

Seafood Progress

Grocer's Commitment to Sustainable and Socially Responsible Seafood

57

2023 score

Seafood Progress Average
?: 68



Score Trend
**Decreased Since
Last Year**

Parent Company
Pattison Food Group

NGO Partner(s)
Ocean Wise

save on foods

[Stores owned by Save-On-Foods](#)



Sustainable Commitment
click here



Progress Reports
2022, 2021, 2020



Location
Western Canada

OVERVIEW

Which products does this grocer’s sustainable seafood commitment cover?

| | Fresh | Frozen | Shelf |
|-----------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Store brand ? | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| Seafood brand ? | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| No brand ? | ✓ | ✓ | |

SUMMARY



78%

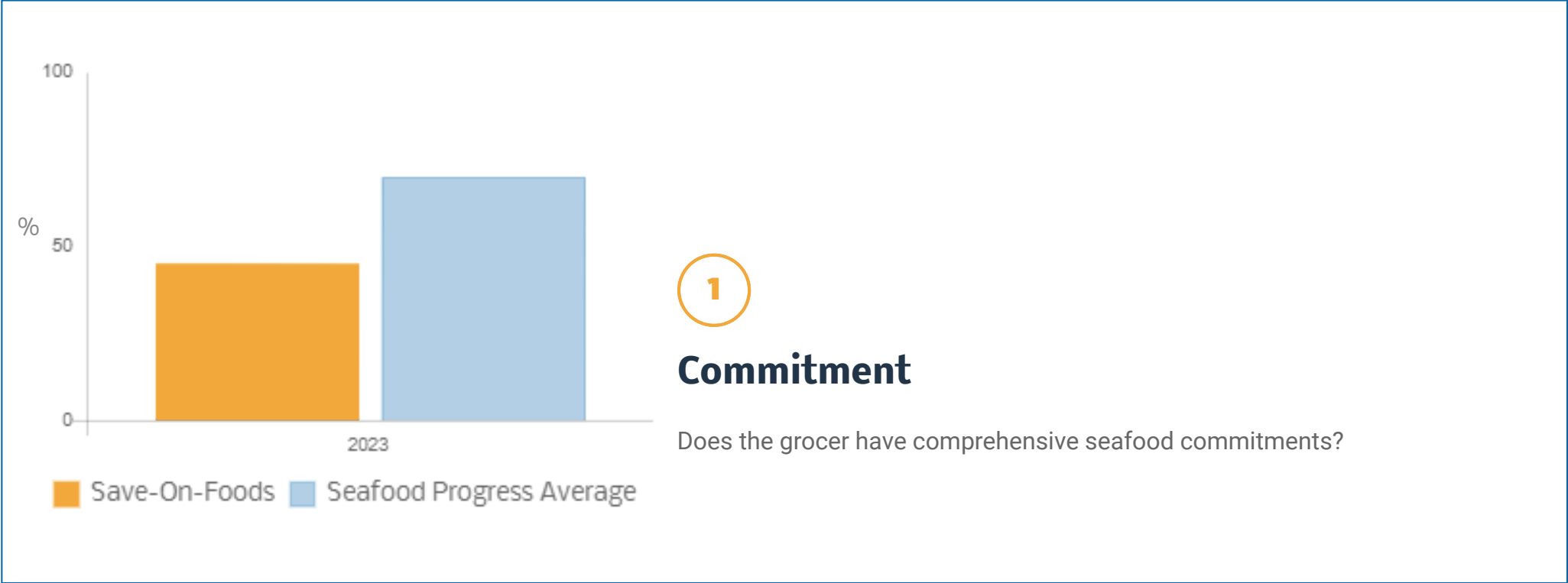
of products sold in 2023 met commitment.

Sustainability Commitment. Save-On-Foods continues to meet its commitment to source over 50% Ocean Wise Recommended fresh and frozen private label and national brand products. The company aims to include shelf stable under this commitment and increase its goal beyond 50% but has not set a timeline for doing so. In 2022, Save-On reported to SeaChoice that it aimed to implement a full chain traceability policy in 2023. In 2023, Save-On reported that it will not meet this deadline given changes to their organizational structure but still aims to achieve this goal, hopefully, by 2024 (personal communication, M. Santos, 17/04/2023).

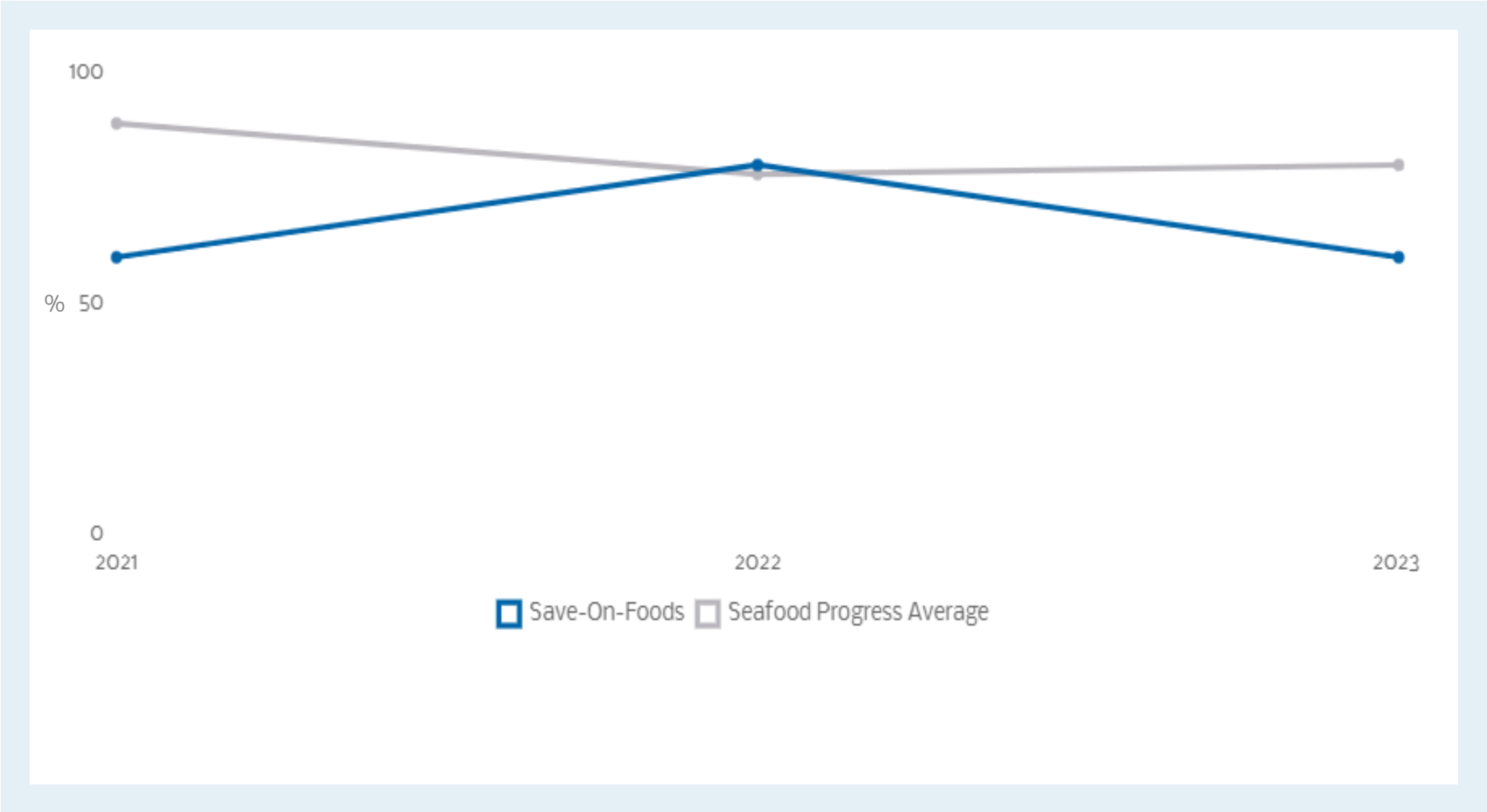
| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Clear Objectives | ✗ |
| Supplier Expectations | ✗ |
| Traceability Policy | ✗ |
| Reporting on Activities | ✗ |

Social Responsibility Commitment. Save-On-Foods has a general commitment to only source socially responsible seafood that adheres to national legislation (personal communication, J. Dickson, 22/03/2022).

STEP 1: COMMITMENT



1.1 The grocer has a publicly available commitment on environmentally sustainable seafood.

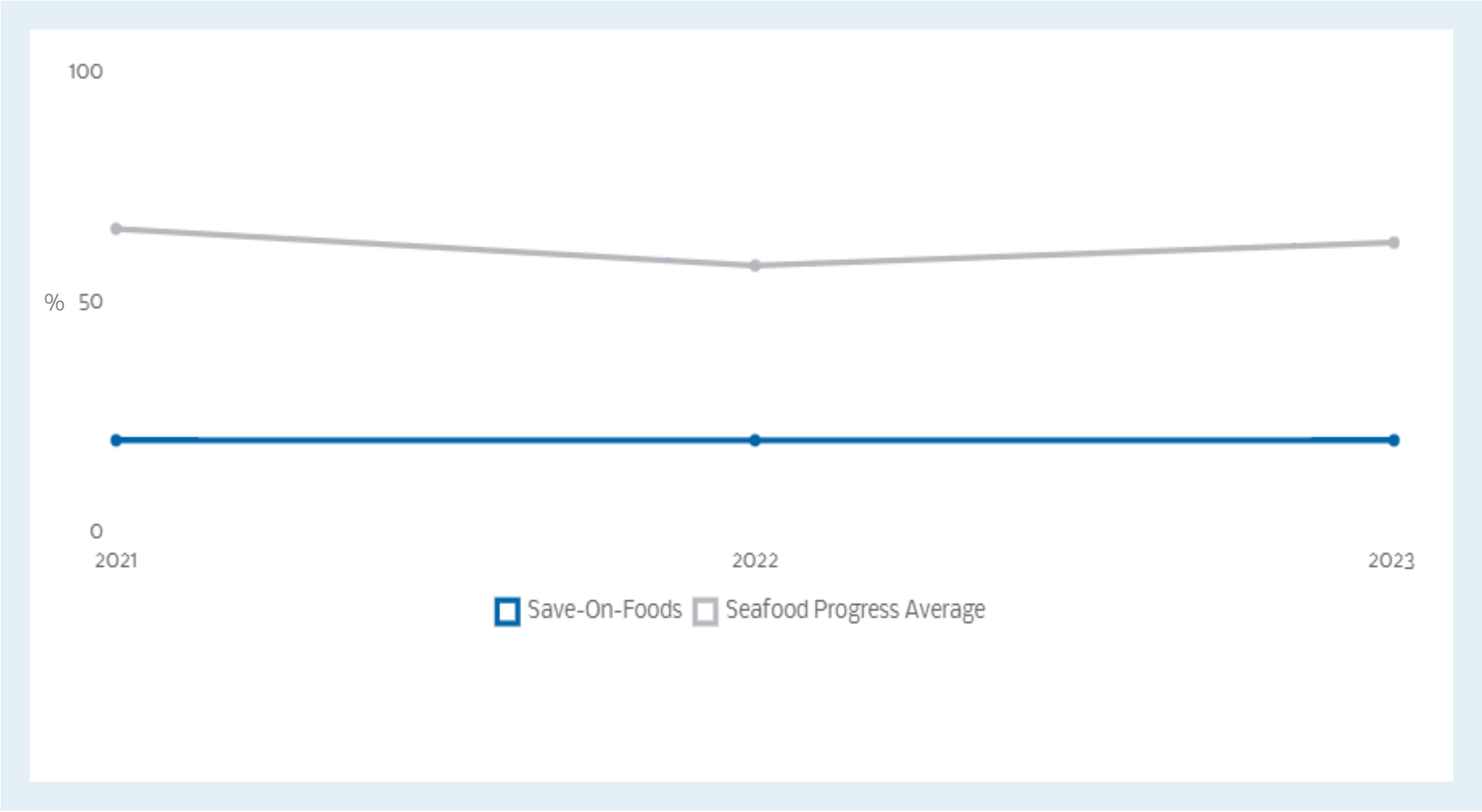


Save-On-Foods continues to meet its commitment to source over 50% Ocean Wise Recommended fresh and frozen private label and national brand products. The company aims to include shelf stable under this commitment and increase its goal beyond 50% but has not set a timeline for doing so. In 2022, Save-On reported to SeaChoice that it aimed to implement a full chain traceability policy in 2023. In 2023, Save-On reported that it will not meet this deadline given changes to their organizational structure but still aims to achieve this goal, hopefully, by 2024 (personal communication, M. Santos, 17/04/2023).

Scoring

- 100% Commitment to environmental sustainability includes clear objectives that are supported by references to credible standards, a full chain traceability policy and a timeline for meeting the commitment (unless the commitment has already been met).
- 80% Commitment to environmental sustainability that includes clear objectives that are supported by references to credible standards and a full chain traceability policy in place (or a timeline set for implementation) that traces at least the product scientific name, geographic origin, farmed/wild and harvest method.
- 60% Commitment to environmental sustainability that includes clear objectives that are supported by references to credible standards (such as Seafood Watch or Ocean Wise ratings, eco-certifications, etc.).
- 40% Commitment to environmental sustainability that includes clear objectives for sustainable procurement.
- 20% General commitment to environmentally sustainable seafood.
- 0% No publicly available environmental sustainability commitment.

1.2 The grocer has a publicly available commitment on socially responsible seafood.



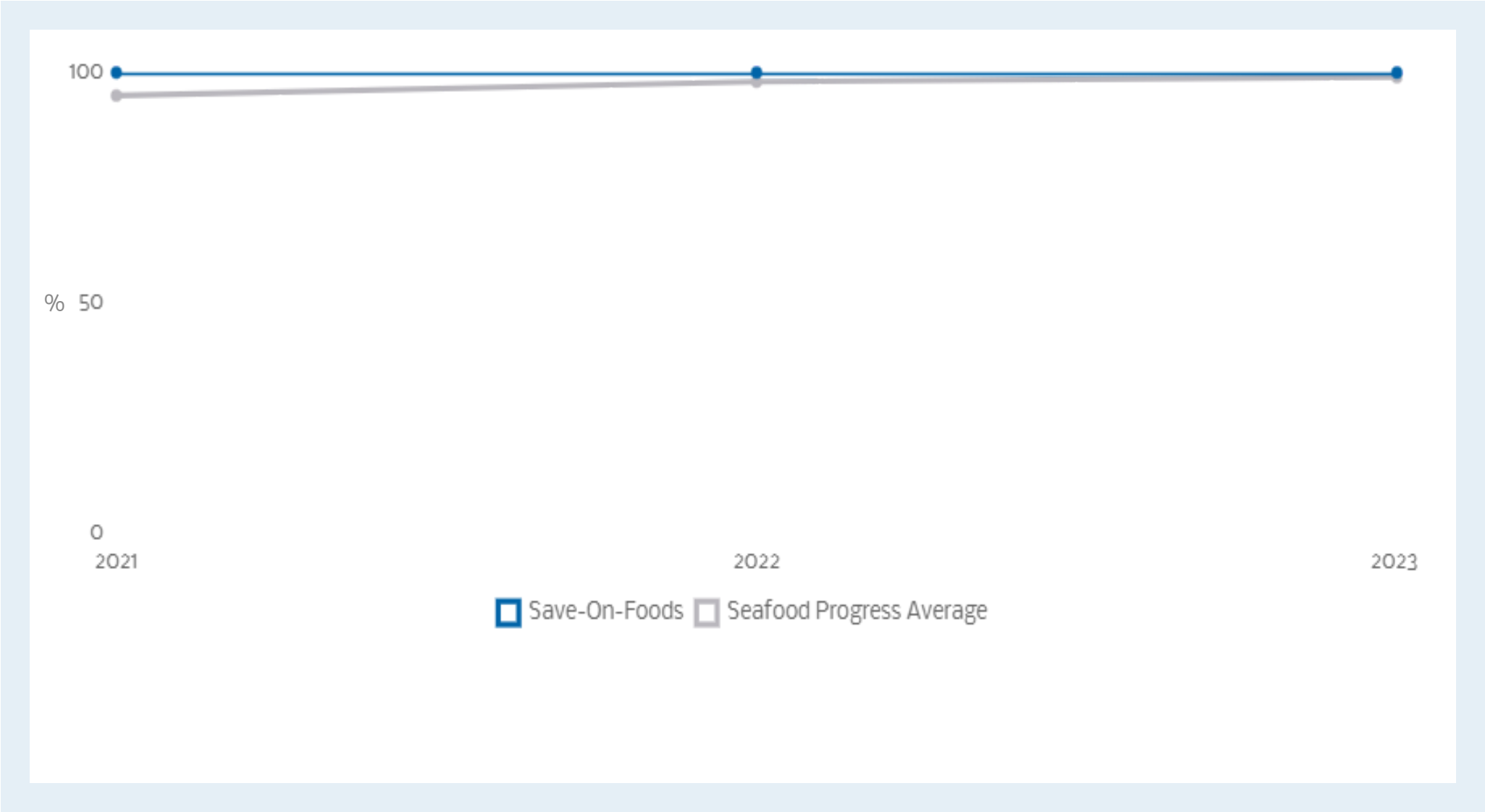
Save-On-Foods has a general commitment to only source socially responsible seafood that adheres to national legislation (personal communication, J. Dickson, 22/03/2022).

Scoring



- 100% Commitment to social responsibility includes clear objectives, actions or expectations for seafood suppliers, a clear and effective traceability policy, and the grocer reports publicly on activities to support social responsibility on at least an annual basis.
- 80% Commitment to social responsibility includes clear objectives, actions or expectations for seafood suppliers, and a clear and effective traceability policy that at least involves tracing data on the existence of an independent trade union or representative worker organization.
- 60% Commitment to social responsibility includes clear objectives and actions or expectations for seafood suppliers.
- 40% Commitment to social responsibility includes with worker driven objectives that are based on credible international standards (The UN’s Guiding Principles, The WBA’s Seafood Stewardship Index, ILO and the UN Declaration).
- 20% General commitment to socially responsible seafood.
- 0% No publicly available social responsibility commitment.

1.3 The grocer includes all banners that sell seafood in its sustainable seafood commitment.



Save-On-Foods' sustainable seafood policy includes all of its store banners (personal communication, J. Dickson, 09/02/2023).

Scoring

100%

The grocer includes 100% of its banners in its sustainable seafood commitment.

75%

The grocer includes 75% or more of its banners in its sustainable seafood commitment.

50%

The grocer includes 50% or more of its banners in its sustainable seafood commitment.

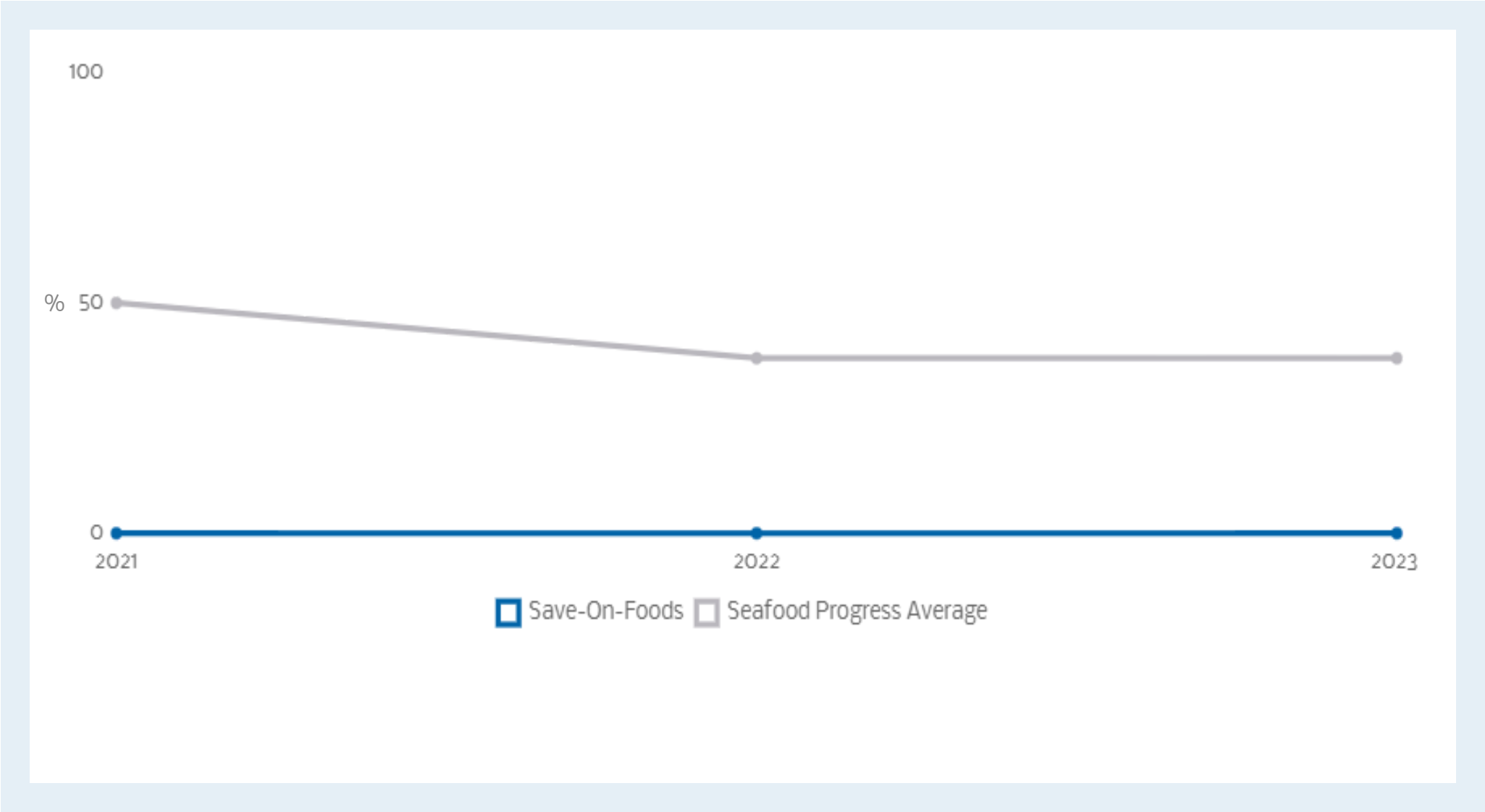
25%

The grocer includes 25% or more of its banners in its sustainable seafood commitment.

0%

The grocer does not include any banners in its sustainable seafood commitment.

1.4 The grocer includes all shelf stable and national brand products in its sustainable seafood commitment.



Save-On-Foods' commitment does not cover any of its shelf stable or national brand products, but aims to cover these product categories eventually (personal communication, M. Santos, 17/04/2023).

Scoring

100%

The grocer's commitment includes all of its shelf stable AND national brand products.

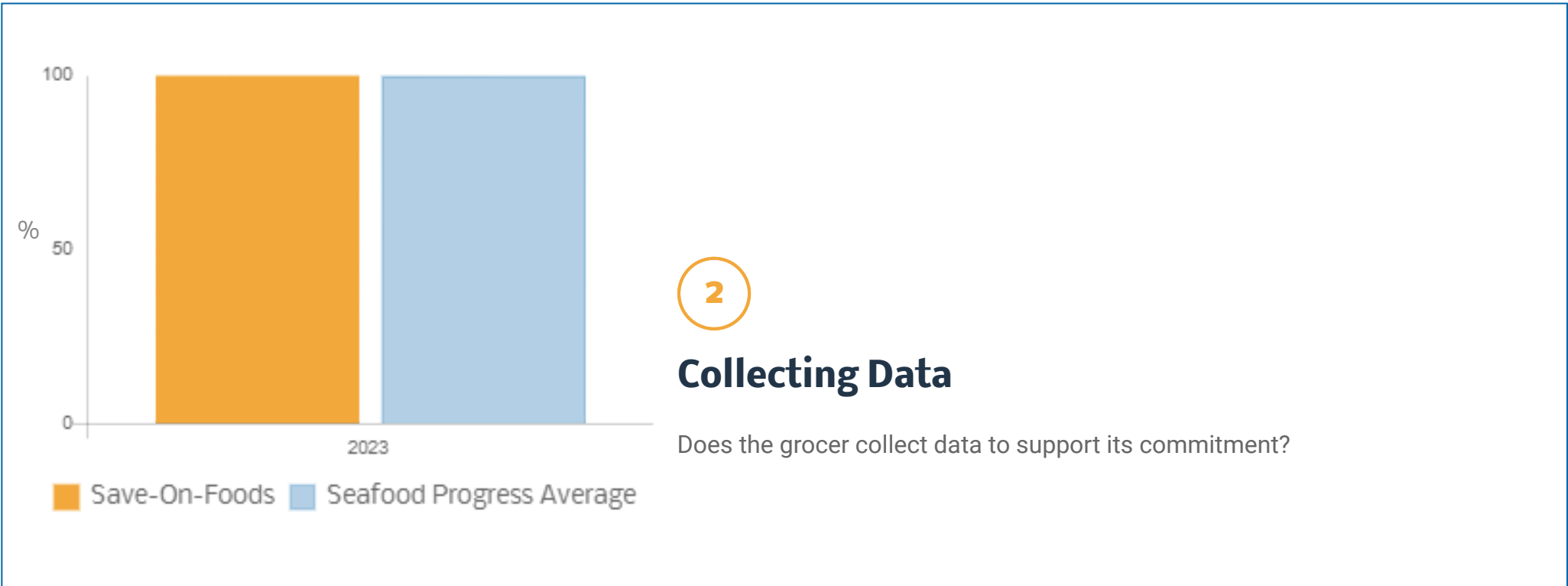
50%

The grocer's commitment includes all of its shelf stable or national brand products.

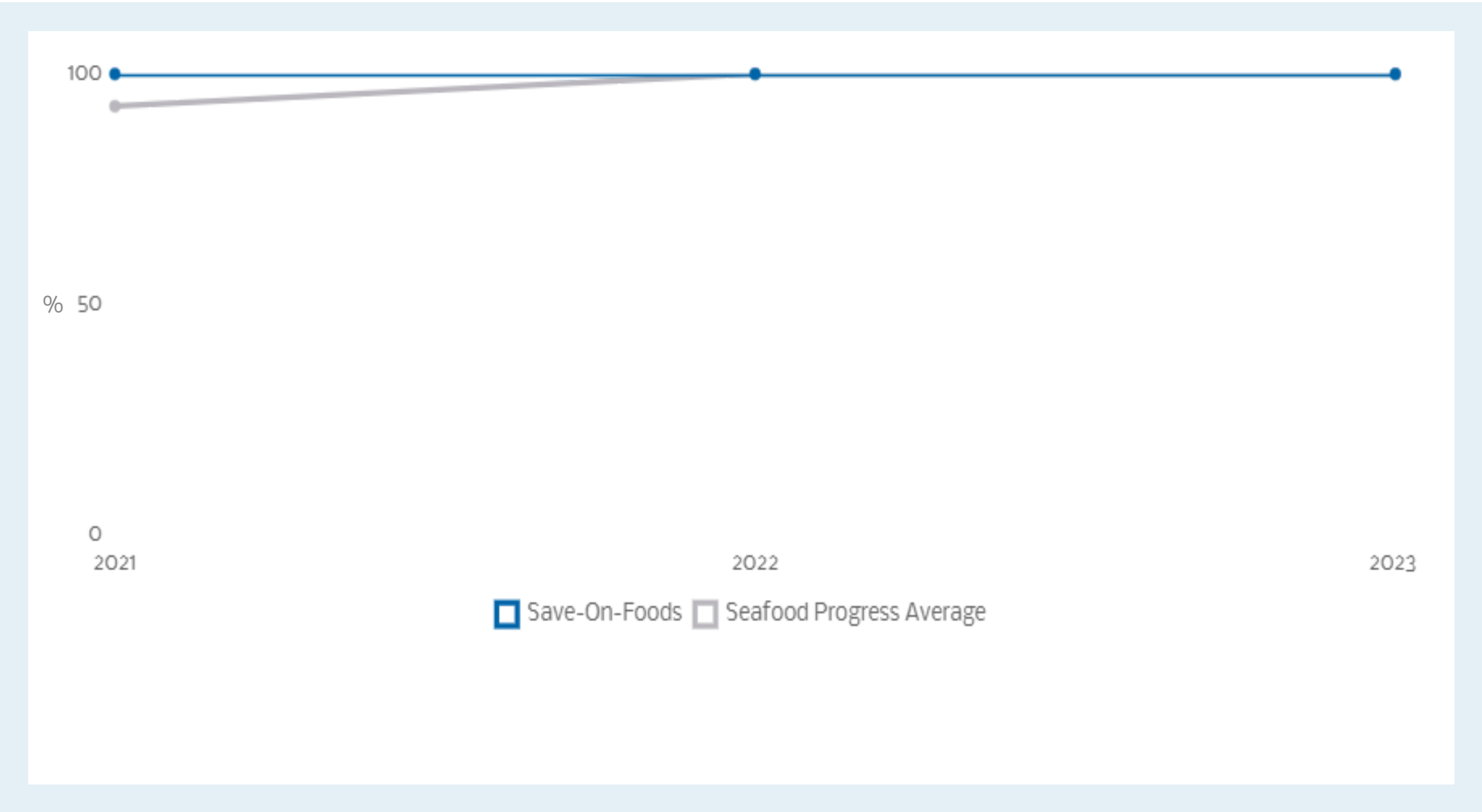
0%

The grocer's commitment includes neither all of its shelf stable or national brand products.

STEP 2: COLLECTING DATA



2.1 The grocer collects data on scientific name.

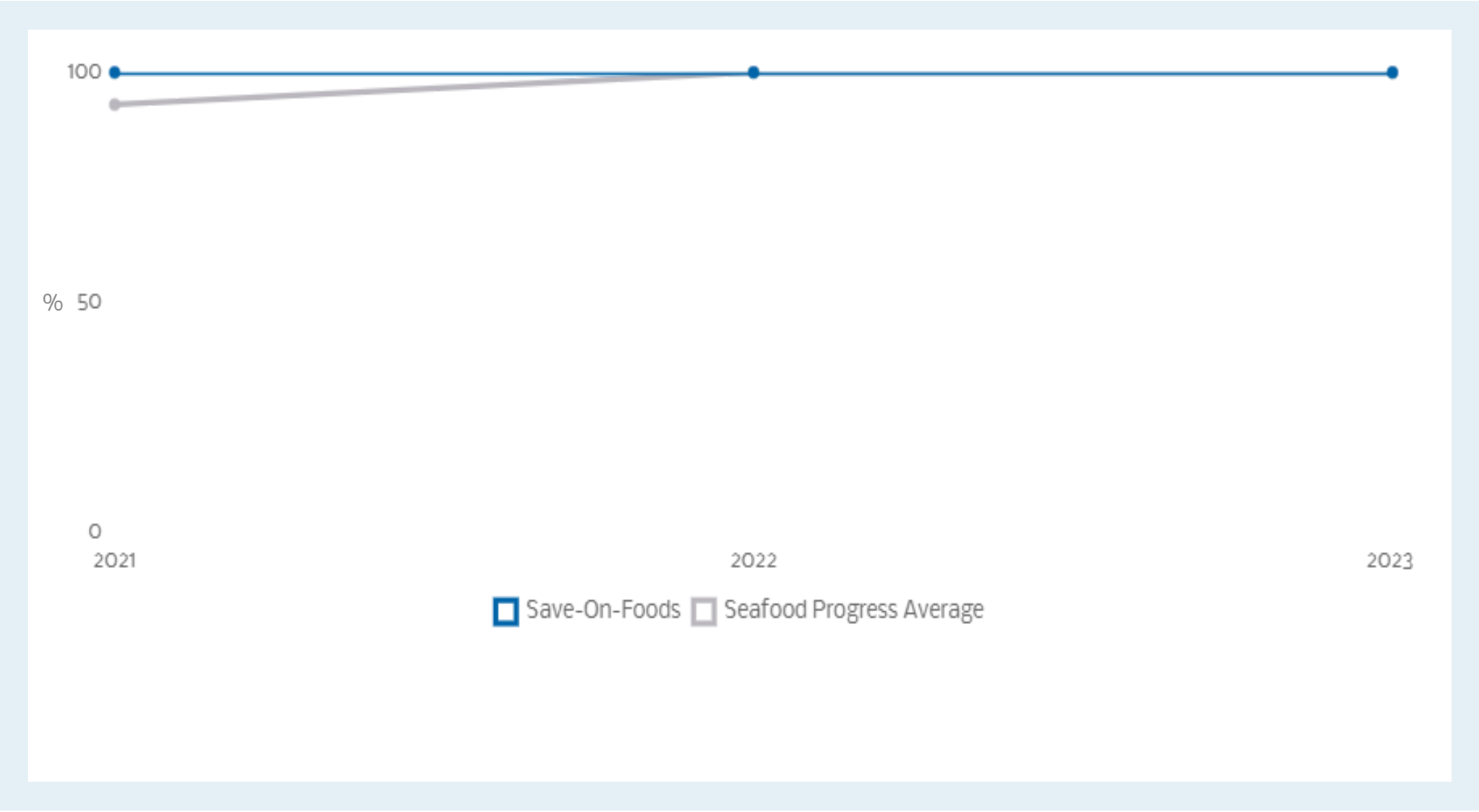


Save-On collects data on scientific name for all fresh and frozen products (personal communication, J. Dickson, 09/02/2023).

Scoring

- 100% Collects data for all products included in the grocer’s commitment.
- 50% Collects data for some products included in the grocer’s commitment.
- 0% Does not collect data (or no information available).

2.2 The grocer collects data on geographic origin.

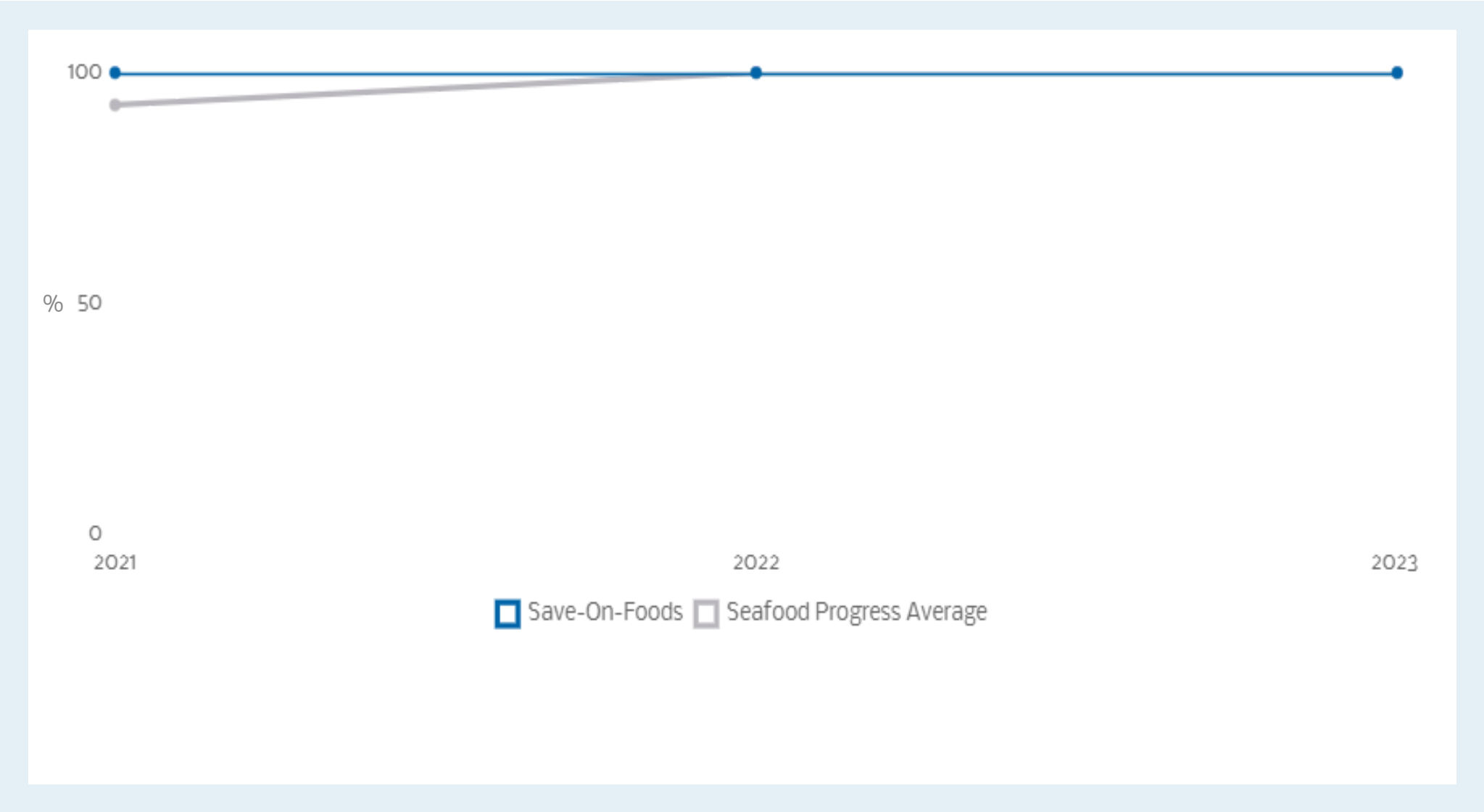


Save-On collects data on geographic origin for all fresh and frozen products (personal communication, J. Dickson, 09/02/2023).

Scoring

- 100% Collects data for all products included in the grocer’s commitment.
- 50% Collects data for some products included in the grocer’s commitment.
- 0% Does not collect data (or no information available).

2.3 The grocer collects data on whether wild or farmed.

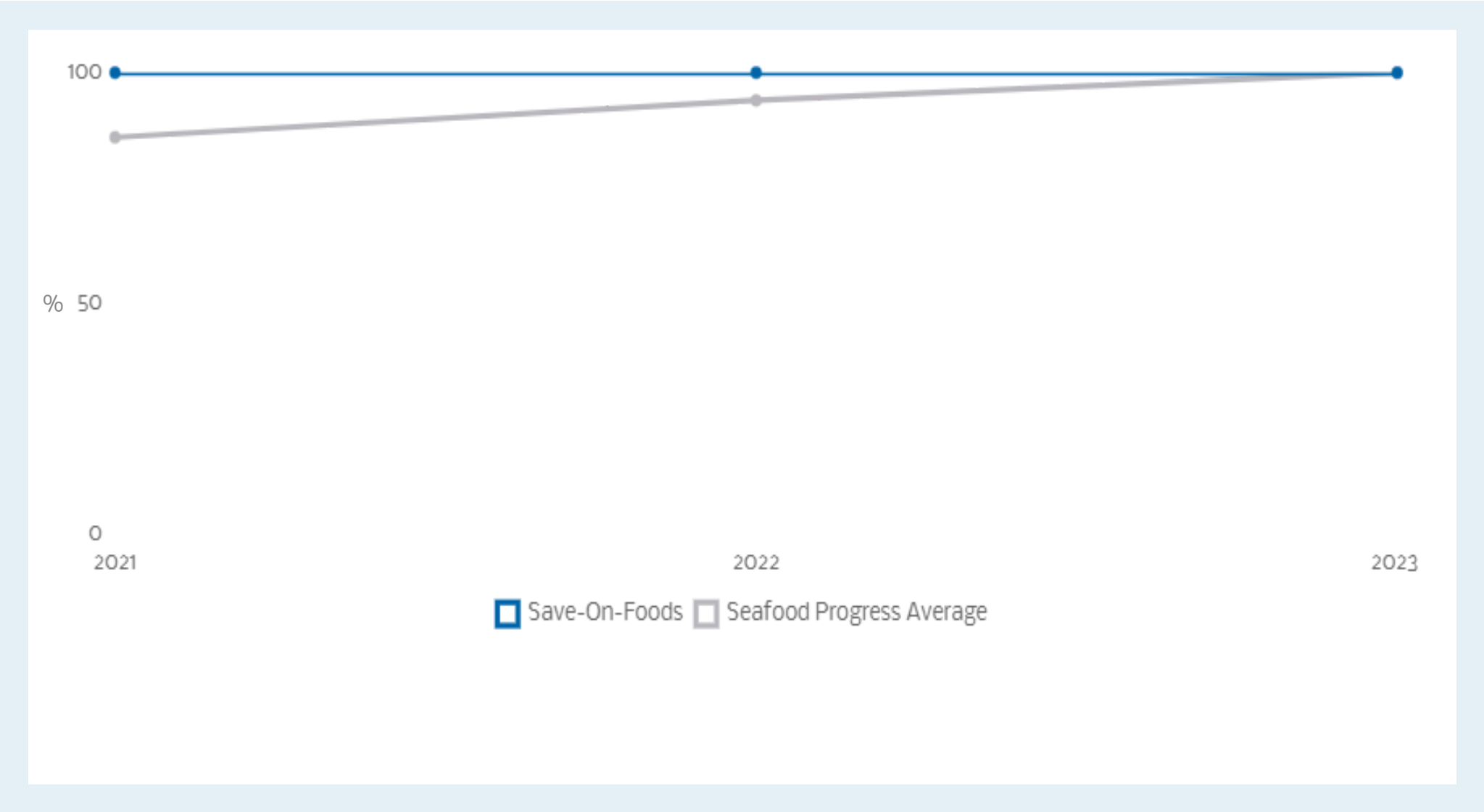


Save-On collects data on whether wild or farmed for all fresh and frozen products (personal communication, J. Dickson, 09/02/2023).

Scoring

- 100% Collects data for all products included in the grocer’s commitment.
- 50% Collects data for some products included in the grocer’s commitment.
- 0% Does not collect data (or no information available).

2.4 The grocer collects data on gear type or farming methods.



Save-On collects data on gear type and farming method for all fresh and frozen products (personal communication, J. Dickson, 09/02/2023).

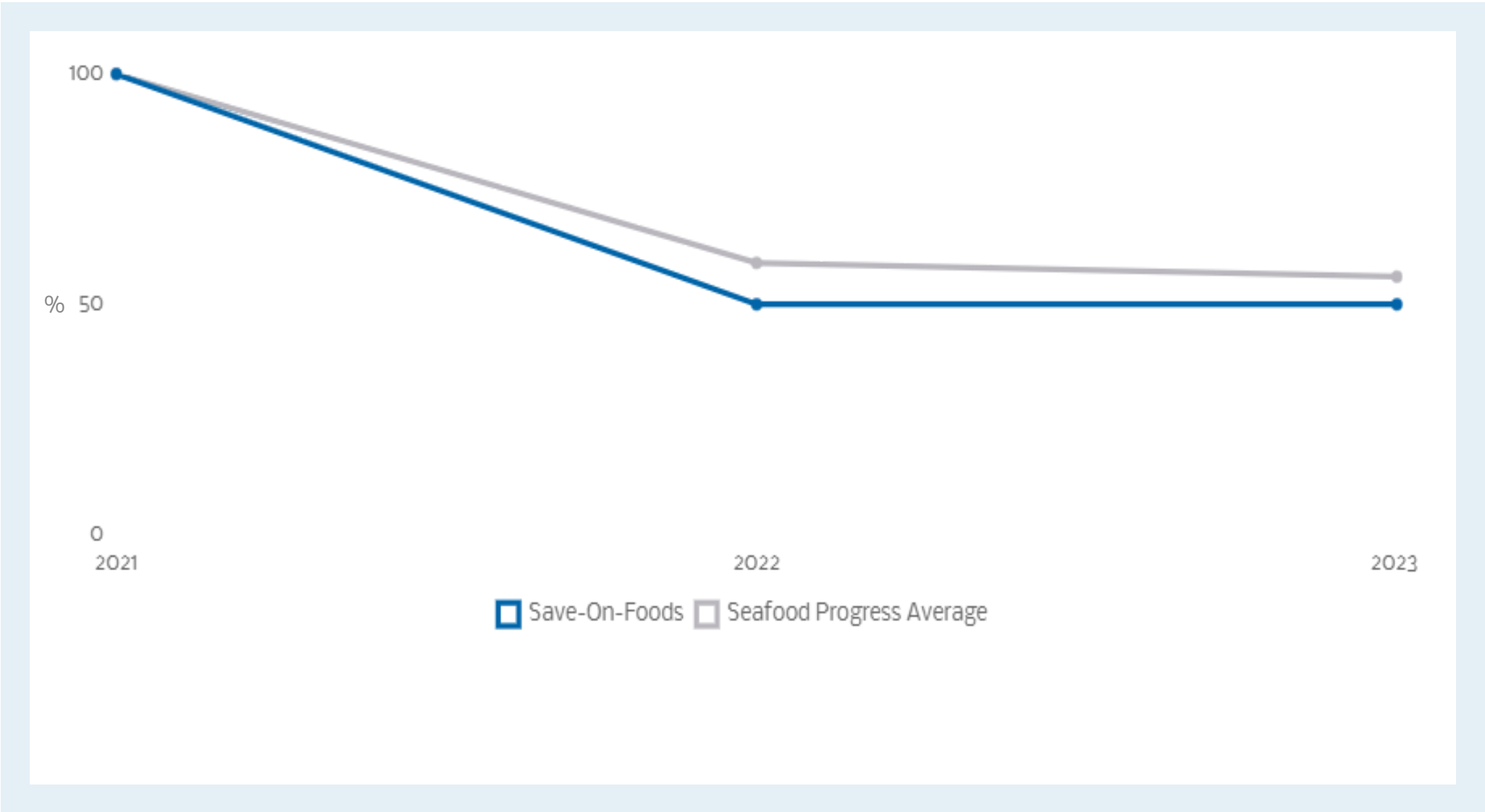
Scoring

- 100% Collects data for all products included in the grocer’s commitment.
- 50% Collects data for some products included in the grocer’s commitment.
- 0% Does not collect data (or no information available).

STEP 3: SOURCING



3.1 The grocer publishes a clear hierarchy demonstrating its sourcing priorities.

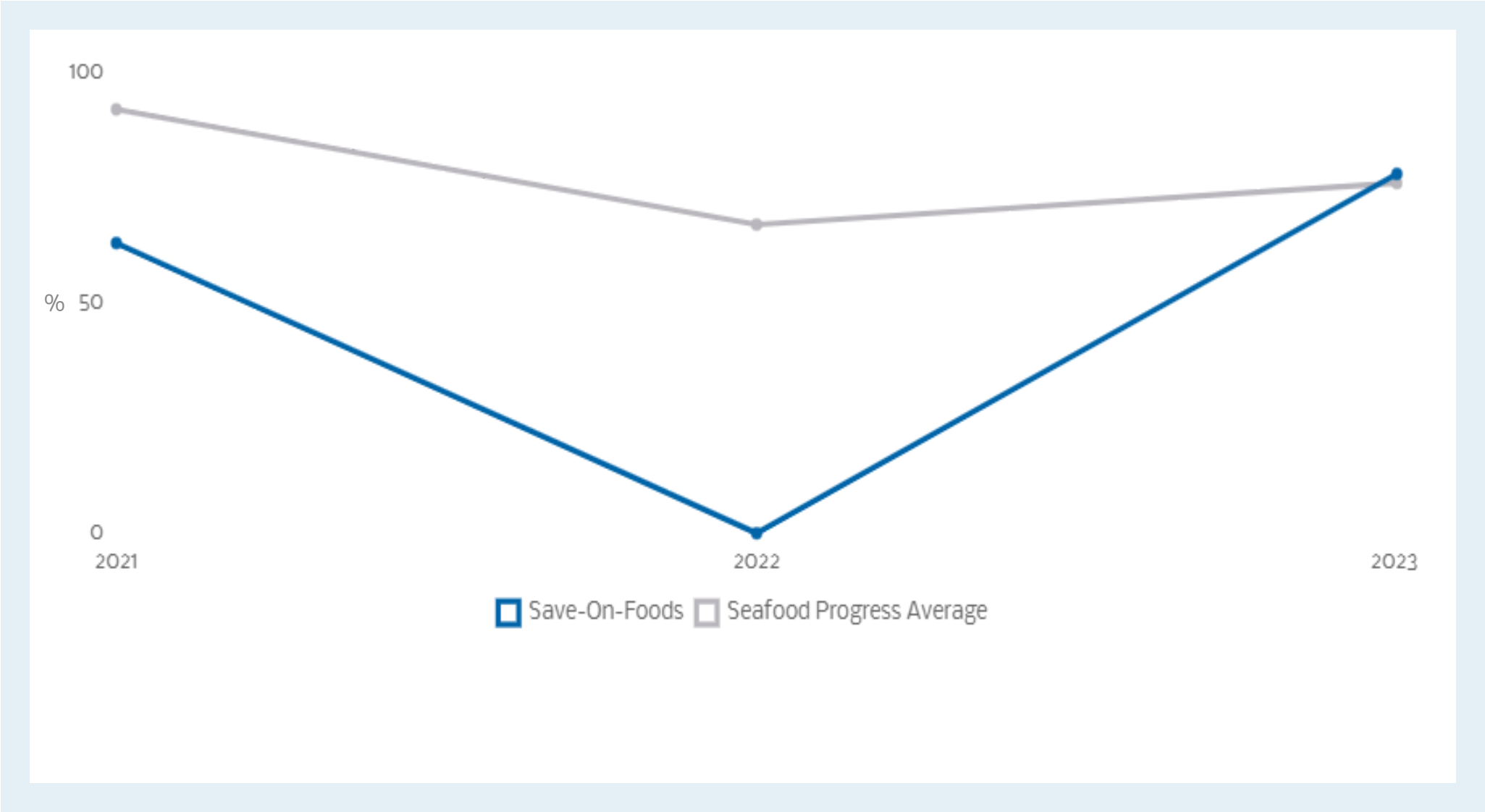


Save-On-Foods publishes the sustainability standard that it uses to inform its purchasing decisions for fresh and frozen products but not for shelf stable products.

Scoring

- 100% Publishes a clear hierarchy of sustainability standards demonstrating its sourcing priorities for all products it sells.
- 75% Publishes a clear hierarchy of sustainability standards used for sourcing some products, and identifies a general list of sustainability standards that it uses to inform its purchasing decisions for other products.
- 50% Publishes a clear hierarchy of sustainability standards used for sourcing some products, but doesn't identify the standards it uses to inform its purchasing decisions for other products.
- 25% Publishes a general list of sustainability standards that it uses to inform its purchasing decisions.
- 0% Does not publish the sustainability standards that it uses to inform its purchasing decisions.

3.2 The grocer has reported on the percentage of its seafood sold in the last year that met its sustainability commitment by volume or value.

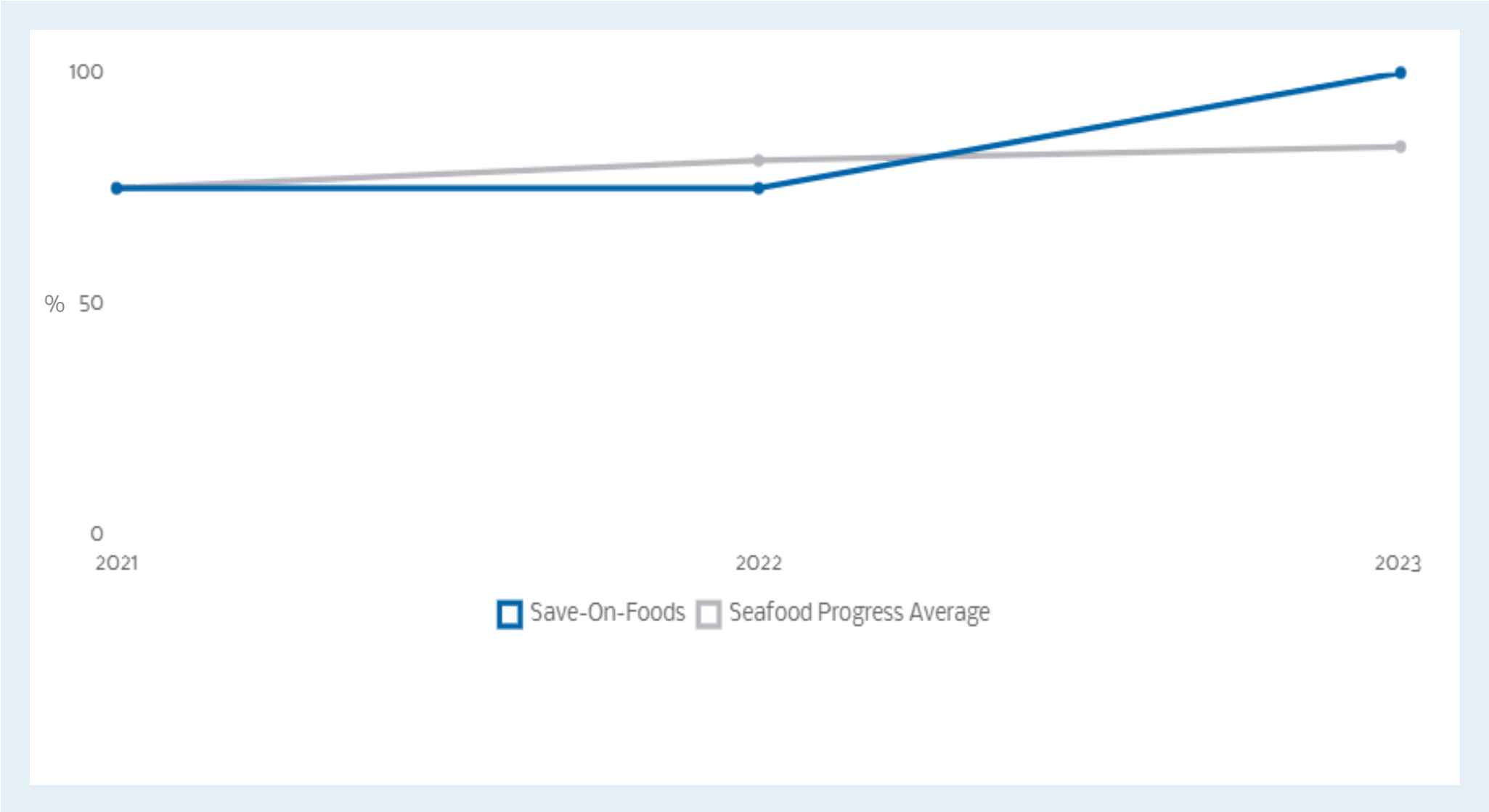


Ocean Wise reported to SeaChoice that 78% of Save-On-Foods’ fresh and frozen seafood by volume was in line with their commitment in 2022 (personal communication, R. Ballard, 20/04/2023).

Scoring

- 100% Grocer has reported that 100% of its seafood sold meets its sustainability commitment.
- 75% Grocer has reported that 75% or more of its seafood sold meets its sustainability commitment.
- 50% Grocer has reported that 50% or more of its seafood sold meets its sustainability commitment.
- 25% Grocer has reported that 25% or more of its seafood sold meets its sustainability commitment.
- 0% The grocer has not reported on the percentage of seafood sold that met its sustainability commitment (or no information available).

3.3 Suppliers are required to agree in writing to uphold the grocer's commitment to sustainable seafood.

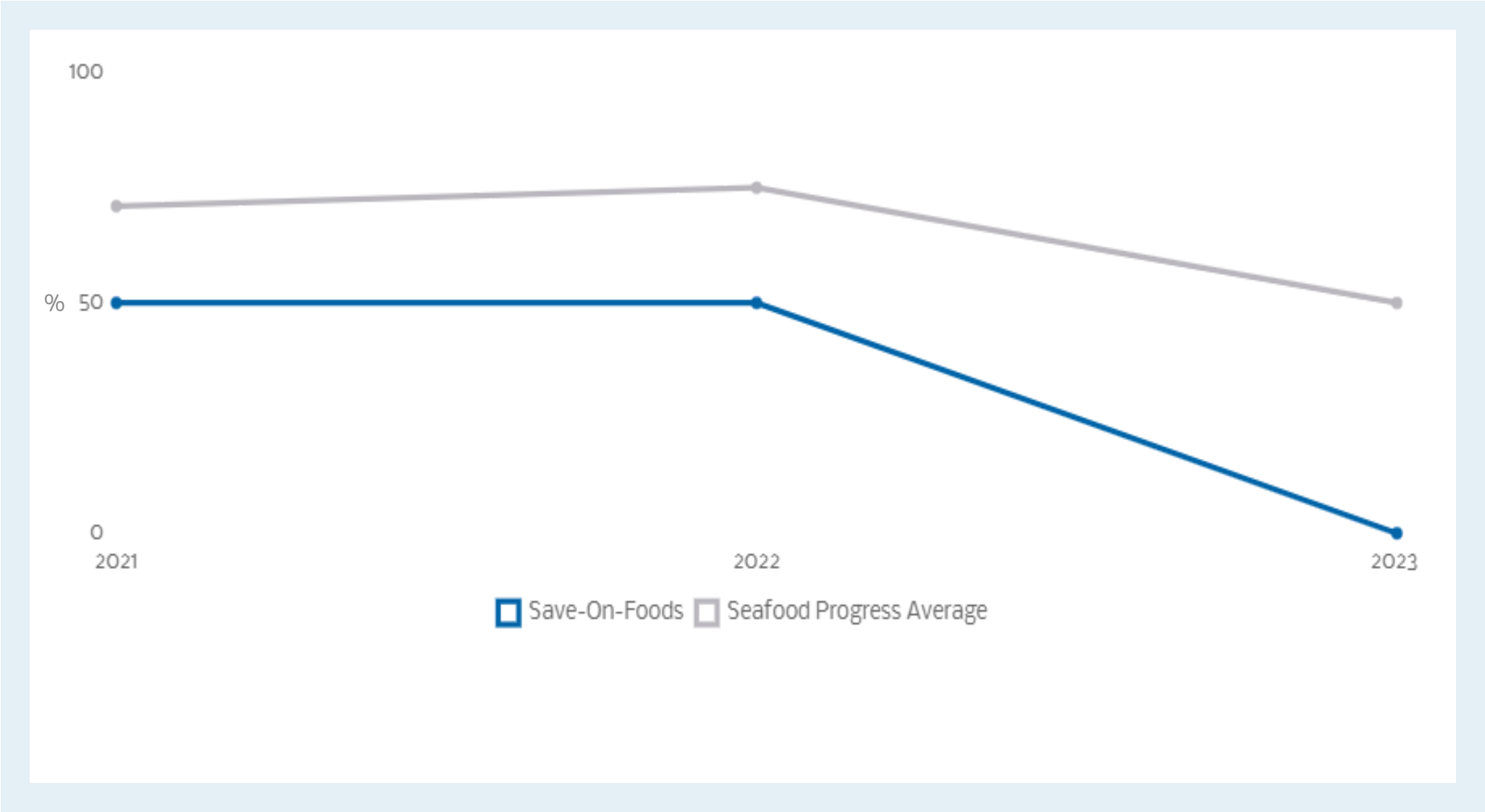


All of Save-On-Foods' seafood suppliers' contracts include requirements that are in keeping with its commitment to sourcing a high proportion of Ocean Wise Recommended fresh and frozen seafood. Save-On reported to SeaChoice that it is working with Ocean Wise to conduct a traceability spot check on a randomly selected number of seafood products to verify compliance against Save-On's commitment (personal communication, J. Dickson, 09/02/2023).

Scoring

- 100% All suppliers are required to agree in writing to uphold all of the terms of the grocer's environmental sustainability commitment and the grocer actively verifies that this commitment is being upheld on at least an annual basis.
- 75% All suppliers are required to agree in writing to uphold all of the terms of the grocer's environmental sustainability commitment on at least an annual basis.
- 50% All suppliers are required to agree in writing to uphold some of the terms of the grocer's environmental sustainability commitment.
- 25% Some suppliers are required to agree in writing to uphold some of the terms of the grocer's environmental sustainability commitment.
- 0% Suppliers are not required to agree in writing to uphold the terms of the grocer's commitment.

3.4 Suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct to uphold the grocer's commitment to socially responsible seafood.



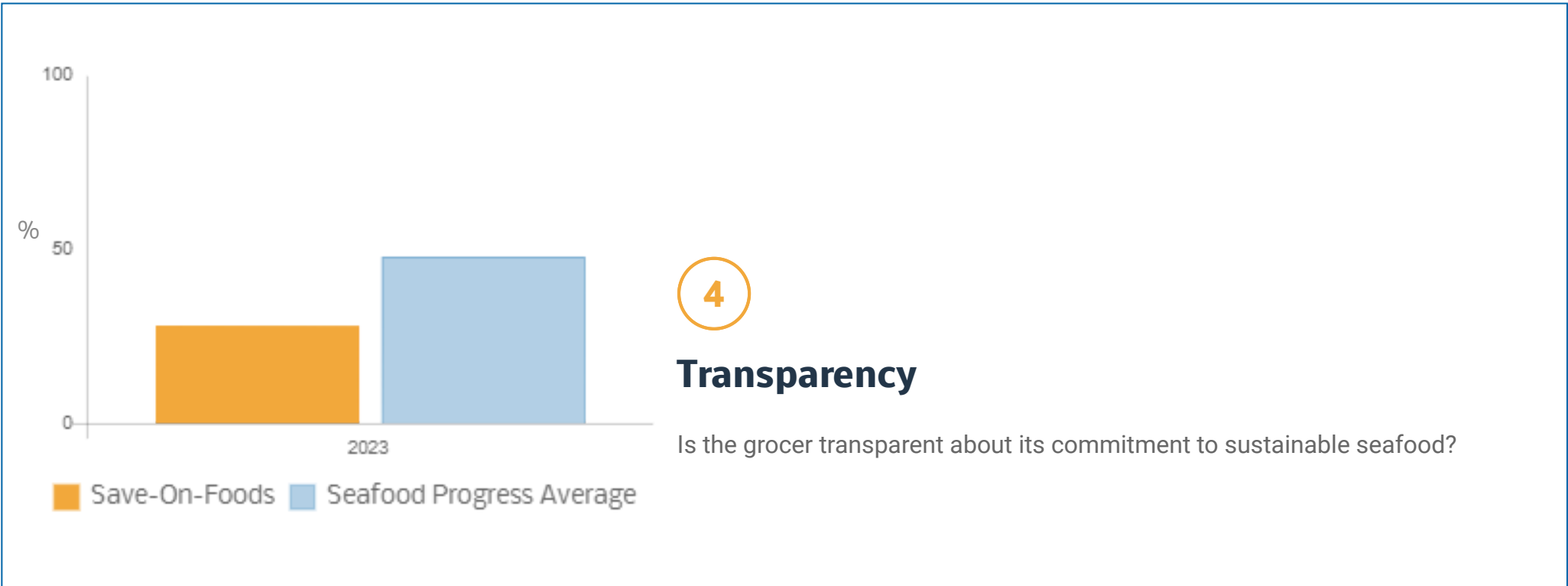
Save-On does not have a supplier code of conduct (personal communication, J. Dickson, 09/02/2023).

Scoring

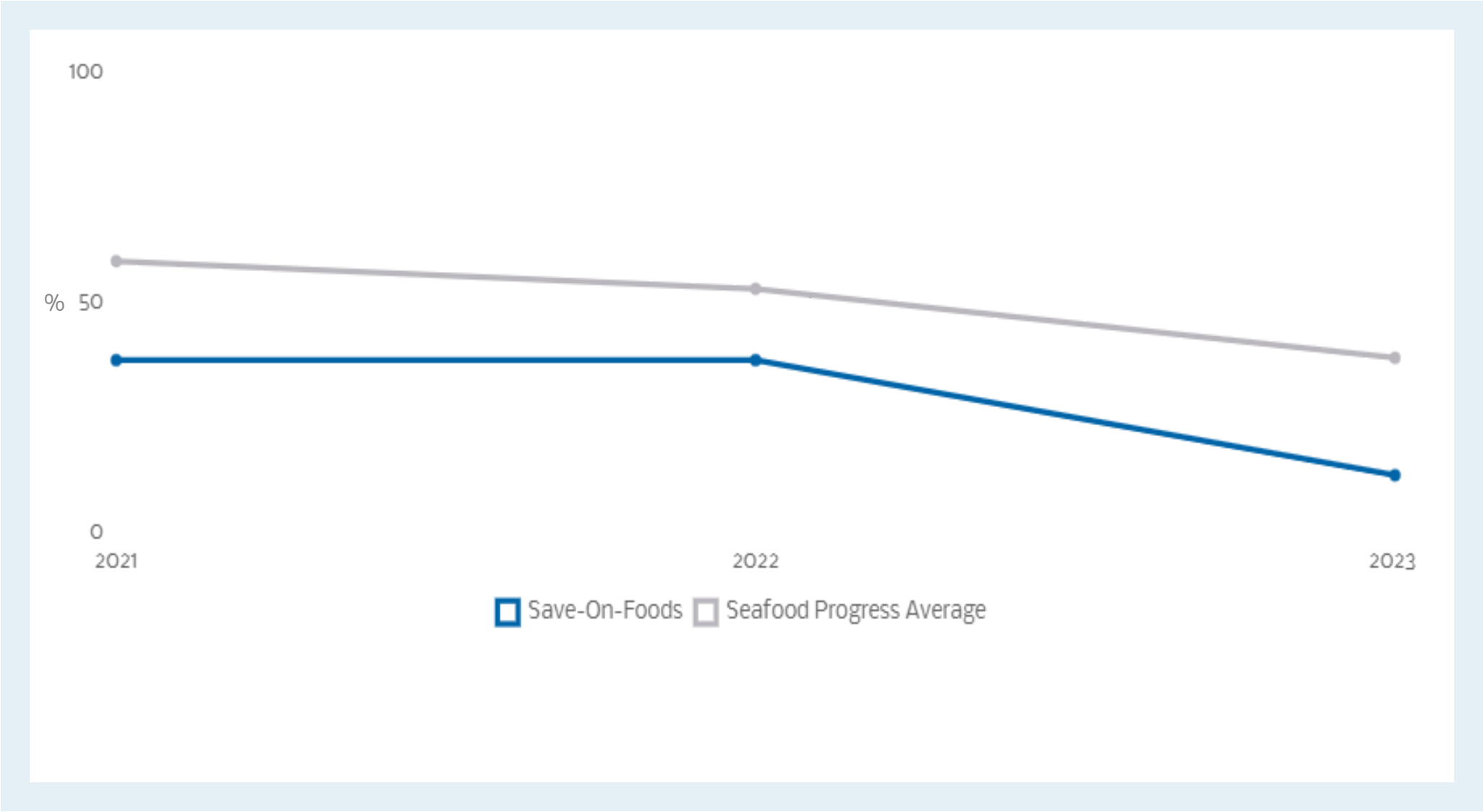


- 100% All suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct that covers all of the grocer’s social responsibility commitment and the grocer actively verifies that this commitment is being upheld by suppliers of high risk products.
- 50% All suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct that covers all of the grocer’s social responsibility commitment on at least an annual basis.
- 0% Suppliers are not required to sign a code of conduct (or no information).

STEP 4: TRANSPARENCY



4.1 The grocer labels products with the information that allows consumers to make informed decisions.



SeaChoice found evidence that some of Save-On’s products are labelled as wild or farmed, but no products are labelled with scientific name, geographic origin or harvest method.

Scoring

100%

The grocer labels all products with the information.

75%

The grocer labels most products with the information.

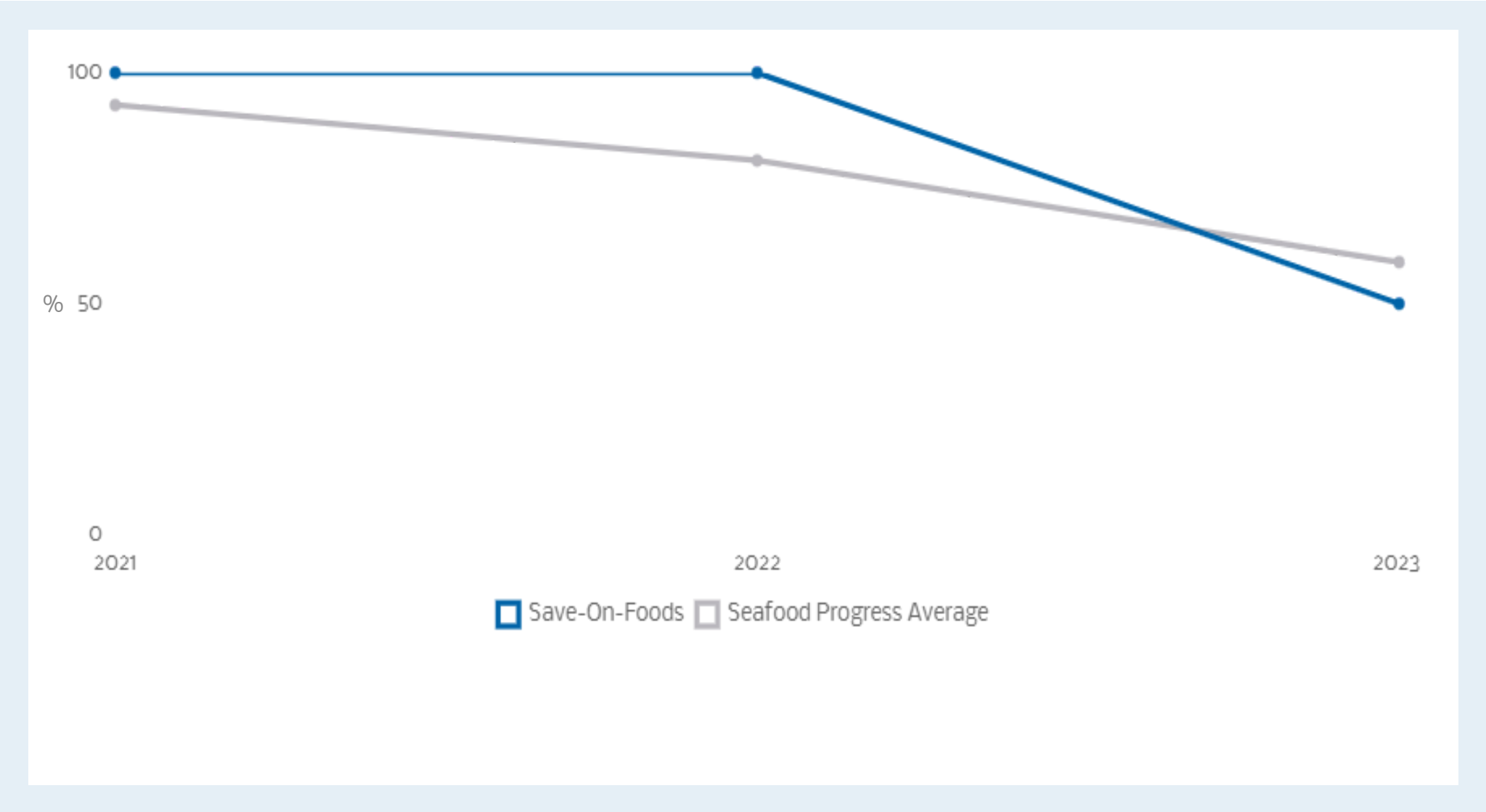
50%

The grocer labels some products with the information.

0%

The grocer does not label products with the information (or no information available).

4.2 The grocer follows best practice guidelines for making environmental claims on its products.



Save-On applies the Ocean Wise endorsement claim to applicable products but does not make evidence available to back up either claim publicly available (personal communication, J. Dickson, 09/02/2023).

Scoring

100% The grocer only uses credible certification claims on product labels and includes a chain-of-custody identifier with publicly available evidence to back up its claim(s).

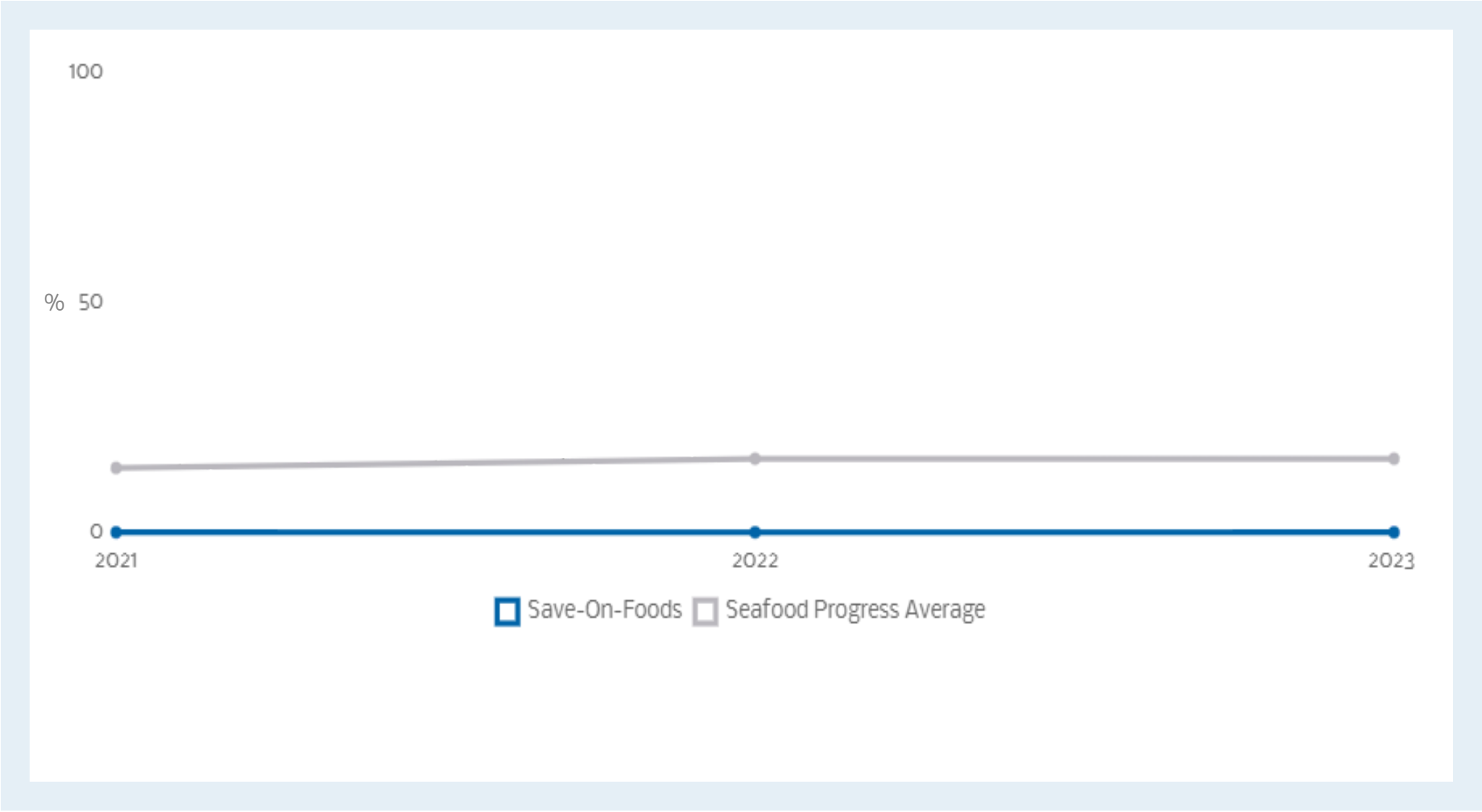
75% The grocer uses certification claims as well as endorsement claims and/or self-declared claims that 1) adhere to ISO 14021 Type II guidance and proof of third-party verification on product labels and 2) makes evidence to back up its claim(s) publicly available.

50% The grocer uses endorsement claims on product labels but does not make the evidence to back up its claim(s) publicly available - - OR - - The grocer uses self-declared claims on product labels that adhere to ISO 14021 Type II guidance and makes evidence to back up the claim(s) publicly available.

25% The grocer uses self-declared claims on product labels and makes evidence to back up the claim(s) publicly available.

0% The grocer uses self-declared claims on product labels and does not make evidence to back up its claim(s) publicly available.

4.3 Key information regarding the grocer's products has been made publicly available.

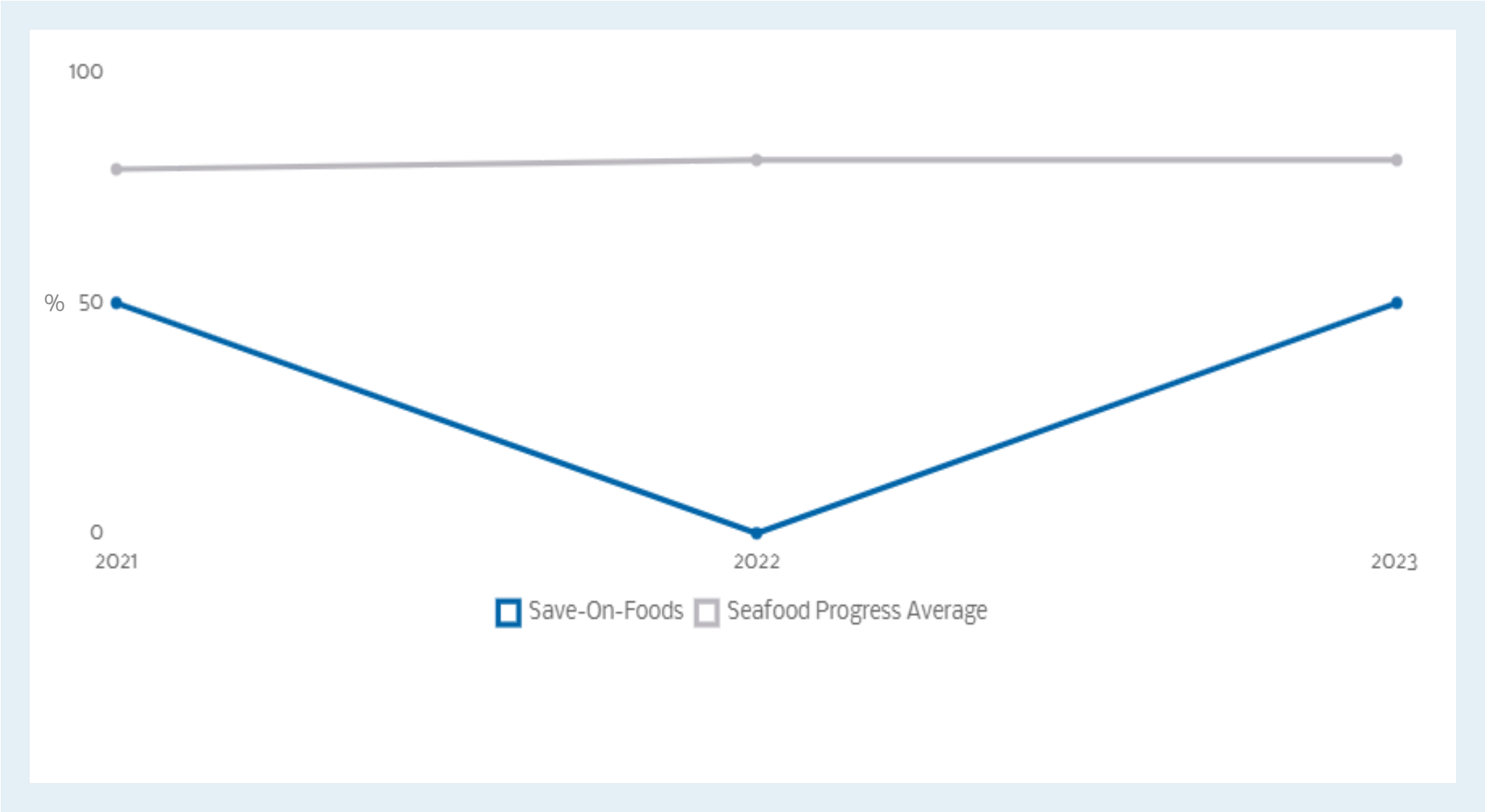


Save-On-Foods does not publish this information (personal communication, J. Dickson, 09/02/2023).

Scoring

- 100% Scientific name, geographic origin, gear type AND farming method has been made publicly available for all products.
- 75% Scientific name, geographic origin, gear type OR farming method has been made publicly available for all products.
- 50% Scientific name, geographic origin, gear type or farming method has been made publicly available for some products.
- 0% No information has been made publicly available.

4.4 The grocer reports how much of its seafood meets its sustainability criteria by volume or value of sales on an annual basis.



For the first time since 2020, Save-On reported to SeaChoice on the volume of products that met its commitment in 2022.

Scoring

100%

The grocer regularly reports publicly how much of its seafood sold meets its commitment by volume or value of sales every year.

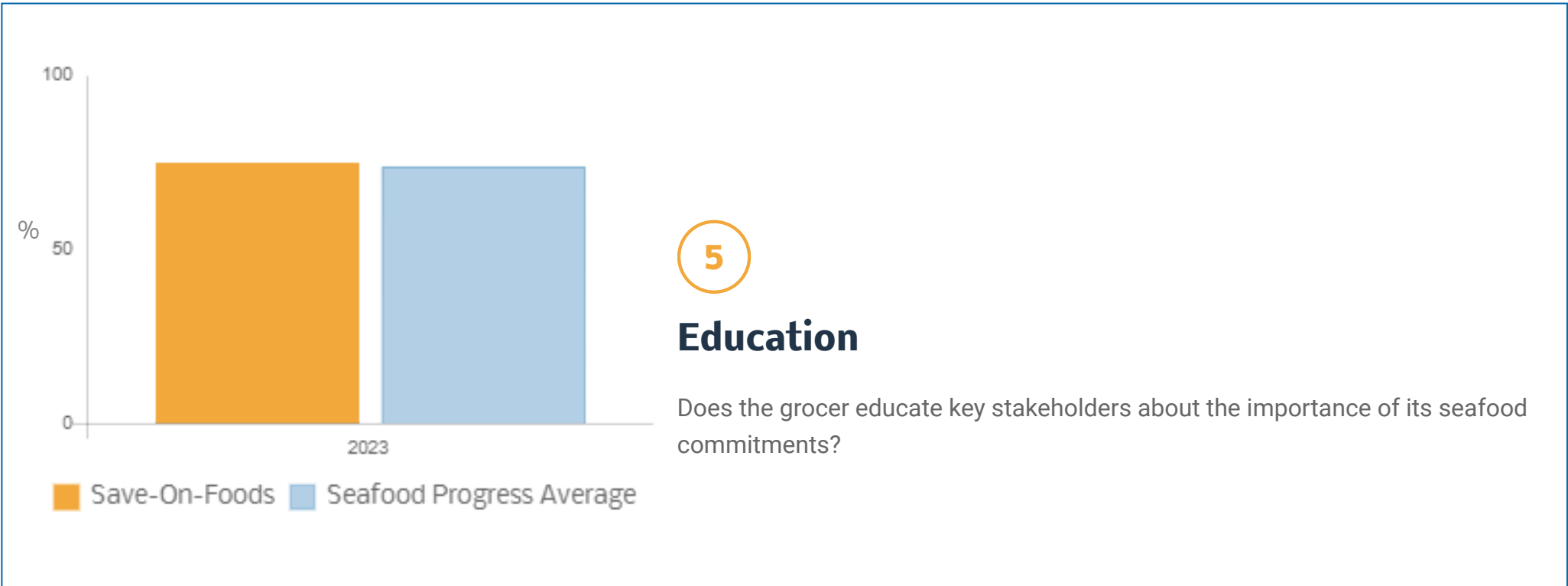
50%

The grocer has at one point reported publicly how much of its seafood sold meets its commitment.

0%

No public information on how the grocer is doing to meet its commitment.

STEP 5: EDUCATION



5.1 Training programs are conducted for seafood staff.

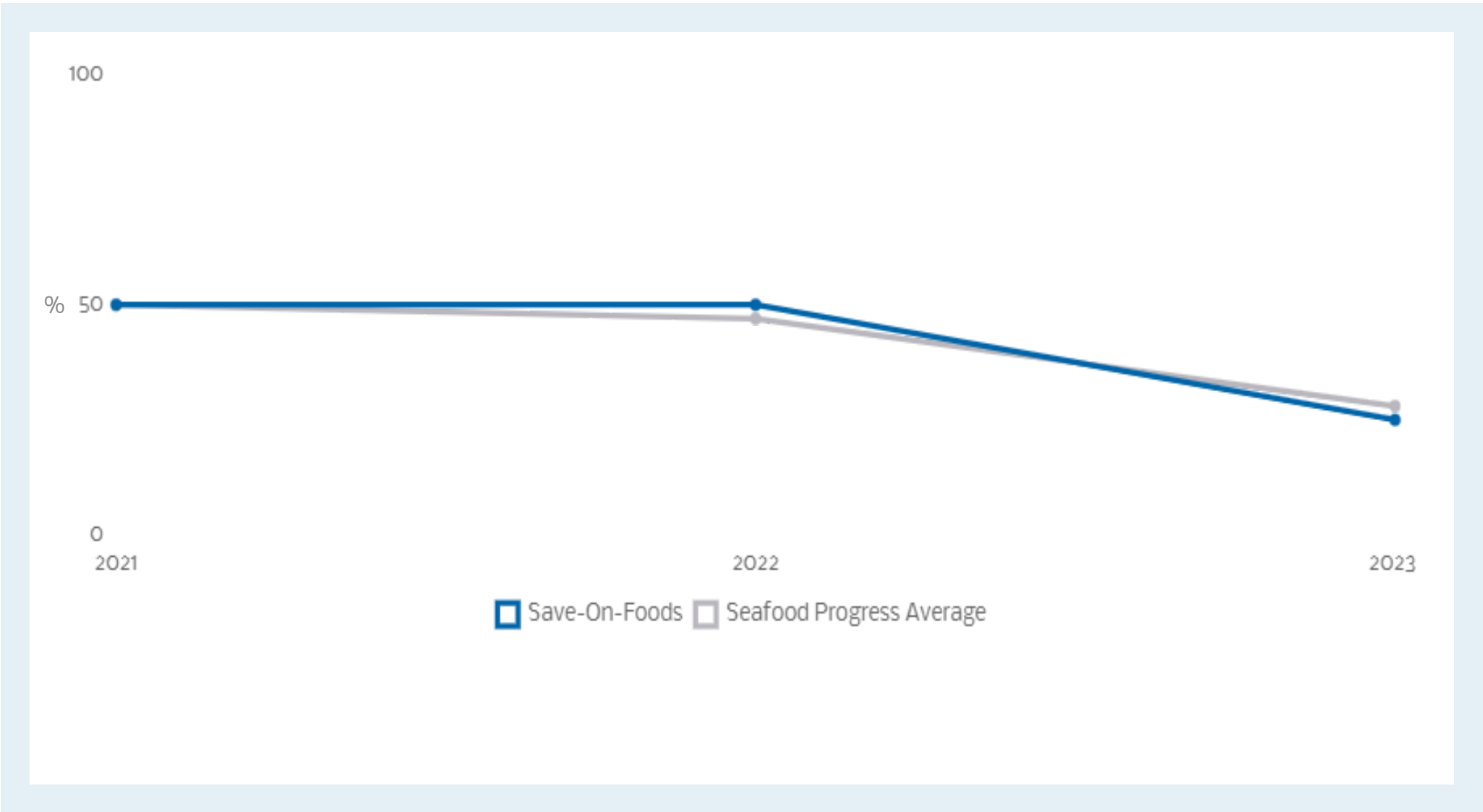


Save-On-Foods has a mandatory training course for all staff working with seafood. Staff must score at least 85% on the training module to work at Save-On’s seafood counter. Staff are also sent updated information on Save-On’s seafood sustainability policy regularly (personal communication, J. Dickson, 09/02/2023).

Scoring

- 100% Training programs regularly conducted for all seafood staff.
- 75% Training programs conducted for all seafood staff, but only once.
- 50% Training programs sometimes conducted or for only some seafood staff.
- 0% Training programs not conducted for seafood staff (or no information available).

5.2 There is a description of the grocer's seafood commitments in store.

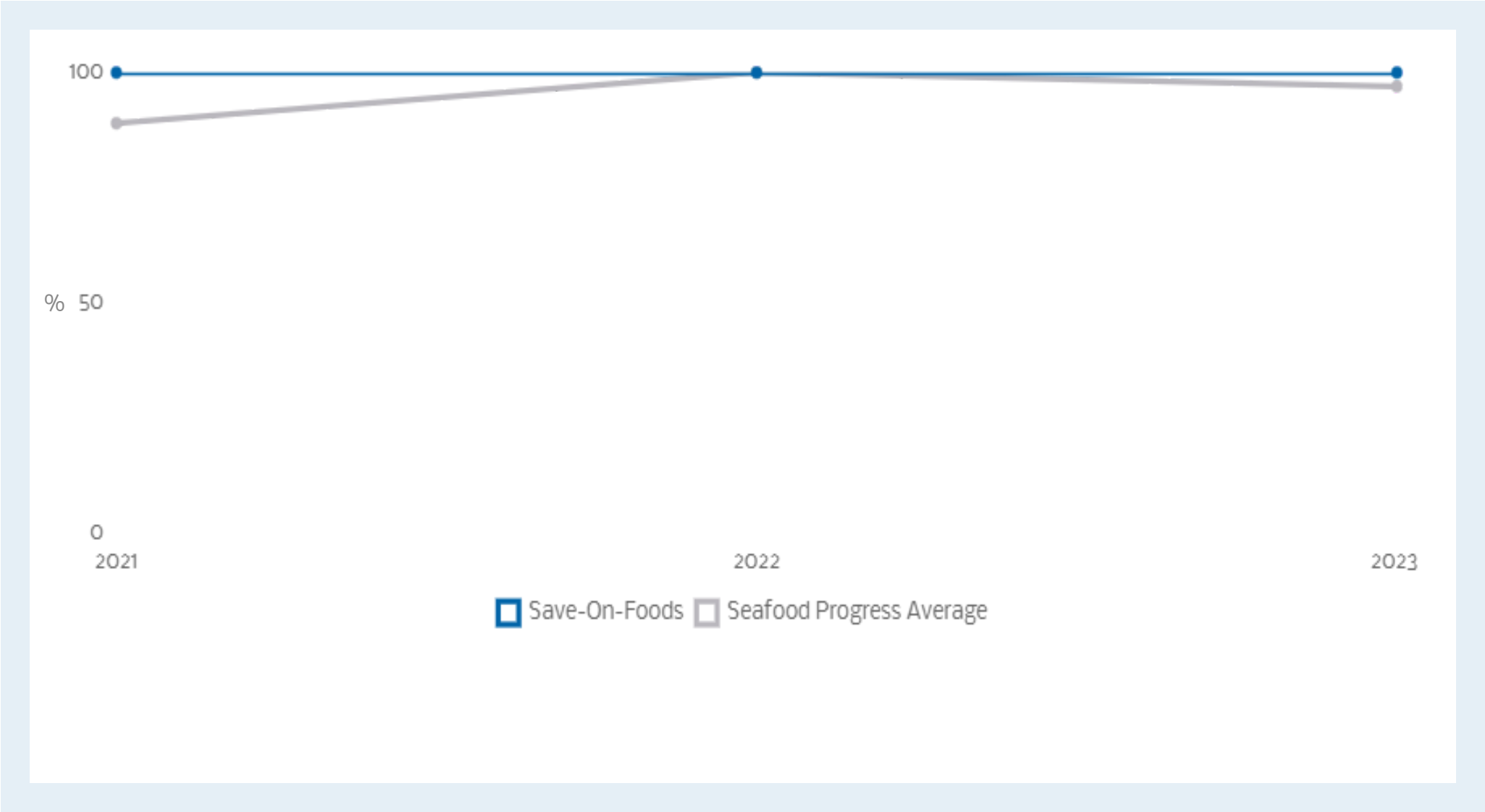


There is at least a general description of Save-On's commitment to sustainable seafood and information on the Ocean Wise Seafood Program in all stores, and some stores have more detailed information posted about Save-On's sustainable seafood commitment and goals. There is no description of Save-On's commitment to social responsibility in store (personal communication, S. Heasman, 22/03/2022).

Scoring

- 100% There is a comprehensive description of the grocer's commitments to sustainability AND socially responsibility in store.
- 75% There is a comprehensive description of the grocer's commitments to sustainability OR social responsibility in store.
- 50% There is some description of the grocer's commitment to sustainability AND social responsibility in store.
- 25% There is some description of the grocer's commitment to sustainability OR social responsibility in store.
- 0% There is no description of the grocer's commitments in store.

5.3 The grocer has taken actions to ensure its suppliers are aware of its sustainable seafood commitment.

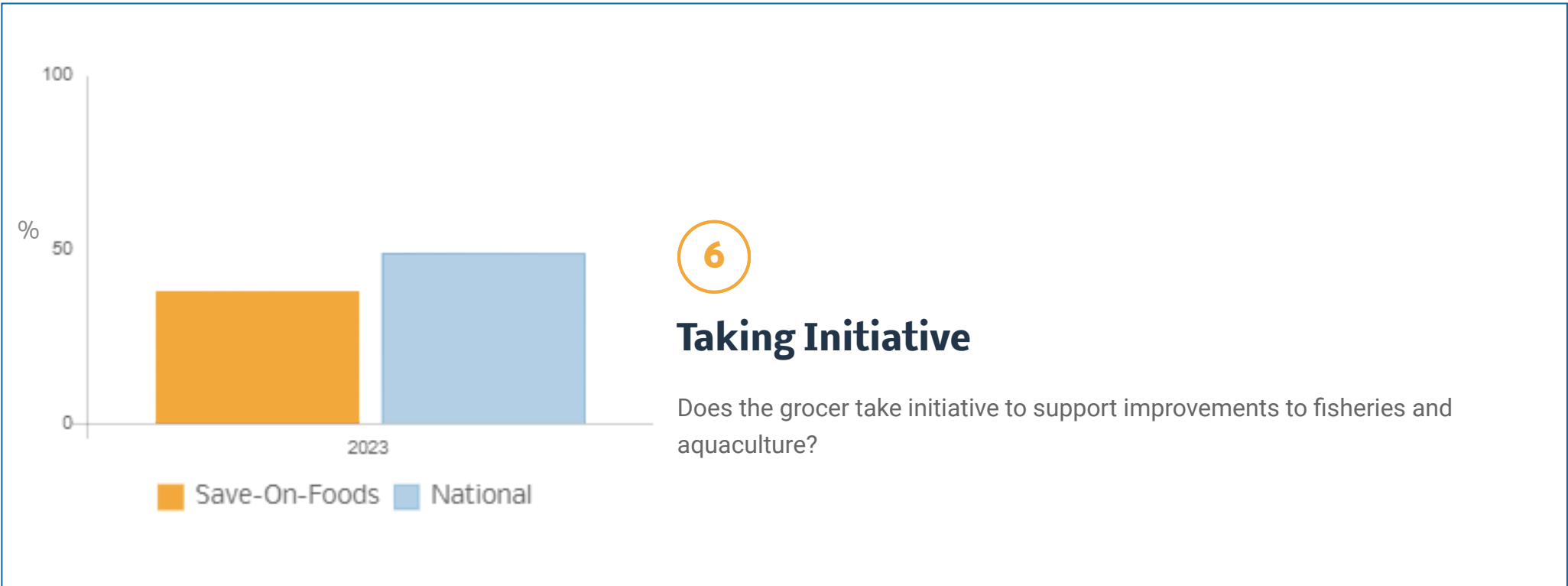


Save-On-Foods regularly engages with its seafood suppliers to ensure they understand its sustainable seafood commitment. The company also provides suppliers with direct support, or connects them with Ocean Wise to ensure that the products they supply are in line with its commitment (personal communication, J. Dickson, 09/02/2023).

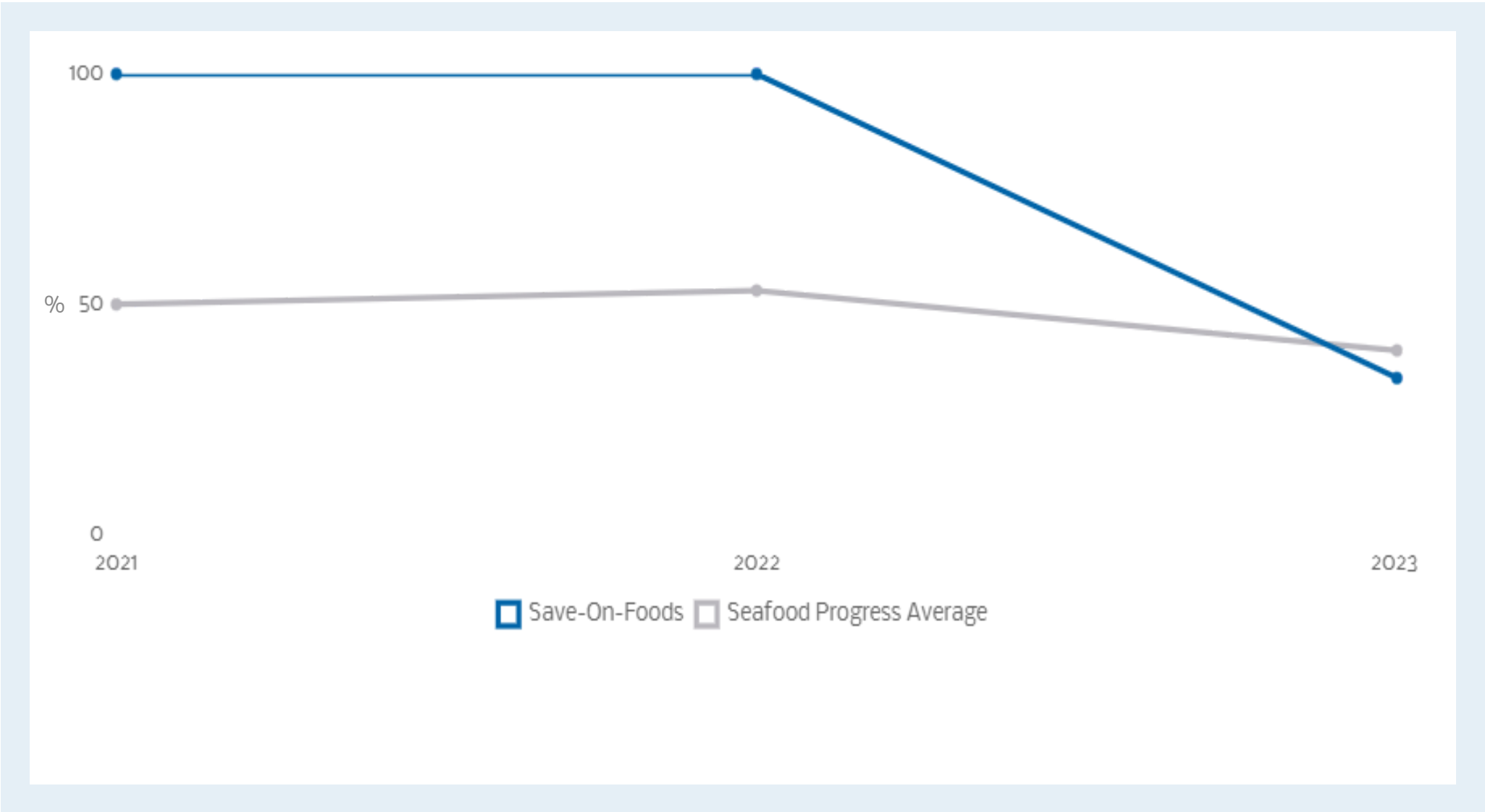
Scoring

- 100% The grocer shares its sustainable seafood commitment and any updates made to its commitment, has a clear strategy to engage with its suppliers and provides direct support (e.g. training, resources) to help ensure all seafood products are procured in line with its policies.
- 75% The grocer shares its sustainable seafood commitment and any updates made to its commitment and regularly engages with its suppliers to help ensure the products they supply meet its expectations.
- 50% The grocer shares its sustainable seafood commitment and any updates made to its commitment and sometimes engages with its suppliers to help ensure the products they supply meet its expectations.
- 25% The grocer sends its suppliers a copy of its sustainable seafood commitment.
- 0% The grocer has taken no actions OR no information is available.

STEP 6: TAKING INITIATIVE



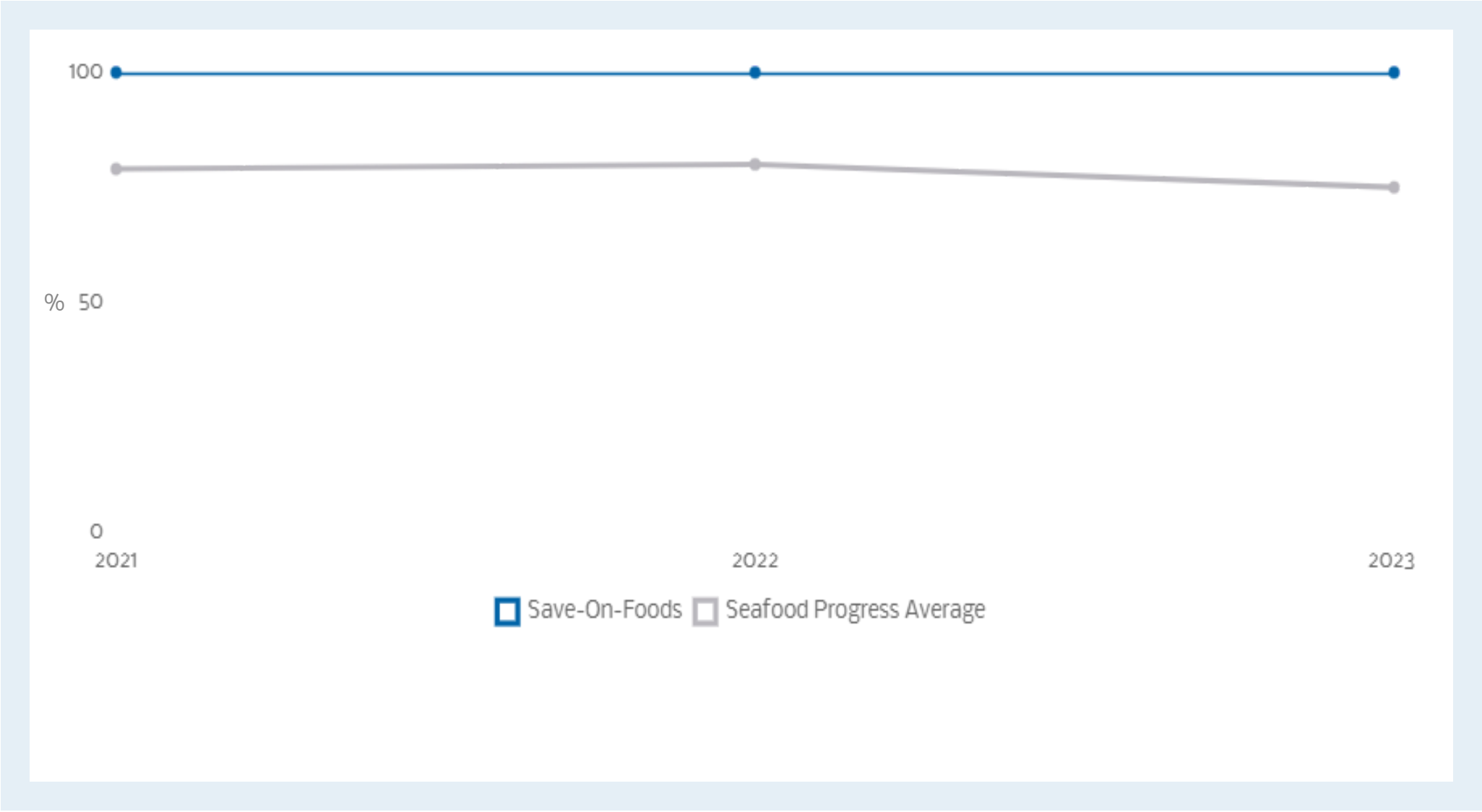
6.1 Farmed Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar)



Save-On does not and will not sell any genetically engineered or modified farmed Atlantic salmon. Additionally, following SeaChoice’s guidance, the company submitted feedback on ASC’s Farm Standard review in April 2022 (personal communications, J. Dickson, 09/02/2023).

- ✗ Only sells farmed salmon products that meet the highest bars for sustainability, i.e. are produced in a closed containment facility, Recommended by Ocean Wise and/or rated Best Choice by Seafood Watch (100 pts).
- ✓ Conducts outreach to policymakers and/or certifying bodies to advocate for salmon farming management to be more environmentally sustainable (17 pts).
- ✗ Promotes farmed salmon products from closed containment producers through marketing efforts and/or distinguishes these products from open-net pen products at points of sale (17 pts).
- ✗ Works with suppliers or producers directly to improve salmon farming practices and/or to support their transition from open-net systems to closed containment systems (17 pts).
- ✗ Refrains from advertising versions of this product that are Not Recommended by Ocean Wise and/or rated Avoid by Seafood Watch (17 pts).
- ✗ Preferentially procures farmed salmon from closed containment producers and/or sources that are Recommended by Ocean Wise or rated Best Choice by Seafood Watch (17 pts).
- ✓ Does not sell genetically engineered (GE) or genetically modified (GM) farmed salmon (17 pts).

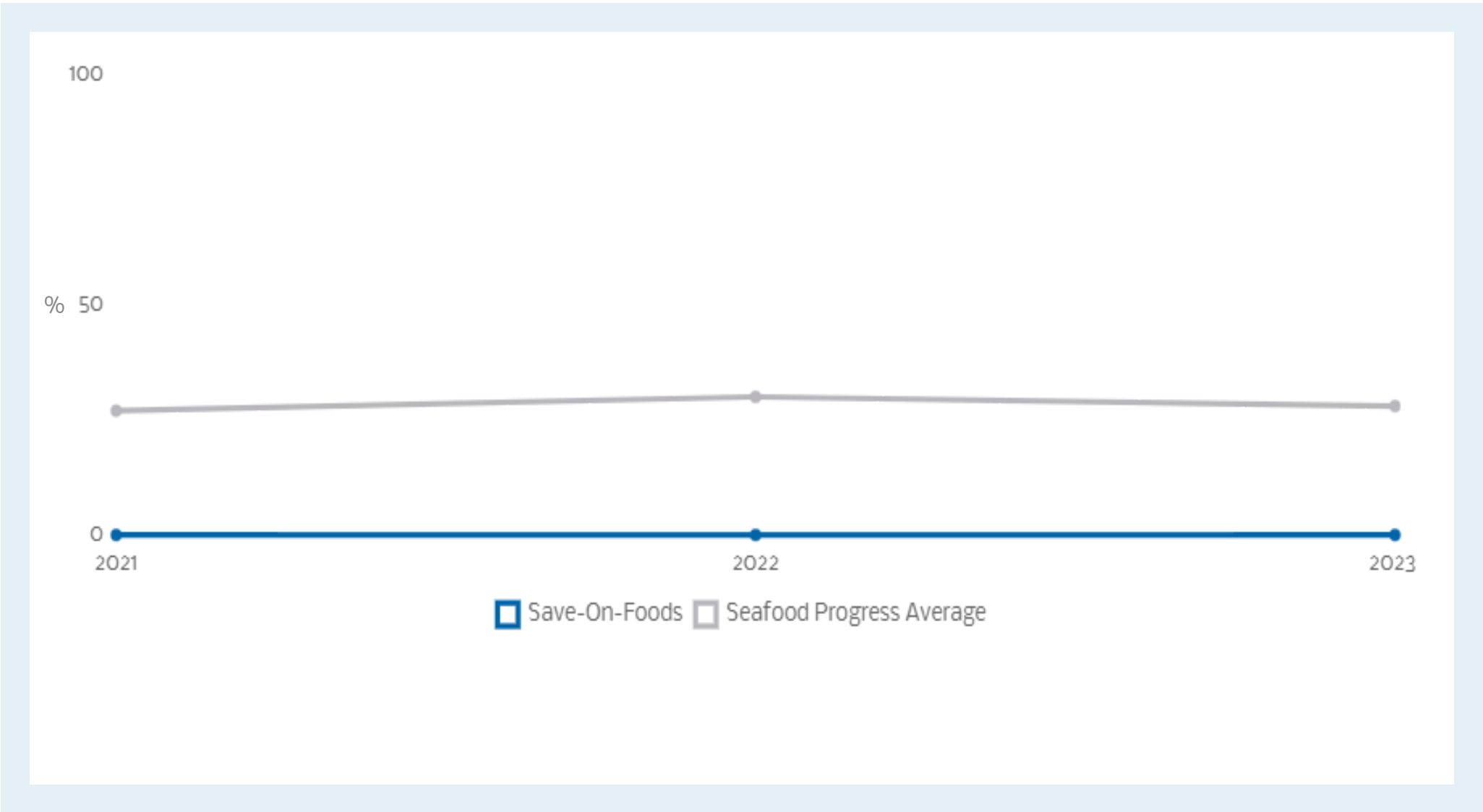
6.2 Farmed shrimp and prawns (Multiple spp).



Save-On is committed to only selling Ocean Wise Recommended versions of farmed shrimp products (personal communication, J. Dickson, 09/02/2023).

- ✓ Only sells farmed shrimp and prawn products that meet the highest bars for sustainability, i.e. are certified by ASC, BAP 2 star plus, Recommended by Ocean Wise and/or rated Best Choice by Seafood Watch (100 pts).
- ✗ Conducts outreach to policymakers and/or certifying bodies to advocate for shrimp and prawn farming management to be more environmentally sustainable (17 pts).
- ✗ Collaborates with other companies pre-competitively to improve shrimp and prawn farming practices (17 pts).
- ✗ Works with suppliers or producers directly to improve shrimp and prawn farming practices (17 pts).
- ✗ Refrains from advertising versions of this product that are not ASC or BAP 2 star plus certified, Not Recommended by Ocean Wise and/or rated Avoid by Seafood Watch
- ✗ Preferentially procures shrimp and prawns from sources that are ASC or BAP 2 star plus certified, Recommended by Ocean Wise or Best Choice by Seafood Watch (17 pts).
- ✗ Prioritizes sourcing from suppliers committed to full chain traceability and/or making social responsibility improvements (17 pts).

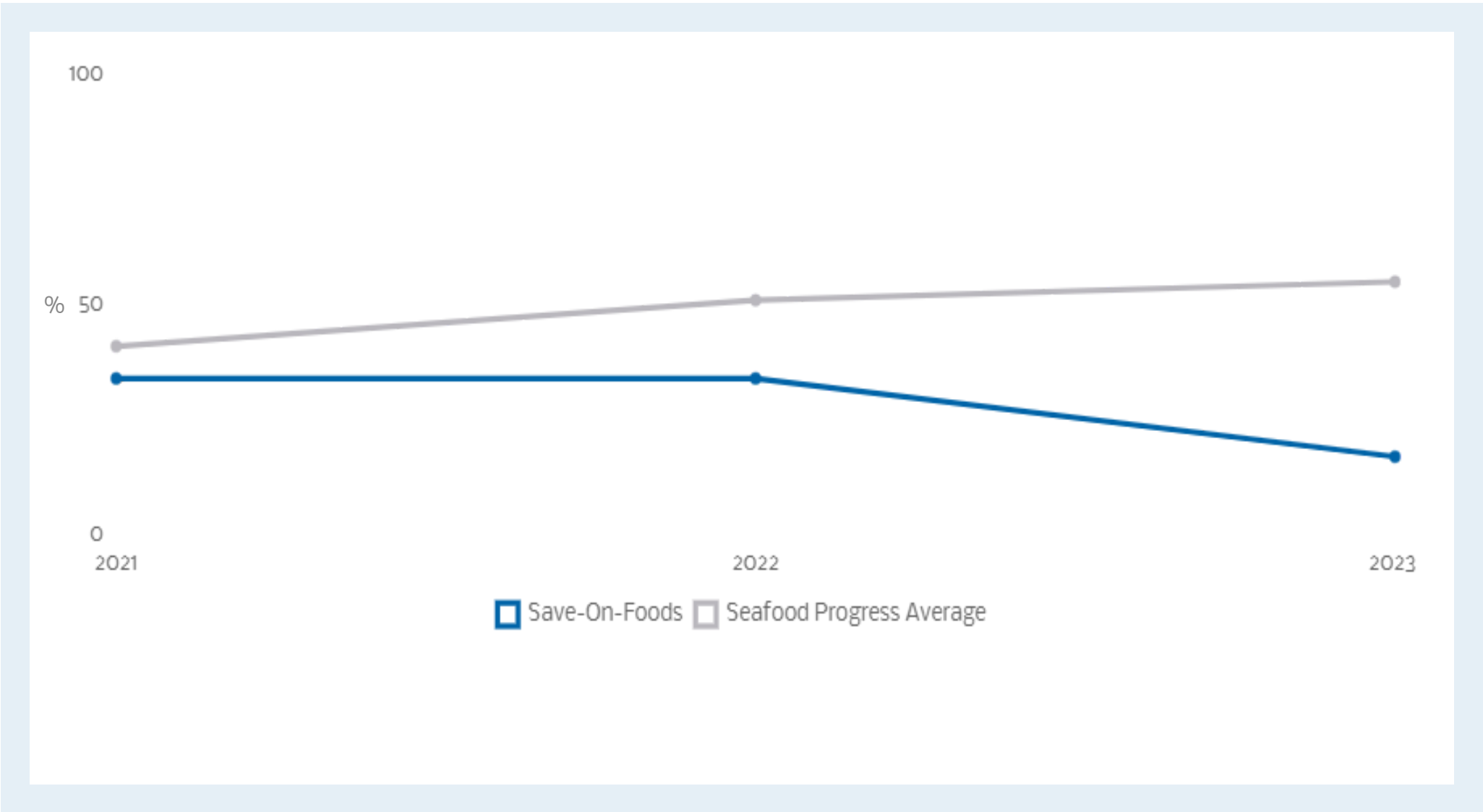
6.3 Skipjack tuna (Katsuwonus pelamis)



Save-On has not taken any actions to support improvements to skipjack tuna management in the last year (personal communications, J. Dickson, 09/02/2023).

- ✗ Only sells pole and line caught skipjack tuna products that meet the highest bars for sustainability, i.e. are MSC certified, Recommended by Ocean Wise and/or rated Best Choice by Seafood Watch (100 pts).
- ✗ Conducts outreach to policymakers and/or certifying bodies to advocate for skipjack fishing methods and management to be more environmentally sustainable (17 pts).
- ✗ Collaborates with other companies pre-competitively to improve skipjack fishery management practices (17 pts).
- ✗ Works with suppliers or producers directly to improve skipjack fishing practices (17 pts).
- ✗ Only advertises pole and line caught skipjack tuna products that meet the highest bars for sustainability, i.e. are MSC certified, Recommended by Ocean Wise and/or rated Best Choice by Seafood Watch (17 pts).
- ✗ Preferentially sources pole and line caught skipjack tuna products that meet the highest bars for sustainability, i.e. are MSC certified, Recommended by Ocean Wise and/or rated Best Choice by Seafood Watch (17 pts).
- ✗ Prioritizes sourcing from suppliers committed to full chain traceability and/or making social responsibility improvements (17 pts).

6.4 Other species



Save-On preferentially sources Ocean Wise Recommended versions of its Western Family brand frozen rockfish products (personal communications, J. Dickson, 09/02/2023).

- ✗ Only sells versions of a certain species that meet the highest bars for sustainability, i.e. are certified by MSC/ASC, Recommended by Ocean Wise and/or rated Best Choice by Seafood Watch (100 pts).
- ✗ Conducts outreach to policymakers and/or certifying bodies to advocate for harvest or farming method and management to be more environmentally sustainable (17 pts).
- ✗ Collaborates with other companies pre-competitively to improve fishing or aquaculture practices (17 pts).
- ✗ Works with suppliers or producers directly to improve fishing or farming practices (17 pts).
- ✗ Refrains from advertising versions of a certain species that are not MSC/ASC certified, Not Recommended by Ocean Wise and/or rated Avoid by Seafood Watch (17 pts).
- ✓ Preferentially sources from more sustainable sources that are MSC/ASC certified, Recommended by Ocean Wise or Best Choice by Seafood Watch (17 pts).
- ✗ Prioritizes sourcing from suppliers committed to full chain traceability and/or making social responsibility improvements (17 pts).