# Edgar Filing: Flaherty & Crumrine PREFERRED SECURITIES INCOME FUND INC - Form N-30B-2

Flaherty & Crumrine PREFERRED SECURITIES INCOME FUND INC Form N-30B-2 April 29, 2019 FLAHERTY & CRUMRINE Preferred Securities Income Fund

To the Shareholders of Flaherty & Crumrine Preferred Securities Income Fund ("FFC"):

While the first fiscal quarter<sup>1</sup> began on a very weak note, with fixed-income markets (including preferreds) down sharply in December 2018, markets did a 180-degree turn as the Fed changed its tune on monetary policy. Rebounding prices were broad-based and more than made up for weakness in December, and investors are once again on a hunt for yield. Total return<sup>2</sup> on net asset value ("NAV") for the first fiscal quarter was 6.1%, while total return on market price was 14.4%.

As discussed in our Annual Report dated November 30, 2018, there were many factors contributing to weakness in 2018. A few of them continue today, including a global economic slowdown, ongoing trade wars, and continuous political headlines from both sides of the aisle. However, the Federal Reserve's unexpected pivot on its outlook for future rate hikes and size of its balance sheet (System Open Market Account (SOMA) portfolio) deserve most of the credit for the market's sudden mood change. As of its March 20 meeting, the Federal Open Market Committee estimates no rate increases in 2019 and one 0.25% hike in 2020, which would leave the year-end 2021 fed funds rate 0.5% below earlier projections. It also plans to halt SOMA reductions in October 2019, an earlier end point than previously expected.

The Fed's revised positions on rates and SOMA have been followed by similar policy statements from the European Central Bank (ECB). Investors globally have shifted expectations and now expect government officials to keep close watch over economies and markets with continued dovish monetary policies. The result has been lower, and remarkably stable, Treasury rates and a dramatic re-tightening of credit spreads.

Flow data on money going into and out of markets and investment products from late-2018 indicate many may have underestimated the degree of concern among investors. Outflows, particularly from corporate credit fixed-income funds, were substantial and help explain the magnitude of market weakness. Flows back into markets in 2019 have been impressive as well, although thus far they have fallen short of making up for late-2018's outflows.

Macro factors have been driving markets, and there is little new to say about the Fund's portfolio. Our allocations continue to focus on credit quality and structure – both of which remain healthy – and portfolio turnover remains low. The economic outlook and related macro factors – such as global monetary policy and trade – should continue to have an outsized impact on our market's direction over the near-term.

Credit fundamentals for most issuers of preferreds are strong, and we expect them to remain resilient even if the pace of economic growth slows over the next several years. Supply of newly-issued preferreds should remain very manageable, providing technical support to the market. Combined with competitive yields, tax advantages, and benign credit conditions, we believe the case for preferreds as an income investment remains intact.

Sincerely,

The Flaherty & Crumrine Portfolio Management Team

March 29, 2019

<sup>1</sup>December 1, 2018 – February 28, 2019

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<sup>2</sup>Following the methodology required by the Securities and Exchange Commission, total return assumes dividend reinvestment.

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Flaherty & Crumrine Preferred Securities Income Fund Incorporated

### **PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW**

#### February 28, 2019 (Unaudited)

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Fund Statistics				
Net Asset Value	\$ 18.76			
Market Price	\$ 18.55			
Discount	1.12	%		
Yield on Market Price <sup>†</sup>	7.25	%		
Common Stock Shares Outstanding	44,252,635			
<sup>†</sup> February 2019 dividend of \$0.112 per share,				
annualized, divided by Market Price.				

# Security Ratings\*\*%

of Net Assets		
А	0.5	%
BBB	55.7	%
BB	30.5	%
Below "BB"	1.1	%
Not Rated***	9.3	%

### Portfolio Rating Guidelines% of Net Assets††

Security Rated Below Investment Grade By All\*\*\*\*29.5 %Issuer or Senior Debt Rated Below Investment Grade<br/>by All\*\*\*\*2.0 %

\*\*Ratings are from Moody's Investors Service, Inc. "Not Rated" securities are those with no ratings available from Moody's. May not sum to 100% due to rounding.

\*\*\*Excludes common stock and money market fund investments and net other assets and liabilities of 2.9%.

\*\*\*\*Security rating below investment grade by all of Moody's, S&P Global Ratings, and Fitch Ratings.

\*\*\*\*\*Security rating and issuer's senior unsecured debt or issuer rating are below investment grade by all of Moody's, S&P, and Fitch. The Fund's investment policy currently limits such securities to 10% of Net Assets.

#### Industry Categories\* % of Net Assets ††

Top 10 Holdings by Issuer% of Net Assets††

4.3 %

**PNC** Financial Services Group Inc MetLife Inc 4.2 % JPMorgan Chase & Co 4.0 % Citigroup Inc 3.9 % Liberty Mutual Group 3.6 % Morgan Stanley 3.5 % **BNP** Paribas 3.4 % 3.3 % Wells Fargo & Company Fifth Third Bancorp 3.3 % HSBC Holdings PLC 2.7 %

## % of Net Assets\*\*\*\*\* ††

Holdings Generating Qualified Dividend Income (QDI) for Individuals62%Holdings Generating Income Eligible for the Corporate Dividends Received<br/>Deduction (DRD)44%

\*\*\*\*\*This does not reflect year-end results or actual tax categorization of Fund distributions. These percentages can, and do, change, perhaps significantly, depending on market conditions. Investors should consult their tax advisor regarding their personal situation.

††Net Assets includes assets attributable to the use of leverage.

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Shares/\$ Par

Value

Flaherty & Crumrine Preferred Securities Income Fund Incorporated

#### **PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS**

#### February 28, 2019 (Unaudited)

**Preferred Stock & Hvbrid Preferred** Securities<sup>§</sup> — 76.7% **Banking** — 41.4% Bank of America Corporation, 5.875% to 03/15/28 then 3ML + 2.931%, Series \$ 14,800,000 \$ 14.611.670 \*(1)(4) FF Capital One Financial Corporation: \*(4) 13,893 6.00%, Series B 352,674 \*(4) 58,600 6.00%, Series H 1,522,129 34,000 6.20%, Series F 887,060 \*(4) 3,137,959 \*(1)(4) 6.70%, Series D 120,900 Citigroup, Inc.: 1,507,068 \*(4) \$ 1,490,000 5.875% to 03/27/20 then 3ML + 4.059%, Series O \$ 4,590,000 5.95% to 05/15/25 then 3ML + 3.905%, Series P 4,631,195 \*(4) 6.875% to 11/15/23 then 3ML + 4.13%. Series K 27,881,420 \*(1)(4) 1,036,484 15,651,617 \*(1)(4) 572,357 7.125% to 09/30/23 then 3ML + 4.04%, Series J Citizens Financial Group, Inc.: 4,201,423 \*(1)(4) 161.500 6.35% to 04/06/24 then 3ML + 3.642%, Series D 6.375% to 04/06/24 then 3ML + 3.157%. Series C 5,658,533 \*(1)(4) \$ 5,700,000 CoBank ACB: 6.125%, Series G, 144A\*\*\*\* 2,615,566 \*(4) 25,820 6.20% to 01/01/25 then 3ML + 3.744%, Series H, 144A\*\*\*\* 10,779,600 \*(4) 104,000 6.25% to 10/01/22 then 3ML + 4.557%, Series F, 144A\*\*\*\* 6,210,000 \*(1)(4) 60,000 6.25% to 10/01/26 then 3ML + 4.66%, Series I, 144A\*\*\*\* 2,597,920 \*(4) \$ 2,498,000 Fifth Third Bancorp, 6.625% to 12/31/23 then 3ML + 3.71%, Series I 42,149,518 \*(1)(4) 1,480,879 First Horizon National Corporation: 2,741,550 \*(4) 3,730 First Tennessee Bank, 3ML + 0.85%, min 3.75%, 3.75%<sup>(5)</sup>,144A\*\*\*\* 9 FT Real Estate Securities Company, 9.50% 03/31/31, 144A\*\*\*\* 11,643,750 Goldman Sachs Group: 11,057,700 \*(1)(4) \$ 12,000,000 5.00% to 11/10/22 then 3ML + 2.874%, Series P

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00	5.70% to 05/10/19 then 3ML + 3.884%, Series L	390,488	*(4)
00	6.375% to 05/10/24 then 3ML + 3.55%, Series K	3,752,000	*(1)(4)
	HSBC Holdings PLC:		
,000	HSBC Capital Funding LP, 10.176% to 06/30/30 then 3ML + 4.98%, 144A****	6,455,768	(1)(2)(4)
	Huntington Bancshares, Inc.:		
00	6.25%, Series D	15,257,400	*(1)(4)
,000	5.70% to 04/15/23 then 3ML + 2.88%, Series E	5,587,343	*(1)(4)
70	ING Groep NV, 6.375%	6,247,699	**(2)(4)
	JPMorgan Chase & Company:		
0	6.125%, Series Y	1,461,695	*(4)
00	6.70%, Series T	4,592,500	*(4)
4,000	3ML + 3.47%, 6.2205% <sup>(5)</sup> , Series I	23,096,889	*(1)(4)
,000	6.00% to 08/01/23 then 3ML + 3.30%, Series R	5,618,051	*(1)(4)
5,000	6.75% to 02/01/24 then 3ML + 3.78%, Series S	16,674,516	*(1)(4)
00	KeyCorp, 6.125% to 12/15/26 then 3ML + 3.892%, Series E	13,438,434	*(1)(4)
,000	Lloyds TSB Bank PLC, 12.00% to 12/16/24 then 3ML + 11.756%, 144A****	11,333,623	(1)(2)(4)
0,000	M&T Bank Corporation, $6.45\%$ to $02/15/24$ then $3ML + 3.61\%$ , Series E	17,852,736	*(1)(4)
	00 000 00 00 70 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	00 $6.375\%$ to $05/10/24$ then $3ML + 3.55\%$ , Series K HSBC Holdings PLC:000HSBC Capital Funding LP, $10.176\%$ to $06/30/30$ then $3ML + 4.98\%$ , $144A^{****}$ Huntington Bancshares, Inc.:00 $6.25\%$ , Series D000 $5.70\%$ to $04/15/23$ then $3ML + 2.88\%$ , Series E000 $5.70\%$ to $04/15/23$ then $3ML + 2.88\%$ , Series E001 $5.70\%$ to $04/15/23$ then $3ML + 2.88\%$ , Series E002 $6.25\%$ , Series D003 $5.70\%$ to $04/15/23$ then $3ML + 2.88\%$ , Series E004 $6.125\%$ , Series T005 $6.125\%$ , Series Y006 $6.70\%$ , Series T007 $6.00\%$ to $08/01/23$ then $3ML + 3.30\%$ , Series R008 $6.00\%$ to $08/01/23$ then $3ML + 3.78\%$ , Series S009KeyCorp, $6.125\%$ to $12/15/26$ then $3ML + 3.892\%$ , Series E000Lloyds TSB Bank PLC, $12.00\%$ to $12/16/24$ then $3ML + 11.756\%$ , $144A^{****}$	00 6.375% to 05/10/24 then 3ML + 3.55%, Series K 3,752,000   HSBC Holdings PLC: HSBC Capital Funding LP, 10.176% to 06/30/30 then 3ML + 4.98%, 144A**** 6,455,768   000 HSBC Capital Funding LP, 10.176% to 06/30/30 then 3ML + 4.98%, 144A**** 6,455,768   144A**** 6,455,768   1000 5.25%, Series D 15,257,400   000 5.70% to 04/15/23 then 3ML + 2.88%, Series E 5,587,343   000 5.70% to 04/15/23 then 3ML + 2.88%, Series E 5,587,343   70 ING Groep NV, 6.375% 6,247,699   JPMorgan Chase & Company: 1,461,695   00 6.125%, Series Y 1,461,695   000 6.00%, Series T 4,592,500   4,000 3ML + 3.47%, 6.2205% <sup>(5)</sup> , Series I 23,096,889   000 6.00% to 08/01/23 then 3ML + 3.30%, Series R 5,618,051   5,000 6.07% to 02/01/24 then 3ML + 3.78%, Series S 16,674,516   000 KeyCorp, 6.125% to 12/15/26 then 3ML + 3.892%, Series E 13,438,434   000 Lloyds TSB Bank PLC, 12.00% to 12/16/24 then 3ML + 11.756%, 144A**** 11,333,623

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Shares/\$ Par Value

Preferred Stock & Hybrid Preferred Securities — (Continued) Banking — (Continued)

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# PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS (Continued)

### February 28, 2019 (Unaudited)

242,340	MB Financial, Inc., 6.00%, Series C	\$ 6,099,698	*(1)(4)
	Morgan Stanley:		
879,089	5.85% to 04/15/27 then 3ML + 3.491%, Series K	22,293,697	*(1)(4)
519,272	6.875% to 01/15/24 then 3ML + 3.94%, Series F	14,113,813	*(1)(4)