Views expressed herein are drawn from commentary provided to Harbor by the subadvisor and may not be reflective of their current opinions or future actions, are subject to change without prior notice, and should not be considered investment advice.

This information should not be considered as a recommendation to purchase or sell a particular security. The weightings, holdings, industries, sectors, countries, and returns mentioned may change at any time and may not represent current or future investments.

As a result of changing market conditions, total net asset levels, expenses and other statistics may change at any time and may differ from those shown.

The total amount shown for sector, industries, or country holdings may be greater than 100% because of the inclusion of derivatives and the collateral securities supporting those instruments.

Sector allocations are determined using the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS), which is a service of Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) and Standard & Poor's (S&P).

Investors should carefully consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of a fund before investing. To obtain a summary prospectus or prospectus for this and other information, visit harborcapital.com or call 800-422-1050. Read it carefully before investing.

BlueCove Limited is a third-party subadvisor to the Harbor Convertible Securities Fund.

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION



#### **Definitions**

Beta is a measure of systematic risk, or the sensitivity of a fund to movements in the benchmark. A beta of 1 implies that the expected movement of a fund's return would match that of the benchmark used to measure beta.

Duration is a commonly used measure of the sensitivity of the price of a debt security, or the aggregate market value of a portfolio of debt securities, to change in interest rates. Securities with a longer duration are more sensitive to changes in interest rates and generally have more volatile prices than securities of comparable quality with a shorter duration.

Effective duration is the sensitivity of a bond's price against the benchmark yield curve.

Delta is the theoretical estimate of how much an option's value may change given a \$1 move up or down in the underlying security. The Delta values range from -1 to +1, with 0 representing an option where the premium barely moves relative to price changes in the underlying stock

Weighted Average Market Capitalization: The average size of the companies in a portfolio or index as measured by the market value of outstanding shares.