Aberdeen Income Credit Strategies Fund Form N-CSRS July 02, 2018

#### **UNITED STATES**

#### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

#### **FORM N-CSR**

## CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Investment Company Act file number: 811-22485

Exact name of registrant as specified in charter: Aberdeen Income Credit Strategies Fund

Address of principal executive offices: 1735 Market Street, 32nd Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19103

Name and address of agent for service:

Ms. Andrea Melia

Aberdeen Asset Management Inc. 1735 Market Street 32nd Floor Philadelphia, PA 19103

Registrant s telephone number, including area code: 800-522-5465

Date of fiscal year end: October 31

Date of reporting period: April 30, 2018

#### Item 1 Reports to Stockholders

The Report to Shareholders is attached herewith.

# Enroll in our shareholder communications program today.

As part of our commitment to shareholders, we invite you to visit our closed-end fund center on the web at cef.aberdeen-asset.us/ where you can view monthly fact sheets, portfolio manager commentary, distribution and performance information and other timely data.

| To learn more about<br>Aberdeen s Closed End Fu                                | nds   | Enroll today to receive the latest news and insights  |
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| Visit us:  | INVESTORS   |   |
| Aberdeen Closed-End<br>Fund Center<br>cef.aberdeen-asset.us/                   | Contact your Financial Advisor, o contact our Investor Relations Team:        | rBy enrolling in this convenient service, you II receive the latest Fund news including monthly factsheets, webcasts, conferences, events and more. |
| Watch us: Aberdeen Closed-End Fund TV  | Aberdeen Standard<br>Investments  | To enroll, follow these simple steps:   |
| cef.aberdeen-asset.us/en/<br>cefinvestorcenter/<br>aberdeen-closed-end-fund-tv | Shareholder Services<br>800 522 5465  | 1. Go to aberdeen-asset.us/cef  |
| E-mail us: Investor.Relations@ aberdeenstandard.com                            | FINANCIAL ADVISORS  Contact your Aberdeen Standard Investments Representative | 2. Under Contact Us click on the link for Email Services http://cef.aberdeen-asset.us/en/cefinvestorcenter/contact-us/email                         |
|  |   | 3. Click Sign-up.   |

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| IMPORTANT INFORMATION   |  |   |   |
| Aberdeen Standard Investments is a bra  | and of the investment businesses o                                     | f Aberdeen Asset Management and Stan  | dard Life Investments.                                  |
| fluctuate so that an investor s shares m  | ay be worth more or less than the cNAV) of the fund s portfolio. There | tock exchanges. The Fund s investment<br>original cost. Shares of closed-endunds m<br>is no assurance that the Fund will achiev   | nay trade above (a premium) o                           |
| Aberdeen Asset Management Inc., Aber<br>Aberdeen Capital Management, LLC. Ex          | deen Asset Managers Ltd, Aberde<br>ccluding Aberdeen Capital Manage    | name for the following affiliated, registere<br>en Asset Management Ltd, Aberdeen Ass<br>ment LLC, each of these advisers are wh<br>sidiary of Aberdeen Asset Management Ir | set Management Asia Ltd and olly owned by Standard Life |
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Letter to Shareholders (unaudited)

Dear Shareholder,

We present this Semi-Annual Report, which covers the activities of Aberdeen Income Credit Strategies Fund (the Fund ), for the six-month period ended April 30, 2018. The Fund s primary investment objective is to seek a high level of current income, with a secondary objective of capital appreciation.

Total Investment Return

For the six-month period ended April 30, 2018, the total return to shareholders of the Fund based on the net asset value ( NAV ) and market price of the Fund are as follows:

| NAV*          | 4.7 % |
|---------------|-------|
| Market Price* | 0.1 % |

<sup>\*</sup>assuming the reinvestment of dividends and distributions

The Fund s total return is based on the reported NAV on each financial reporting period end and may differ from what is reported on the Financial Highlights due to financial statement rounding or adjustments. For more information about Fund performance please see page 3 Report of the Investment Adviser.

NAV, Share Price and Discount

|            | NAV     | Price   | Discount |
|------------|---------|---------|----------|
| 4/30/2018  | \$15.17 | \$13.91 | 8.3%     |
| 10/31/2017 | \$15.25 | \$14.62 | 4.1%     |

Revolving Credit Facility

The outstanding balance on the Fund s revolving credit facility with The Bank of Nova Scotia as of April 30, 2018 was \$83,000,000. Under the terms of the loan facility and applicable regulations, the Fund is required to maintain certain asset coverage ratios for the amount of its outstanding borrowings. The Board regularly reviews the use of leverage by the Fund.

Open Market Repurchase Program

On March 17, 2011, the Board approved a share repurchase program for the Fund. Under the repurchase program, the Fund is authorized to make open market purchases of its Common Shares as a measure to reduce any discount from net asset value in the market price of the Common Shares. The program authorizes the Fund to repurchase up to 10% of its outstanding Common Shares in any calendar year. The Fund is not required to make any such repurchases and there can be no assurances that it will. There also can be no assurances that any such repurchases would have the effect of reducing any discount from net asset value in the market price of the Common Shares. The Fund s ability to make repurchases will also be subject to regulatory

requirements and to the Fund s ability to liquidate portfolio investments to raise cash for such repurchases. For the six-months ended April 30, 2018 and the fiscal year ended October 31, 2017, the Fund did not make any share repurchases.

Portfolio Holdings Disclosure

The Fund s complete schedule of portfolio holdings for the second and fourth quarters of each fiscal year are included in the Fund s semi-annual and annual report to shareholders. The Fund files its complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year on Form N-Q. The Fund s Form N-Q filings are available on the SEC s website at http://www.sec.gov and may be reviewed and copied at the SEC s Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C. Information about the operation of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling 1-800-SEC-0330. The Fund makes the information on Form N-Q available to shareholders on the Fund s website or upon request and without charge by calling Investor Relations toll-free at 1-800-522-5465.

**Proxy Voting** 

A description of the policies and procedures that the Fund uses to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities, and information regarding how the Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities during the most recent twelve months ended June 30 is available by August 31 of the relevant year: (i) upon request without charge by calling Investor Relations toll-free at 1-800-522-5465; and (ii) on the SEC s website at http://www.sec.gov.

**Unclaimed Share Accounts** 

Please be advised that abandoned or unclaimed property laws for certain states require financial organizations to transfer (escheat) unclaimed property (including Fund shares) to the state. Each state has its own definition of unclaimed property, and Fund shares could be considered unclaimed property due to account inactivity (e.g., no owner-generated activity for a certain period), returned mail (e.g., when mail sent to a shareholder is returned to the Fund s transfer agent as undeliverable), or a combination of both. If your Fund shares are categorized as unclaimed, your financial advisor or the Fund s transfer agent will follow the applicable state s statutory requirements to contact you, but if unsuccessful, laws may require that the shares be escheated to the appropriate state. If this happens, you will have to contact the state to recover your property, which may involve time and expense. For more information on unclaimed property and how to maintain an active account, please contact your financial adviser or the Fund s transfer agent.

Aberdeen Income Credit Strategies Fund

Letter to Shareholders (unaudited) (concluded)

| Investor Relations Information   |
|--|
| As part of Aberdeen s commitment to shareholders, we invite you to visit the Fund on the web at www.aberdeenacp.com. Here, you can view monthly fact sheets, quarterly commentary, distribution and performance information, updated daily fact sheets courtesy of Morningstar®, portfolio charting and other Fund literature.   |
| Enroll in our email services today and be among the first to receive the latest closed-end fund news, announcements, videos and information. In addition, you can receive electronic versions of important Fund documents including annual reports, semi-annual reports, prospectuses, and proxy statements. Sign up today at cef.aberdeen-asset.us/en/cefinvestorcenter/contact-us/email. |
| For your convenience, included within this report is a reply card with postage paid envelope. Please complete and mail the card if you would like to be added to our enhanced email service and receive future communications from Aberdeen.   |
| Contact Us:  |
| Visit: cef.aberdeen-asset.us/;   |
| Watchcef.aberdeen-asset.us/en/cefinvestorcenter/aberdeen-closed-end-fund-tv;   |
| Email: InvestorRelations@aberdeenstandard.com; or  |
| Call: 1-800-522-5465 (toll free in the U.S.).  |
| Yours sincerely,   |

**Christian Pittard**President

|                   | Edgar Filing:       | Aberdeen II    | ncome Cred     | lit Strategies | Fund - Forn  | 1 N-CSRS |
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Report of the Investment Adviser (unaudited)

Market review

Global high-yield markets, as measured by the ICE Bank of America Merrill Lynch (BofA ML) Global High Yield Constrained Index1, saw a modest decline of 0.21% for the six-month period ended April 30, 2018. During a period in which rising U.S. Treasury yields hampered returns, the relatively short average duration and higher yields of the asset class served to absorb much of the impact. The global high-yield market fared considerably better than the five-year Treasury2 and U.S. investment-grade markets, which returned -2.29% and -2.34%, respectively, for the reporting period.

There were several major events which captured investors attention during the period. The U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) increased its benchmark interest rate in both December 2017 and March 2018, and the consensus market opinion is that it remains on course for potentially two further hikes over the remainder of the 2018 calendar year. U.S. tax reform, which was supported by President Donald Trump and enacted by Congress in December 2017, was initially met with some euphoria in risk assets. However, as the pace of the sell-off in Treasuries accelerated, investors became concerned that the tax cuts could cause the economy to overheat, and towards the end of January 2018, U.S. equities declined and credit spreads widened.

U.S. economic data softened slightly during the first quarter of 2018, but remain at a level which we believe is supportive of credit markets. Furthermore, inflation remains subdued. In Europe, the European Central Bank (ECB) began to taper its monthly purchases of securities under its quantitative easing program. It is generally expected that the ECB s program will cease by the end of this year.

In February 2018, investors focused on President Trump s trade tariffs. The broad consensus in financial markets is that trade barriers ultimately tend to be a lose/lose situation, increasing costs for companies and consumers and resulting in unintended consequences. The tariffs were targeted mainly at China, which reacted with a series of its own tit for tat trade measures. However, the rhetoric seemed to calm relatively quickly. Investors attention turned to Russian sanctions that caused volatility in Russian debt issuers, as Specially Designated Nationals (SDNs) were put on a sanctions list, precluding

U.S. and, by extension, western companies, from conducting business with them. Russian aluminum producer Rusal (which the Fund does not hold) was particularly hard-hit by the sanctions.

Fund performance review

The Fund returned 4.70% on a net asset value basis for the six-month period ended April 30, 2018.

During the reporting period, the Fund maintained significant exposure to the energy sector. Consequently, many of these positions benefited from the tailwind of a rally in the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) oil price, which rose 26% over the period.

The main contributors to Fund performance for the reporting period included oil and gas exploration and production company EP Energy Corp., as its bonds rallied sharply due to an exchange offer on the bonds from the company and continued terming out3 of front-end maturities. Additionally, market transactions in the company s acreage for oil and natural gas assets confirmed higher valuations and, therefore, improved recovery prospects for the bonds. The Fund s holding in Seadrill LP bolstered relative

performance as the offshore drilling services provider s term loan gained ground after the company reached a refinancing agreement with lenders. We reduced the Fund s position in Seadrill following the period of share-price strength. California Resources term loan and bonds continued to benefit from the company s improved results and maturity schedule after a November 2017 refinancing that boosted liquidity, saw covenants4 relaxed somewhat, and also extended the company s debt maturity profile. The bonds of luxury retailer Neiman Marcus rallied after the company posted better-than-expected results and following the appointment of a new CEO. Retailer JC Penney s bonds gained ground after garnering better-than-expected results during the holiday shopping season in December 2017. Frontier Communications Corp. s bonds performed well following the company s launch of a consent solicitation5 to amend covenants in its bonds and loans and to permit additional debt in the structure, thereby allowing the refinancing of shorter maturities. Retail pharmacy chain operator Rite Aid concluded the sale of its assets to competitor Walgreens and then announced the sale of the balance of the business to supermarket chain operator

- The performance of the global high-yield market is measured by the ICE Bank of America Merrill Lynch (BofA ML) Global High Yield Constrained Index, which tracks the performance of U.S. dollar-, Canadian dollar-, euro- and sterling-denominated, below-investment grade corporate debt publicly issued in the major domestic or eurobond markets.
- The performance of the five-year U.S. Treasury is measured by the ICE BofA ML U.S. Treasury 5 Year Current Index. The performance of the U.S. investment grade sector is represented by the ICE BofA ML U.S. Corporate Master Index, which tracks the performance of U.S. dollar-denominated investment-grade corporate debt publicly issued in the U.S. domestic market.
- 3 Term out is the transfer of debt within a company s balance sheet.
- 4 A bond covenant is a legally binding term of agreement between a bond issuer and a bondholder.
- A consent solicitation is the process by which a security s issuer proposes changes to the material terms of the security agreement.

Aberdeen Income Credit Strategies Fund

Report of the Investment Adviser (unaudited) (continued)

Albertsons. Staples Inc. s bonds rose after the office products retailer recorded positive quarterly results. Additionally, investors took a favorable view of the company s appointment of a new chief executive officer, J. Alexander Douglas, who formerly served as North American president for The Coca-Cola Company.

Finally, the Fund s holding in Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc. also bolstered performance as the company saw improved results, divestments and continued terming out of front-end maturities.

Conversely, the Fund s holding in Sable Permian weighed on performance for the quarter, as the oil and gas exploration and production company s poor drilling performance continued and a restructuring of its debt looms. Independent power producer Talen Energy s bonds lost ground after the private equity owner announced a large dividend. Bonds of packaging company Kloeckner and telecom operator Digicel Group declined after the companies reported weaker-than-expected results.

Aberdeen Asset Managers Limited and Aberdeen Asset Management Inc. assumed responsibility for the management of the Aberdeen Income Credit Strategies Fund as investment adviser and sub-adviser, respectively, on December 1, 2017. Portfolio activity was higher than it typically has been in the past as we took several actions in an effort to increase both the Fund s yield and total return.

We exited the Fund s 6% allocation to high-yield exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and reinvested the process of the sale and the Fund s initial 4% cash balance into the higher income-producing assets.

At the beginning of the reporting period, all of the Fund s credit holdings were U.S. dollar-denominated. At the end of the reporting period on April 30, 2018, the currency distribution for the Fund s credit holdings comprised 17% euro, 15% sterling and the balance of 68% in U.S. dollars.

Over the past six months, the continued interest-rate hikes from the Fed have led to a significant decrease in the costs of hedging6 non-U.S. dollar exposures. We have continued to take advantage of this phenomenon for two principal reasons. First, we expect the differential between U.S. and European interest rates to continue to grow as the Fed seeks to normalize interest rates, while we think that the European

Central Bank (ECB) is likely to be on hold for at least another year. Secondly, we believe that European credit swapped into dollars offers an attractive source of income and diversification for the Fund.

On December 31, 2017, the weighted average cash price7 of the Fund s assets was 93.4. At the end of the reporting period on April 30, 2018, the weighted average cash price was slightly higher at 95.7.

Outlook

The average spread on the ICE BofA ML U.S. High Yield Master II Index8 ended the period at 346 bps, which is just 20 bps wider than the post-global financial crisis lows reached in January this year. As of the end of the reporting period on April 30, 2018, credit spreads had absorbed more than one-third of the rise in Treasury yields since September 2017. We do not believe that credit spreads have the capacity to continue to absorb further interest-rate hikes from the Federal Reserve and expect the correlation between Treasuries and spreads to increase from here. Current credit spread levels reflect low default rates, which are generally expected to continue, supported by decent economic growth and subdued inflation. Should higher inflation expectations force the Fed to move more aggressively than the market currently anticipates, this could pressure equities and, to some extent, high-yield securities. The credit cycle is mature and, while the individual and corporate tax cuts implemented in early 2018 may provide a small boost to U.S. gross domestic product, we believe that this may be offset by Fed interest-rate hikes. The current consensus market opinion suggests that the tax cuts favor higher-rated (i.e., less indebted) companies and impose a negative impact on the lower-rated part of high-yield markets. However, each company will have its own reaction function9 and the extent to which they may have tax losses, accelerated depreciation of assets or other mitigating actions will not become apparent for some time. While valuations in the global high-yield market appear to be full, we believe that they reflect a strong environment for credit.

All indices are hedged to U.S. dollars.

Indexes are unmanaged and have been provided for comparison purposes only. No fees or expenses are reflected. You cannot invest directly in an index.

| 6     | Hedging reduces the risk of an investment, or protects an existing position, by using derivative investments to cover adverse |
|-------|---|
| marke | t movements   |

- A fund s weighted average cash price is calculated by weighting the price of each bond by its relative size in the portfolio. The statistic is used to determine whether the fund favors bonds selling at prices above or below face value (at a premium or discount).
- The ICE BofA ML U.S. High Yield Master II Index tracks the performance of U.S. dollar-denominated below-investment-grade corporate debt publicly issued in the U.S. domestic market.
- 9 The reaction function indicates the relationship between the output of one firm versus that of a competitor.
- 4 Aberdeen Income Credit Strategies Fund

Report of the Investment Adviser (unaudited) (concluded)

Loan Facility and the Use of Leverage

During the period, the Fund s use of leverage increased from 29.4% to 29.5% as a percentage of managed assets and the leverage amount of \$83,000,000 remained unchanged during the period. The Fund utilizes leverage to seek to increase the yield for its shareholders. The amounts borrowed from the Fund s loan facility may be invested to seek to return higher rates than the rates in the Fund s portfolio. However, the cost of leverage could exceed the income earned by the Fund on the proceeds of such leverage. To the extent that the Fund is unable to invest the proceeds from the use of leverage in assets which pay interest at a rate which exceeds the rate paid on the leverage, the yield on the Fund s common stock will decrease. In addition, in the event of a general market decline in the value of assets in which the Fund invests, the effect of that decline will be magnified in the Fund because of the additional assets purchased with the proceeds of the leverage. Non-recurring expenses in connection with the implementation of the loan facility will reduce the Fund s performance.

The Fund s leveraged capital structure creates special risks not associated with unleveraged funds having similar investment objectives and policies. The funds borrowed pursuant to the loan facility may constitute a substantial lien and burden by reason of their prior claim against the income of the Fund and against the net assets of the Fund in liquidation. The Fund is not permitted to declare dividends or other distributions in the event of default under the loan

facility. In the event of default under the loan facility, the lender has the right to cause a liquidation of the collateral (i.e., sell portfolio securities and other assets of the Fund) and, if any such default is not cured, the lender may be able to control the liquidation as well. The loan facility has a term of one year and is not a perpetual form of leverage; there can be no assurance that the loan facility will be available for renewal on acceptable terms, if at all.

The credit agreement governing the loan facility includes usual and customary covenants for this type of transaction. These covenants impose on the Fund asset coverage requirements, Fund composition requirements and limits on certain investments, such as illiquid investments, which are more stringent than those imposed on the Fund by the Investment Company Act of 1940. The covenants or guidelines could impede the Investment Adviser or Sub-Adviser from fully managing the Fund s portfolio in accordance with the Fund s investment objective and policies. Furthermore, non-compliance with such covenants or the occurrence of other events could lead to the cancellation of the loan facility. The covenants also include a requirement that the Fund maintain net assets of no less than \$67,501,648.

Prices and availability of leverage are volatile in the current market environment. The Board regularly reviews the use of leverage by the Fund and may explore other forms of leverage.

Aberdeen Asset Managers Limited



Aberdeen Income Credit Strategies Fund

## Total Investment Return (unaudited)

The following table summarizes the average annual Fund performance for the six-month, 1-year, 3-year, 5-year and since inception periods as of April 30, 2018.

|                       |          |        |         |         | Since Inception    |
|-----------------------|----------|--------|---------|---------|--------------------|
|                       | 6 Months | 1 Year | 3 Years | 5 Years | (January 27, 2011) |
| Net Asset Value (NAV) | 4.7%     | 9.2%   | 8.2%    | 5.6%    | 6.8%               |
| Market Value          | 0.1%     | 8.8%   | 7.7%    | 5.0%    | 4.9%               |

The performance above reflects fee waivers and/or expense reimbursements made by the Funds current and/or former investment adviser. Absent such waivers and/or reimbursements, the Funds returns would be lower. See Note 3 in the Notes to Financial Statements.

Returns represent past performance. Total investment return at NAV is based on changes in the NAV of Fund shares and assumes reinvestment of dividends and distributions, if any, at market prices pursuant to the dividend reinvestment program. All return data at NAV includes fees charged to the Fund, which are listed in the Fund's Statement of Operations under Expenses. The Fund's total return is based on the reported NAV on each financial reporting period end. Total investment return at market value is based on changes in the market price at which the Fund's shares traded on the NYSE during the period and assumes reinvestment of dividends and distributions, if any, at market prices pursuant to the dividend reinvestment program sponsored by the Fund's transfer agent. Because the Fund's shares trade in the stock market based on investor demand, the Fund may trade at a price higher or lower than its NAV. Therefore, returns are calculated based on both market price and NAV. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. The performance information provided does not reflect the deduction of taxes that a shareholder would pay on distributions received from the Fund. The current performance of the Fund may be lower or higher than the figures shown. The Fund's yield, return, market price and NAV will fluctuate. Performance information current to the most recent month-end is available at www.aberdeenacp.com or by calling 800-522-5465.

The total annualized operating expense ratio, excluding fee waivers, based on the six-month period ended April 30, 2018 was 3.45%. The total annualized operating expense ratio, net of fee waivers, based on the six-month period ended April 30, 2018 was 3.36%. The annualized net operating expense ratio, excluding interest expense, commitment fee and loan servicing fees and net of fee waivers, based on the six-month period ended April 30, 2018 was 2.29%

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6 Aberdeen Income Credit Strategies Fund

## Portfolio Composition (unaudited)

Quality of Investments(1)

The Fund did not hold any securities that were rated between AAA/Aaa and BBB/Baa as of the reporting period. The table below shows the asset quality of the Fund s portfolio as of April 30, 2018:

|                 | BB/Ba** | B** | CCC** | CC** | D** | NR*** |
|-----------------|---------|-----|-------|------|-----|-------|
| Date            | %       | %   | %     | %    | %   | %     |
| April 30, 2018* | 0       | 37  | 52    | 6    | 0   | 5     |

- Unaudited
- \*\* Below investment grade
- \*\*\* Not Rated
- For financial reporting purposes, credit quality ratings shown above reflect the lowest rating assigned by either Standard & Poor s or Moody s, if ratings differ. These rating agencies are independent, nationally recognized statistical rating organizations and are widely used. Investment grade ratings are credit ratings of BB/Baa or higher. Below investment grade ratings are credit ratings of BB/Ba or lower. Investments designated NR are not rated by either rating agency. Unrated investments do not necessarily indicate low credit quality. Credit quality ratings are subject to change. The Investment Manager evaluates the credit quality of unrated investments based upon, but not limited to, credit ratings for similar investments.

Geographic Composition

The table below shows the geographical composition (with U.S. Dollar-denominated bonds issued by foreign issuers allocated into country of issuance) of the Fund s total investments as of April 30, 2018:

|                 | United Kingdom | <b>United States</b> | Europe |      |        |           |             |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|--------|------|--------|-----------|-------------|
|                 |                |                      |        | Asia | Africa | Caribbean | Middle East |
| Date            | %              | %                    | %      | %    | %      | %         | %           |
| April 30, 2018* | 17             | 51                   | 27     | 1    | 1      | 2         | 1           |

Unaudited

**Maturity Composition** 

As of April 30, 2018, the average maturity of the Fund s total investments was 4.6 years. The table below shows the maturity composition of the Fund s investments as of April 30, 2018:

|                 | Under 3 Years | 3 to 5 Years |               | 10 Years & Over |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
|                 |               |              | 5 to 10 Years |                 |
| Date            | %             | %            | %             | %               |
| April 30, 2018* | 22            | 41           | 37            | 0               |

Unaudited

Aberdeen Income Credit Strategies Fund

| Portfolio Composition (unaudited) (concluded)   |
|---|
| Industry*   |
| The following table summarizes the composition of the Fund s portfolio, expressed as a percentage of market value. The industries listed below may include more than one industry group. As of April 30, 2018, the Fund did not have more than 25% of its assets invested in any single industry or industry group. |
|   |
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| * Compositions are subject to change. Figures may not appear to sum due to rounding.  |
|   |

Aberdeen Income Credit Strategies Fund

## Portfolio of Investments (unaudited)

As of April 30, 2018

| Principal                       |        |   |                |
|---------------------------------|--------|---|----------------|
| Amount                          |        |   | Value          |
| (000) or Shares                 |        | Description   | (US\$)         |
| COMMON STOCK 0.0%               |        | <u>'</u>  | .,             |
| CANADA 0.0%                     |        |   |                |
| CAD                             | 134    | Connacher Oil & Gas Ltd., Zero Coupon,(a)(b)(i)         | \$             |
|                                 |        | Total Common Stocks % (cost \$4,002,997)                |                |
| BANK LOANS 11.8%                |        |   |                |
| CANADA 0.0%                     |        |   |                |
|                                 |        | Southern Pacific Resource Corp., Zero Coupon,           |                |
| USD                             | 1,518  | 03/31/2019(a)(b)(i)                                     |                |
| FRANCE 0.3%                     |        |   |                |
| EUR                             | 500    | Financiere CEP, 8.50%, 12/15/2025(d)                    | 593,233        |
| NETHERLANDS 1.5%                |        |   |                |
| USD                             | 3,002  | MediArena Acquisition B.V., 8.06%, 08/13/2021(d)        | 2,981,736      |
| UNITED KINGDOM 5.2%             |        |   |                |
| EUR                             | 4,000  | EG Finco Limited, Zero Coupon, 03/31/2026(d)(h)         | 4,810,271      |
| USD                             | 6,458  | Seadrill Partners Finco LLC, 8.30%, 02/21/2021(d)       | 5,520,218      |
|                                 |        |   | 10,330,489     |
| UNITED STATES 4.8%              |        | 0.11/2   0.000  |                |
| USD                             | 8,330  | California Resources Corporation, 12.27%, 12/31/2021(d) | 9,350,425      |
|                                 |        | La Paloma Generating Co., LLC, Zero Coupon,             |                |
| USD                             | 4,000  | 02/20/2020(a)(b)(i)                                     | 200,000        |
|                                 |        | T-t-1 D-ul-1 44 00/ (+ 000 450 470)                     | 9,550,425      |
| CORRORATE BONDS 400 00/         |        | Total Bank Loans 11.8% (cost \$26,158,178)              | 23,455,883     |
| CORPORATE BONDS 12 BELGIUM 2.8% | 23.2%  |   |                |
| EUR                             | 4,430  | Nyrstar Netherlands Holdings BV, 6.88%, 03/15/2020(c)   | 5,487,955      |
| FRANCE 2.8%                     | 4,430  | Nyistai Nethenanus Holulings bv, 6.00%, 03/13/2020(c)   | 5,467,955      |
| EUR                             | 3,000  | Constantin Investissement 3 SASU, 5.38%, 04/15/2020(c)  | 3,532,033      |
| EUR                             | 1,656  | Newco GB SAS, 8.00%, 12/15/2019(c)                      | 2,017,899      |
| 2011                            | 1,000  | 140W00 GB 0710, 0.0070, 12/10/2010(c)                   | 5,549,932      |
| GERMANY 2.8%                    |        |   | 0,010,002      |
| EUR                             | 5,000  | Senvion Holding GmbH, 3.88%, 05/01/2019(c)              | 5,514,444      |
| JAMAICA 3.5%                    | 0,000  | 30g 3g, 3   | 0,0 : ., : : : |
| USD                             | 7,750  | Digicel Group Ltd., 8.25%, 05/30/2018(c)                | 6,926,563      |
| LUXEMBOURG 16.9%                | .,     | - 1 <b>3</b> - 13 - 13 - 13 - 13 - 13 - 13 - 13 -       | 5,5=5,555      |
| USD                             | 14,604 | Altice Luxembourg SA, 7.75%, 05/31/2018(c)              | 13,946,820     |
| GBP                             | 4,000  | Garfunkelux Holdco 2 SA, 11.00%, 11/01/2018(c)          | 5,795,904      |
| EUR                             | 701    | Hercule Debtco Sarl, 6.75%, 02/15/2020(c)               | 850,676        |
| USD                             | 4,310  | Intelsat Jackson Holdings SA, 9.75%, 07/15/2021(c)      | 4,229,188      |
| EUR                             | 1,400  | Kleopatra Holdings 1 SCA, 8.50%, 07/15/2019(c)          | 1,392,664      |
| EUR                             | 2,776  | Monitchem HoldCo 2 SA, 6.88%, 05/10/2018(c)             | 3,201,443      |
| EUR                             | 3,500  | Unilabs Subholding AB, 5.75%, 05/15/2020(c)             | 4,183,872      |
|                                 |        |   | 33,600,567     |
|                                 |        |   |                |

Aberdeen Income Credit Strategies Fund

# Portfolio of Investments (unaudited) (continued)

As of April 30, 2018

| Principal<br>Amount<br>(000) or Shares              |  | Description  | Value<br>(US\$)  |
|---|--|--|--|
| CORPORATE BONDS (con<br>RUSSIA 1.5%                 | itinued)   | ·  |  |
| USD   | 3,500  | Credit Bank of Moscow Via CBOM Finance PLC, 7.50%, 10/05/2022(c)   | \$ 2,992,500   |
| SPAIN 2.1%<br>EUR<br>SWEDEN 3.3%                    | 3,500  | Aldesa Financial Services SA, 7.25%, 05/10/2018(c)   | 4,230,107  |
| USD<br>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES                         | 6,000<br><b>0.9%</b>   | Perstorp Holding AB, 11.00%, 11/18/2018(c)   | 6,480,000  |
| USD UNITED KINGDOM 21.2%                            | 1,675  | Shelf Drilling Holdings Ltd., 8.25%, 02/15/2021(c)   | 1,700,125  |
| EUR GBP USD GBP | 4,000<br>6,000<br>2,487<br>1,500<br>5,300<br>675<br>2,000<br>3,000<br>2,500<br>4,900 | Corral Petroleum Holdings AB, 11.75%, 05/15/2019(c) CYBG PLC, 8.00%, 12/08/2022(c)(e) KCA Deutag UK Finance PLC, 9.63%, 04/01/2020(c) Matalan Finance PLC, 6.75%, 01/31/2020(c) Newday Bondco PLC, 7.38%, 02/01/2020(c) Pinnacle Bidco PLC, 6.38%, 02/15/2021(c) Pizzaexpress Financing 1 PLC, 8.63%, 08/01/2018(c) Pizzaexpress Financing 2 PLC, 6.63%, 05/10/2018(c) Shop Direct Funding PLC, 7.75%, 11/15/2019(c) Voyage Care BondCo PLC, 10.00%, 11/01/2019(c) | 5,171,860<br>8,582,344<br>2,561,610<br>1,912,235<br>6,930,244<br>944,559<br>2,312,885<br>3,869,790<br>2,936,069<br>6,742,994<br>41,964,590 |
| USD<br>USD<br>USD                                   | 5,500<br>6,009<br>3,800  | BMC Software Finance, Inc., 8.13%, 05/31/2018(c)<br>California Resources Corp., 8.00%, 12/15/2018(c)<br>Cincinnati Bell, Inc., 7.00%, 09/15/2019(c)  | 5,486,250<br>5,167,740<br>3,486,120  |
| USD<br>USD  | 3,500<br>4,341   | Clear Channel Worldwide Holdings, Inc., 7.63%, 05/31/2018 Denbury Resources, Inc., 9.00%, 12/15/2018(c) EP Energy LLC / Everest Acquisition Finance, Inc., 6.38%,  | 3,508,750<br>4,536,345   |
| USD   | 1,966  | 06/15/2018 EP Energy LLC / Everest Acquisition Finance, Inc., 9.38%,   | 1,041,980  |
| USD USD USD USD USD USD USD USD                     | 11,692<br>6,481<br>5,500<br>8,336<br>4,112<br>1,937<br>5,092<br>1,375<br>6,457       | 05/31/2018 Frontier Communications Corp., 10.50%, 06/15/2022 Hardwoods Acquisition, Inc., 7.50%, 05/31/2018(c) Hexion, Inc., 10.00%, 05/31/2018 Hexion, Inc., 10.38%, 02/01/2019(c) Hexion, Inc. / Hexion Nova Scotia Finance ULC, 9.00%, 05/31/2018 Men s Wearhouse, Inc., 7.00%, 05/31/2018 Moss Creek Resources Holdings, Inc., 7.50%, 01/15/2021(c) Neiman Marcus Group Ltd., LLC, 8.00%, 05/31/2018(c)  | 11,107,314<br>5,701,336<br>5,032,500<br>8,231,800<br>3,998,920<br>1,510,860<br>5,225,665<br>1,381,875<br>4,358,475                         |
| USD   | 1,730  | 1 , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,  | 1,604,575  |

|        | Radiate Holdco LLC / Radiate Finance, Inc., 6.63%, |   |
|--------|--|---|
|        |  |   |
| 6.002  | ( )  | 5,315,270   |
| 0,032  |  | 3,313,270   |
|        | Sable Permian Resources Land LLC / AEPB Finance    |   |
| 10,860 | Corp., 7.13%, 05/31/2018(c)                        | 8,036,400   |
|        | Sable Permian Resources Land LLC / AEPB Finance    |   |
| 1,395  | Corp., 7.38%, 05/31/2018(c)                        | 1,018,350   |
| 3,700  | Sanchez Energy Corp., 6.13%, 07/15/2018            | 2,672,140   |
| 1,211  | Sprint Corp., 7.63%, 11/01/2025                    | 1,276,091   |
| 4,200  | Staples, Inc., 8.50%, 09/15/2020(c)                | 3,927,000   |
|        | Superior Industries International, Inc., 6.00%,    |   |
| 3,600  | 06/15/2020(c)                                      | 4,303,885   |
| 5,988  | Talen Energy Supply LLC, 9.50%, 07/15/2020(c)      | 5,703,570   |
| 2,925  | Talen Energy Supply LLC, 10.50%, 01/15/2022(c)     | 2,548,406   |
|        | 1,395<br>3,700<br>1,211<br>4,200<br>3,600<br>5,988 | Sable Permian Resources Land LLC / AEPB Finance  10,860 Corp., 7.13%, 05/31/2018(c) Sable Permian Resources Land LLC / AEPB Finance  1,395 Corp., 7.38%, 05/31/2018(c) 3,700 Sanchez Energy Corp., 6.13%, 07/15/2018  1,211 Sprint Corp., 7.63%, 11/01/2025 4,200 Staples, Inc., 8.50%, 09/15/2020(c) Superior Industries International, Inc., 6.00%, 06/15/2020(c) 5,988 Talen Energy Supply LLC, 9.50%, 07/15/2020(c) |

O Aberdeen Income Credit Strategies Fund

### Portfolio of Investments (unaudited) (continued)

As of April 30, 2018

| Principal Amount   |        | Doggwintion  | Value   |
|--|--------|--|---|
| (000) or Shares CORPORATE BONDS (cont UNITED STATES (continue) |        | Description  | (US\$)  |
| USD  | 3,000  | Tenet Healthcare Corp., 5.13%, 05/01/2020(c)   | \$ 2,917,500  |
| USD  | 1,950  | Transocean, Inc., 9.00%, 07/15/2020(c) Valeant Pharmaceuticals International, Inc., 5.88%,   | 2,103,660   |
| USD  | 6,658  | 05/31/2018(c) Valeant Pharmaceuticals International, Inc., 9.00%,  | 6,117,038   |
| USD  | 7,100  | 12/15/2021(c)  | 7,188,750   |
| USD  | 2,000  | Weatherford International LLC, 9.88%, 12/01/2024(c)  | 1,910,000<br><b>126,418,565</b>   |
| ZAMBIA 1.7%  |        |  | , ,   |
| USD  | 3,644  | First Quantum Minerals Ltd., 6.88%, 03/01/2021(c) <b>Total Corporate Bonds 123.2% (cost \$245,784,352)</b>   | 3,461,800<br><b>244,327,148</b>   |
| Shares or<br>Principal   |        |  | Value   |
| Amount SHORT-TERM INVESTMENT UNITED STATES 0.5%                | T 0.5% |  | value   |
| USD  | 986    | State Street Institutional U.S. Government Money Market Fund, Institutional Class, 1.28%(f)  Total Short-Term Investment 0.5% (cost \$985,886)  Total Investments 135.5% (cost \$276,931,413)(g)  Liabilities in Excess of Other Assets (35.5)%  Net Assets 100.0% | 985,886<br><b>985,886</b><br><b>268,768,917</b><br>(70,469,481)<br><b>\$198,299,436</b> |

- (a) Non-Income Producing Security.
- (b) Security is illiquid.
- (c) Denotes a security issued under Regulation S or Rule 144A.
- (d) Variable or Floating Rate Security. Rate disclosed is as of April 30, 2018.
- (e) Perpetual bond. This is a bond that has no maturity date, is redeemable and pays a steady stream of interest indefinitely. The maturity date presented for these instruments represents the next call/put date.
- (f) Registered investment company advised by State Street Global Advisors. The rate shown is the 7 day yield as of April 30, 2018.
- (g) See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements for tax unrealized appreciation/(depreciation) of securities.
- (h) All or a portion of the security is unsettled as of April 30, 2018. Unless otherwise indicated, the coupon rate is undetermined. The coupon rate shown may not be accrued for the entire position.
- (i) Level 3 security. This security was fair valued by the Fund s pricing committee as approved by the Fund s Board of Trustees. See Note 2(a) of the accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

CAD Canadian Dollar

**EUR Euro Currency** 

EURIBOR Euro Interbank Offered rate

GBP British Pound Sterling

LIBOR London Interbank Offered Rate

USD U.S. Dollar

Amounts listed as are \$0 or round to \$0.

Aberdeen Income Credit Strategies Fund

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### Portfolio of Investments (unaudited) (concluded)

As of April 30, 2018

At April 30, 2018, the Fund s open forward foreign currency exchange contracts were as follows:

| Purchase Contracts Settlement Date* British Pound/United States Dollar | Counterparty            | Amount<br>Purchased | Amount<br>Sold | Fair Value   | Unrealized<br>Appreciation |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| 05/23/2018   | Royal Bank of<br>Canada | GBP 465,000         | USD 639,836    | \$640,756    | \$920                      |
|  |                         |                     |                | \$640,756    | \$920                      |
|  |                         |                     |                |              |                            |
| Sale Contracts   |                         | Amount              | Amount         |              | Unrealized                 |
| Settlement Date*   | Counterparty            | Purchased           | Sold           | Fair Value   | Appreciation               |
| United States Dollar/British Pound                                     |                         |                     |                |              |                            |
| 05/23/2018   | UBS                     | USD 43,065,966      | GBP 30,214,500 | \$41,634,665 | \$1,431,301                |
| United States Dollar/Euro  |                         |                     |                |              |                            |

USD 42,327,283 EUR 34,190,500

41,347,156

\$82,981,821

980,127

\$2,411,428

**UBS** 

See Notes to Financial Statements.

05/23/2018

<sup>\*</sup> Certain contracts with different trade dates and like characteristics have been shown net.

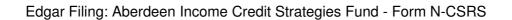
### Statement of Assets and Liabilities (unaudited)

As of April 30, 2018

| Assets  |               |
|---|---------------|
| Investments, at value (cost \$275,945,527)  | \$267,783,031 |
| Short-term investments, at value (cost \$985,886)   | 985,886       |
| Foreign currency, at value (cost \$742,062)   | 740,393       |
| Receivable for investments sold   | 18,066,878    |
| Interest and dividends receivable   | 6,638,788     |
| Unrealized appreciation on forward foreign currency exchange contracts  | 2,412,348     |
| Prepaid expenses  | 46,013        |
| Total assets  | 296,673,337   |
| Liabilities   |               |
| Bank loan payable (Note 7)  | 83,000,000    |
| Payable for investments purchased   | 14,711,901    |
| Investment advisory fees payable (Note 3)   | 271,807       |
| Interest payable on bank loan   | 154,386       |
| Administration fees payable (Note 3)  | 41,170        |
| Trustee fees  | 12,037        |
| Other   | 182,600       |
| Total liabilities   | 98,373,901    |
| Net Assets  | \$198,299,436 |
| Composition of Net Assets:  | . , ,         |
| Common stock (par value \$0.001 per share) (Note 5)   | \$ 13,074     |
| Paid-in capital in excess of par  | 225,997,328   |
| Accumulated net investment income   | 2,151,253     |
| Accumulated net realized loss from investments and foreign currency transactions                                | (24,182,191)  |
| Net unrealized (depreciation) on investments, forwards and translation of assets and liabilities denominated in | ,             |
| foreign currencies  | (5,680,028)   |
| Net Assets  | \$198,299,436 |
| Net asset value per share based on 13.074.072 shares issued and outstanding                                     | \$ 15.17      |

Amounts listed as are \$0 or round to \$0.

See Notes to Financial Statements.



# Statement of Operations (unaudited)

For the Six-Month Period Ended April 30, 2018

| Net Investment Income   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Income  | A 440 ==4    |
| Dividends and other Income  | \$ 146,771   |
| Interest income   | 13,718,397   |
| Total Investment Income   | 13,865,168   |
| Expenses  |              |
| Investment advisory fee (Note 3)  | 1,736,793    |
| Administration fee (Note 3)   | 157,534      |
| Legal fees and expenses   | 141,710      |
| Trustee fees  | 65,723       |
| Independent auditors fees and expenses  | 51,438       |
| Insurance expense   | 40,897       |
| Reports to shareholders and proxy solicitation  | 36,212       |
| Custodian s fees and expenses   | 29,692       |
| Transfer agent s fees and expenses  | 4,762        |
| Miscellaneous   | 50,710       |
| Total expenses excluding interest expense   | 2,315,471    |
| Interest expense (Note 7)   | 1,055,680    |
| Total operating expenses before reimbursed/waived expenses                                      | 3,371,151    |
| Investment Adviser waiver   | (80,961)     |
| Net expenses  | 3,290,190    |
|   | -,,          |
| Net Investment Income   | 10,574,978   |
| Net Realized/Unrealized Gain/(Loss) from Investments and Foreign Currency Related Transactions: |              |
| Net realized gain/(loss) from:  |              |
| Investment transactions   | 4,060,302    |
| Securities sold short   | 524,211      |
| Forward foreign currency exchange contracts   | (1,519,684)  |
| Foreign currency transactions   | 54,242       |
|   | 3,119,071    |
| Net change in unrealized appreciation/(depreciation) on:  |              |
| Investment transactions   | (7,315,956)  |
| Securities sold short   | (545,109)    |
| Forward foreign currency exchange rate contracts  | 2,412,348    |
| Foreign currency translation  | 92,922       |
|   | (5,355,795)  |
| Net (loss) from investments and foreign currency transactions                                   | (2,236,724)  |
| Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting from Operations  | \$ 8,338,254 |

Amounts listed as are \$0 or round to \$0.

See Notes to Financial Statements.

# Statements of Changes in Net Assets

| Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets   | For the<br>Six-Month<br>Period Ended<br>April 30, 2018<br>(unaudited) | For the<br>Year Ended<br>October 31, 2017 |
|---|---|---|
| Operations: Net investment income   | \$ 10,574,978   | \$ 19,433,386                             |
| Net realized gain/(loss) from investments, forward foreign currency exchange    | φ 10,574,970  | φ 19,433,300                              |
| contracts and foreign currency transactions                                     | 3,119,071   | (8,224,553)                               |
| Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments, securities | 5, 115,511  | (=,== :,===)                              |
| sold short, forward foreign currency exchange contracts and forward currency    |   |   |
| transactions  | (5,355,795)   | 15,669,134                                |
| Net increase in net assets resulting from operations                            | 8,338,254   | 26,877,967                                |
| Distributions to Shareholders from:   |   |   |
| Net investment income   | (9,413,332)   | (18,826,664)                              |
| Net decrease in net assets from distributions                                   | (9,413,332)   | (18,826,664)                              |
| Change in net assets resulting from operations                                  | (1,075,078)   | 8,051,303                                 |
| Net Assets:   |   |   |
| Beginning of period   | 199,374,514   | 191,323,211                               |
| End of period (including accumulated net investment income of \$2,151,253       |   |   |
| and \$989,607, respectively)  | \$198,299,436   | \$199,374,514                             |

Amounts listed as are \$0 or round to \$0.

See Notes to Financial Statements.

## Statement of Cash Flows (unaudited)

For the Six-Month Period Ended April 30, 2018

| Cash Flows from Operating Activities  |                |
|---|----------------|
| Net increase in net assets resulting from operations  | \$ 8,338,254   |
| Adjustments to reconcile net increase in net assets resulting from operations to net cash provided by |                |
| operating activities:   |                |
| Investments purchased   | (157,644,513)  |
| Investments sold and principal repayments   | 160,691,184    |
| Increase in short-term investments, excluding foreign government securities                           | (985,886)      |
| Net amortization/accretion of premium (discount)  | (2,351,818)    |
| Decrease in cash collateral held at broker  | 3,577,449      |
| Increase in interest receivable   | (1,767,067)    |
| Net unrealized (appreciation) depreciation on open forward foreign currency translations              | (2,412,348)    |
| Increase in prepaid expenses  | (22,561)       |
| Increase in interest payable on bank loan   | 154,386        |
| Decrease in accrued investment advisory fee   | (26,873)       |
| Decrease in accrued expenses  | (90,140)       |
| Payments for investments in securities sold short   | (1,945,238)    |
| Net realized loss from investments in securities sold short   | (524,211)      |
| Net change in unrealized (appreciation) depreciation from investments in securities sold short        | 545,109        |
| Net change in unrealized appreciation from investments  | 7,315,956      |
| Net change in unrealized depreciation from foreign currency translations                              | (92,922)       |
| Net realized gain on investments in securities  | (4,060,302)    |
| Net cash provided by operating activities   | 8,698,459      |
| Cash Flows from Financing Activities  |                |
| Distributions paid to shareholders  | (9,413,332)    |
| Net cash used in financing activities   | \$ (9,413,332) |
| Net change in cash  | (714,873)      |
| Cash at beginning of period   | 1,455,266      |
| Cash at end of period   | \$ 740,393     |
| Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:   |                |
| Cash paid for interest and fees on borrowings:  | \$ 1,055,680   |

See Notes to Financial Statements.

| Edgar Filing: Aberdeen Income Credit Strategies Fund - Form N-CSRS |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |

# Financial Highlights

|  | For the          |                  |                  |                 |            |                  |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------|------------------|
|  | Six-Month        |                  |                  |                 |            |                  |
|  | Period Ended     |                  |                  |                 |            |                  |
|  | April 30, 2018   |                  | For the Fisca    | I Years Ended O | ctober 31, |                  |
|  | (unaudited)      | 2017             | 2016             | 2015            | 2014       | 2013             |
| PER SHARE OPERATING PERFORMANCE(a):                                |                  |                  |                  |                 |            |                  |
| Net asset value per common share,                                  | 4                |                  | *                |                 |            |                  |
| beginning of period  | \$15.25          | \$14.63          | \$14.91          | \$18.04         | \$18.63    | \$18.46          |
| Net investment income Net realized and unrealized                  | 0.81             | 1.49             | 1.46             | 1.48            | 1.57       | 1.56             |
| gains/(losses) on investments, interest                            |                  |                  |                  |                 |            |                  |
| rate swaps, futures contracts and                                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |            |                  |
| foreign currency transactions                                      | (0.17)           | 0.57             | (0.30)           | (2.76)          | (0.55)     | 1.02             |
| Total from investment operations                                   | (****)           |                  | (5155)           | (= 5)           | (5155)     |                  |
| applicable to common shareholders                                  | 0.64             | 2.06             | 1.16             | (1.28)          | 1.02       | 2.58             |
| Distributions to common shareholders                               |                  |                  |                  |                 |            |                  |
| from:  |                  |                  |                  |                 |            |                  |
| Net investment income  | (0.72)           | (1.44)           | (1.31)           | (1.59)          | (1.54)     | (1.39)           |
| Net realized gains   |                  |                  | (0.40)           | (0.26)          | (0.07)     | (0.05)           |
| Tax return of capital  | (0.70)           | (1.44)           | (0.13)           | (1 OF)          | (1.01)     | (1.44)           |
| Total distributions Capital Share Transactions:                    | (0.72)           | (1.44)           | (1.44)           | (1.85)          | (1.61)     | (1.44)           |
| Offering costs charged to  |                  |                  |                  |                 |            |                  |
| paid-in-capital  |                  |                  |                  |                 |            | (0.04)           |
| Dilutive effect of rights offer                                    |                  |                  |                  |                 |            | (0.93)           |
| Total capital share transactions                                   |                  |                  |                  |                 |            | (0.97)           |
| Net asset value per common share,                                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |            |                  |
| end of period  | \$15.17          | \$15.25          | \$14.63          | \$14.91         | \$18.04    | \$18.63          |
| Market value, end of period  | \$13.91          | \$14.62          | \$12.60          | \$13.09         | \$16.35    | \$17.20          |
| Total Investment Batum Based                                       |                  |                  |                  |                 |            |                  |
| Total Investment Return Based on(b):                               |                  |                  |                  |                 |            |                  |
| Market value   | 0.14%            | 28.39%           | 8.75%            | (9.29%)         | 4.24%      | 2.23%(c)         |
| Net asset value  | 4.70%            | 15.34%           | 10.86%           | (6.36%)         | 6.19%      | 9.29%(c)         |
| Trot about value   | 1.7070           | 10.0170          | 10.0070          | (0.0070)        | 0.1070     | 0.20 /0(0)       |
| Ratio to Average Net Assets  |                  |                  |                  |                 |            |                  |
| Applicable to Common   |                  |                  |                  |                 |            |                  |
| Shareholders/Supplementary Data:                                   |                  |                  |                  |                 |            |                  |
| Net assets applicable to common                                    |                  |                  |                  |                 |            |                  |
| shareholders, end of period (000                                   | <b>#</b> 400.000 | <b>#</b> 400.075 | <b>#</b> 404.000 | 4404007         | 4005.040   | <b>#0.10.001</b> |
| omitted)   | \$198,299        | \$199,375        | \$191,323        | \$194,937       | \$235,813  | \$243,601        |
| Average net assets applicable to common shareholders (000 omitted) | \$197,190        | \$198,723        | \$175,817        | \$213,105       | \$246,204  | \$209,407        |
| Net operating expenses, net of fee                                 | φισ/,ισυ         | ψ130,723         | φ1/3,01/         | φε 13,103       | φ240,204   | φ209,407         |
| waivers/recoupments  | 3.36%(d)         | 3.15%            | 3.04%            | 2.86%           | 2.89%      | 2.70%            |
| Net operating expenses, net of fee                                 | 2.00 /0(0)       | 2270             | 5.5.70           | ,               | ,          | =                |
| waivers/recoupment, excluding interest                             |                  |                  |                  |                 |            |                  |
| expense, commitment fee and loan                                   |                  |                  |                  |                 |            |                  |
| servicing fees   | 2.29%(d)(e)      | 2.26%(e)         | 2.33%(e)         | 2.32%(e)        | 2.27%(e)   | 2.27%            |
|  |                  |                  |                  |                 |            |                  |

| Net operating expenses, excluding fee   |           |          |          |          |           |          |
|---|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| waivers/recoupments                     | 3.45%(d)  | 3.13%    | 3.06%    | 2.80%    | 2.77%     | 2.64%    |
| Net investment income                   | 10.81%(d) | 9.78%    | 10.88%   | 9.07%    | 8.31%     | 8.40%    |
| Portfolio turnover                      | 65%       | 95%      | 95%      | 56%      | 48%       | 89%      |
| Senior securities (loan facility)       |           |          |          |          |           |          |
| outstanding (000 omitted)               | \$83,000  | \$83,000 | \$83,000 | \$90,000 | \$100,000 | \$95,000 |
| Asset coverage per \$1,000 on revolving |           |          |          |          |           |          |
| credit facility at period end(f)        | \$3,389   | \$3,402  | \$3,305  | \$3,166  | \$3,358   | \$3,564  |

(a) Based on average shares outstanding.

<sup>(</sup>b) Total investment return based on market value is calculated assuming that shares of the Fund s common stock were purchased at the closing market price as of the beginning of the period, dividends, capital gains, and other distributions were reinvested as provided for in the Fund s dividend reinvestment plan and then sold at the closing market price per share on the last day of the period. The computation does not reflect

| Financial Highlights (concluded)  |
|---|
|   |
|   |
| any sales commission investors may incur in purchasing or selling shares of the Fund. The total investment return based on the net asset value is similarly computed except that the Fund s net asset value is substituted for the closing market value.  |
| (c) Includes dilution (net of offering costs) of approximately \$0.97 to NAV per share resulting from the Fund s transferrable rights offering, which expired on May 17, 2013. In connection with such offering, the Fund issued 3,268,518 additional common shares at a subscription price per share below the then-current NAV per share of the Fund. |
| (d) Annualized.   |
| (e) For the period ended April, 30, 2018, and years ended October 31, 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014 the ratio of expenses to average net assets excludes dividend and interest expense on securities sold short, interest expense, commitment fee and loan servicing fees.  |
| (f) Asset coverage ratio is calculated by dividing net assets plus the amount of any borrowings, for investment purposes by the amount of the Revolving Credit Facility.  |
| Amounts listed as are \$0 or round to \$0.  |
|   |
| See Notes to Financial Statements.  |

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|--|---|

## Notes to Financial Statements (unaudited)

April 30, 2018

#### 1. Organization

Aberdeen Income Credit Strategies Fund, formerly known as Avenue Income Credit Strategies Fund (the Fund) is a Delaware statutory trust registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act), as a closed-end management investment company. The Fund is diversified for purposes of 1940 Act. Pursuant to guidance from the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Fund's classification changed from a non-diversified fund to a diversified fund. As a result of this classification change, the Fund is limited in the proportion of its assets that may be invested in the securities of a single issuer. The Fund's primary investment objective is to seek a high level of current income, with a secondary objective of capital appreciation. The Fund commenced operations on January 27, 2011. Effective December 1, 2017, in conjunction with the acquisition by Aberdeen Asset Managers Limited of certain assets related to Avenue Capital Management II, L.P. s (Avenue) management of the Fund, the Avenue Income Credit Strategies Fund was rebranded as the Aberdeen Income Credit Strategies Fund.

#### 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Fund is an investment company and accordingly follows the investment company accounting and reporting guidance of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standard Codification Topic 946 Financial Services-Investment Companies.

The following is a summary of significant accounting policies followed by the Fund in the preparation of its financial statements. The policies conform to generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (GAAP). The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of income and expenses for the period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. The accounting records of the Fund are maintained in U.S. Dollars.

#### a. Security Valuation:

The Fund values its securities at current market value or fair value, consistent with regulatory requirements. Fair value is defined in the Fund's Valuation and Liquidity Procedures as the price that could be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between willing market participants without a compulsion to transact at the measurement date.

In accordance with the authoritative guidance on fair value measurements and disclosures under GAAP, the Fund discloses the fair value of its investments using a three-level hierarchy that classifies the

inputs to valuation techniques used to measure the fair value. The hierarchy assigns Level 1, the highest level, measurements to valuations based upon unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets, Level 2 measurements to valuations based upon other significant observable inputs, including adjusted quoted prices in active markets for similar assets, and Level 3 the lowest level, measurements to valuations based upon unobservable inputs that are significant to the valuation. Observable inputs are inputs that reflect the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability, which are based on market data obtained from sources independent of the reporting entity. Unobservable inputs are inputs that reflect the reporting entity sown assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on the best information available in the circumstances. A financial instrument is level within the fair value hierarchy is based upon the lowest

level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

Long-term debt and other fixed-income securities are valued at the last quoted or evaluated bid quoted price on the valuation date provided by an independent pricing service provider approved by the Board of Trustees (the Board ). Evaluated quotes provided by the pricing services may be determined without exclusive reliance on quoted prices, and may reflect appropriate factors such as institutional-size trading in similar groups of securities, developments related to specific securities, dividend rate, yield, quality, type of issue, coupon rate, maturity, individual trading characteristics and other market data. Short-term debt securities (such as commercial paper and U.S. treasury bills) having a remaining maturity of 60 days or less are valued at the last quoted or evaluated bid price on the valuation date provided by an independent pricing service, or on the basis of amortized cost, if it represents the best approximation of fair value. Debt and other fixed-income securities are generally determined to be Level 2 investments.

Senior Loans are valued using an evaluated quote provided by an independent pricing service. Evaluated quotes provided by the pricing service may be determined without exclusive reliance on quoted prices, and may reflect appropriate factors such as ratings, tranche type, industry, company performance, spread, individual trading characteristics, institutional-size trading in similar groups of securities and other market data.

Derivative instruments are valued at fair value. Exchange traded derivatives are generally Level 1 investments and over-the-counter derivatives are generally Level 2 investments. Forward foreign currency contracts are generally valued based on the bid price of the forward rates and the current spot rate. Forward exchange rate quotations are available for scheduled settlement dates, such as 1-, 3-, 6-, 9- and

## Notes to Financial Statements (unaudited) (continued)

April 30, 2018

12-month periods. An interpolated valuation is derived based on the actual settlement dates of the forward contracts held. Swap agreements are generally valued by an approved pricing agent based on the terms of the swap agreement (including future cash flows). When market quotations or exchange rates are not readily available, or if the Adviser concludes that such market quotations do not accurately reflect fair value, the fair value of a Fund s assets are determined in good faith in accordance with the Valuation Procedures.

In the event that a security s market quotations are not readily available or are deemed unreliable, the security is valued at fair value as determined by the Fund s Pricing Committee, taking into account the

relevant factors and surrounding circumstances using valuation policies and procedures approved by the Board. A security that has been fair valued by the Fund s Pricing Committee may be classified as Level 2 or Level 3 depending on the nature of the inputs. The three-level hierarchy of inputs is summarized below:

Level 1 quoted prices in active markets for identical investments;

Level 2 other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds, and credit risk); or

Level 3 significant unobservable inputs (including the Fund's own assumptions in determining the fair value of investments).

A summary of standard inputs is listed below:

| Security Type                          | Standard Inputs  |
|--|--|
| Debt and other fixed-income securities | Reported trade data, broker-dealer price quotations, benchmark yields, issuer spreads on comparable securities, credit quality, yield, and maturity. |
| Forward foreign currency contracts     | Forward exchange rate quotations.  |

The following is a summary of the inputs used as of April 30, 2018 in valuing the Fund s investments and other financial instruments at fair value. The inputs or methodology used for valuing securities are not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities. Please refer to the Portfolio of Investments for a detailed breakout of the security types:

| Investments, at Value                       | Level 1   | Level 2       | Level 3   | Total         |
|---|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| Fixed Income Investments                    |           |               |           |               |
| Bank Loans                                  | \$        | \$23,255,883  | \$200,000 | \$23,455,883  |
| Corporate Bonds                             |           | 244,327,148   |           | 244,327,148   |
| Common Stock                                |           |               | (1)       |               |
| Short-Term Investment                       | 985,886   |               |           | 985,886       |
| Total Investments                           | 985,886   | 267,583,031   | 200,000   | 268,768,917   |
| Other Financial Instruments                 |           |               |           |               |
| Forward Foreign Currency Exchange Contracts |           | 2,412,348     |           | 2,412,348     |
| Total Other Financial Instruments           |           | 2,412,348     |           | 2,412,348     |
| Total Assets                                | \$985,886 | \$269,995,379 | \$200,000 | \$271,181,265 |

(1) Represents a security that is fair valued at zero pursuant to procedures approved by the Fund s Board of Trustees.

Amounts listed as are \$0 or round to \$0.

For movements between the levels within the fair value hierarchy, the Fund has adopted a policy of recognizing transfers at the end of each period. The utilization of valuation factors may result in transfers between Level 1 and Level 2. During the period ended April 30, 2018, there were no transfers between Levels 1, 2 or 3. For the period ended April 30, 2018, there were no significant changes to the fair valuation methodologies. Level 3 investments held, at the beginning, during and

at the end of the six-month period in relation to net assets were not significant (less than 0.11% of total net assets) and accordingly, a reconciliation of Level 3 assets for the six-month period ended April 30, 2018 is not presented. The valuation technique used at April 30, 2018 was a fair valuation as determined by the Fund s Pricing Committee. The inputs utilized by the broker to value the investment were not available.

## Notes to Financial Statements (unaudited) (continued)

April 30, 2018

#### b. Restricted Securities

Restricted securities are privately-placed securities whose resale is restricted under U.S. securities laws. The Fund may invest in restricted securities, including unregistered securities eligible for resale without registration pursuant to Rule 144A and privately-placed securities of U.S. and non-U.S. issuers offered outside the U.S. without registration pursuant to Regulation S under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. Rule 144A securities may be freely traded among certain qualified institutional investors, such as the Fund, but resale of such securities in the U.S. is permitted only in limited circumstances.

#### c. Foreign Currency Translation:

Foreign securities, currencies, and other assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into U.S. Dollars at the exchange rate of said currencies against the U.S. Dollar, as of the Valuation Time, as provided by an independent pricing service approved by the Board. The Valuation Time is as of the close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange (usually 4:00 PM Eastern Time).

Foreign currency amounts are translated into U.S. Dollars on the following basis:

- (i) market value of investment securities, other assets and liabilities at the current daily rates of exchange at the Valuation Time; and
- (ii) purchases and sales of investment securities, income and expenses at the relevant rate of exchange prevailing on the respective dates of such transactions.

The Fund does not isolate that portion of the results of operations arising from changes in the foreign exchange rates due to the fluctuations in the market prices of the securities held at the end of the reporting period. Similarly, the Fund isolates the effect of changes in foreign exchange rates from the fluctuations arising from changes in the market prices of portfolio securities sold during the reporting period.

Net exchange gain/(loss) is realized from sales and maturities of portfolio securities, sales of foreign currencies, settlement of securities transactions, dividends, interest and foreign withholding taxes recorded on the Fund s books. Net unrealized foreign exchange appreciation/(depreciation) includes changes in the value of portfolio securities and other assets and liabilities arising as a result of changes in the exchange rate. The net realized and unrealized foreign exchange gain/(loss) shown in the composition of net assets represents foreign exchange gain/(loss) for book purposes that may not have been recognized for tax purposes.

Foreign security and currency transactions may involve certain considerations and risks not typically associated with those of domestic

origin, including unanticipated movements in the value of the foreign currency relative to the U.S. Dollar. Generally, when the U.S. Dollar rises in value against foreign currency, the Fund s investments denominated in that foreign currency will lose value because the foreign currency is worth fewer U.S. Dollars; the opposite effect occurs if the U.S. Dollar falls in relative value.

#### d. Derivative Financial Instruments:

The Fund is authorized to use derivatives to manage currency risk, credit risk and interest rate risk and to replicate or as a substitute for physical securities. Losses may arise due to changes in the value of the contract or if the counterparty does not perform under the contract. The use of derivative instruments involves, to varying degrees, elements of market risk in excess of the amount recognized in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

Forward Foreign Currency Exchange Contracts:

A forward foreign currency exchange contract (forward contract) involves an obligation to purchase and sell a specific currency at a future date, which may be any fixed number of days from the date of the contract agreed upon by the parties, at a price set at the time of the contract. Forward contracts are used to manage the Fund's currency exposure in an efficient manner. They are used to sell unwanted currency exposure that comes with holding securities in a market, or to buy currency exposure where the exposure from holding securities is insufficient to give the desired currency exposure either in absolute terms. The use of forward contracts allows the separation of decision-making between markets and their currencies. The forward contract is marked-to-market daily and the change in market value is recorded by the Fund as unrealized appreciation or depreciation. Forward contracts prices are received daily from an independent pricing provider. When the forward contract is closed, the Fund records a realized gain or loss equal to the difference between the value at the time it was opened and the value at the time it was closed. These realized and unrealized gains and losses are reported on the Statement of Operations. The Fund could be exposed to risks if the counterparties to the contracts are unable to meet the terms of their contracts or from unanticipated movements in exchange rates. During the six-month period ended April 30, 2018, the Fund used forward contracts to hedge its currency exposure.

While the Fund may enter into forward contracts to seek to reduce currency exchange rate risks, transactions in such contracts involve certain risks. The Fund could be exposed to risks if the counterparties to the contracts are unable to meet the terms of their contracts and from unanticipated movements in exchange rates. Thus, while the Fund may benefit from such transactions, unanticipated changes in currency

## Notes to Financial Statements (unaudited) (continued)

April 30, 2018

prices may result in a poorer overall performance for the Fund than if it had not engaged in any such transactions. Moreover, there may be imperfect correlation between the Fund s portfolio holdings or securities quoted or denominated in a particular currency and forward contracts entered into by the Fund. Such imperfect correlation may prevent the Fund from achieving a complete hedge, which will expose the Fund to the risk of foreign exchange loss.

Forward contracts are subject to the risk that a counterparty to such contract may default on its obligations. Since a forward foreign currency exchange contract is not guaranteed by an exchange or clearing house, a default on the contract would deprive the Fund of unrealized profits, transaction costs or the benefits of a currency hedge or force the Fund to cover its purchase or sale commitments, if any, at the market price at the time of the default.

Summary of Derivative Instruments:

The Fund may use derivatives for various purposes as noted above. The following is a summary of the fair value of Derivative Instruments, not accounted for as hedging instruments, as of April 30, 2018 was:

|  | Asset Derivatives  |             | Liability Derivatives  |            |
|--|--|-------------|--|------------|
| Derivatives not accounted for as<br>hedging instruments<br>and risk exposure | Statement of Assets and<br>Liabilities Location                      | Fair Value  | Statement of Assets and Liabilities Location                         | Fair Value |
| Forward foreign exchange contracts (foreign exchange risk)                   | Unrealized appreciation on<br>forward currency exchange<br>contracts | \$2,412,348 | Unrealized depreciation on<br>forward currency exchange<br>contracts |            |
| Total  |  | \$2,412,348 |  | \$         |

Amounts listed as are \$0 or round to \$0.

The Fund has transactions that may be subject to enforceable master netting agreements. A reconciliation of the gross amounts on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities as of April 30, 2018 to the net amounts by broker and derivative type, including any collateral received or pledged, is included in the following tables:

|                                  | Gross Amounts Not Offset<br>in Statement of<br>Assets & Liabilities |                    |             | Gross Amounts Not Offset<br>in Statement of<br>Assets and Liabilities |   |                         |            |           |
|----------------------------------|---|--------------------|-------------|---|---|-------------------------|------------|-----------|
|                                  | Gross Amounts<br>of Assets<br>Presented in<br>Statement of          | Financial          | Collateral  | Not   | Gross Amounts<br>of Liabilities<br>Presented in<br>Statement of | Financial               | Collateral | Net       |
| Description Forward foreign      | Financial Position  | Instruments Assets | Received(1) | Net<br>Amount(3)  | Financial Position  | Instruments Liabilities | Pledged(1) | Amount(3) |
| currency(2) Royal Bank of Canada | \$920   |                    |             |   |   |                         |            |           |