



New Finance Opus Commodities Fund of Funds Tops Feri Ranking

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Dec. 18 (Bloomberg) -- New Finance Capital LLP's Opus Commodities Fund managed by [David Mooney](#) topped the performance ranking of 45 funds of commodity hedge funds surveyed by Feri Institutional Advisors GmbH, an investment adviser.

The [Opus fund](#) returned 15.7 percent in the 12 months to October, according to Bad Homburg, Germany-based Feri. [Pinnacle Natural Resources LP](#) managed by [Jason Kellman](#) was second, followed by the Almanac fund founded by [George Zivic](#) and [Willem Kooyker](#).

"We see an uptick in interest from institutional investors in commodity hedge funds," said [Dieter Kaiser](#), a director of investment management for Feri. "Some investors even use commodity funds of hedge funds to replace some of their passive commodity investments."

Commodity investments increased at hedge funds, funds that track indexes and other products related to raw materials as prices rebounded this year from the worst slump ever in 2008. Assets under management at commodity hedge funds expanded 5.7 percent to \$64.3 billion in November, according to New York-based HedgeFund.net.

The [S&P GSCI Total Return index](#) of raw materials rose 11 percent this year through October.

The 45 funds Feri tracks represent about 90 percent of assets under management at funds of commodity hedge funds, Kaiser said.

The \$895-million Opus fund advanced 1.1 percent last month and this year's return was the best since 2006, when it advanced 16.35 percent, according to Schroders Plc, which owns New Finance Capital.

Investment Approach

"We don't chase hot commodity traders," said Mooney, 47, who has spent more than two decades in commodities. The fund prefers to allocate assets to managers who consistently profit in any market conditions, he said in a telephone interview.

Mooney also manages the \$50 million [Opus Commodities Core Plus Fund](#), which invests only in funds that bet prices will rise. The fund returned almost 25 percent this year through November, compared with 16.6 percent in the Dow Jones UBS Commodity Total Return [index](#).

He joined New Finance in 2005 from Merrill Lynch & Co, where he ran the bank's internal investments on energy hedge funds. He headed Trafigura Group's power and gas trading during 2003 and 2004 and before that was Bank of America's head of commodity derivatives.

Pinnacle Natural Resources returned almost 15 percent to investors during the 12 months through October, according to Feri. [Jonathan Gasthalter](#), a spokesman for Pinnacle, declined to comment. The fund is the largest fund of commodity funds, according to Feri.

Pinnacle Fund

Kellman, his brother [Scott Kellman](#) and [Donnell Segalas](#) run Pinnacle Asset Management LP. The fund's average annualized return since inception in 2003 is 17.3 percent, according to a marketing document from Pinnacle obtained by Bloomberg News.

The Almanac Commodity Offshore Fund returned 10.3 percent in the 12 months to October, according to Feri. Zivic, 40, started [Almanac Capital Management LP](#) in May 2007 with Kooyker, chairman of Berkeley Heights, New Jersey-based Blenheim Capital Management LLC. Both partners provided initial capital for the fund, according to Zivic. Blenheim is not an Almanac investor.

"We're not a traditional fund of funds," said Zivic. Almanac devises a trading strategy based on its own market outlook for each sector, and looks for specialized managers whose views match the fund's strategies.

Managers in Almanac's portfolio include those trading agriculture, natural gas volatility, natural gas and electricity arbitrage, weather derivatives, metals and other strategies, Zivic said. Almanac Commodity Fund LP, with less than \$500 million in assets, is up 13 percent through November, he said.

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