

Seafood Progress

Grocery Stores' Commitment to Sustainable and Socially Responsible Seafood

76

2022 score

Seafood Progress Average ?
: 71

↑ Score Trend
Increased Since Last Year

Parent Company
Pattison Food Group

NGO Partner(s)
Ocean Wise



[Stores owned by Buy-Low Foods](#)



Sustainable Commitment
click here



Progress Reports
2021,2020,2019,2018



Location
British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan

OVERVIEW

Commitment to Sustainable Seafood

Which product types does this grocery store's sustainable seafood commitment cover?

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

SUMMARY



100%

of products sold in 2021 met commitment.

Sustainability Commitment. Buy-Low Foods is committed to procuring all its private label and national brand fresh and frozen seafood products from sources that are (in priority order): 1) Ocean Wise recommended, 2) Rated a “Good Alternative” or “Best Choice” by Seafood Watch, or 3) From fisheries and farms that are engaged in credible improvement projects. Buy-Low is also committed to not selling any farmed salmon. Buy-Low does not currently have a full chain traceability policy in place to support its commitment.

Clear Objectives



Supplier Expectations



Traceability Policy



Reporting on Activities

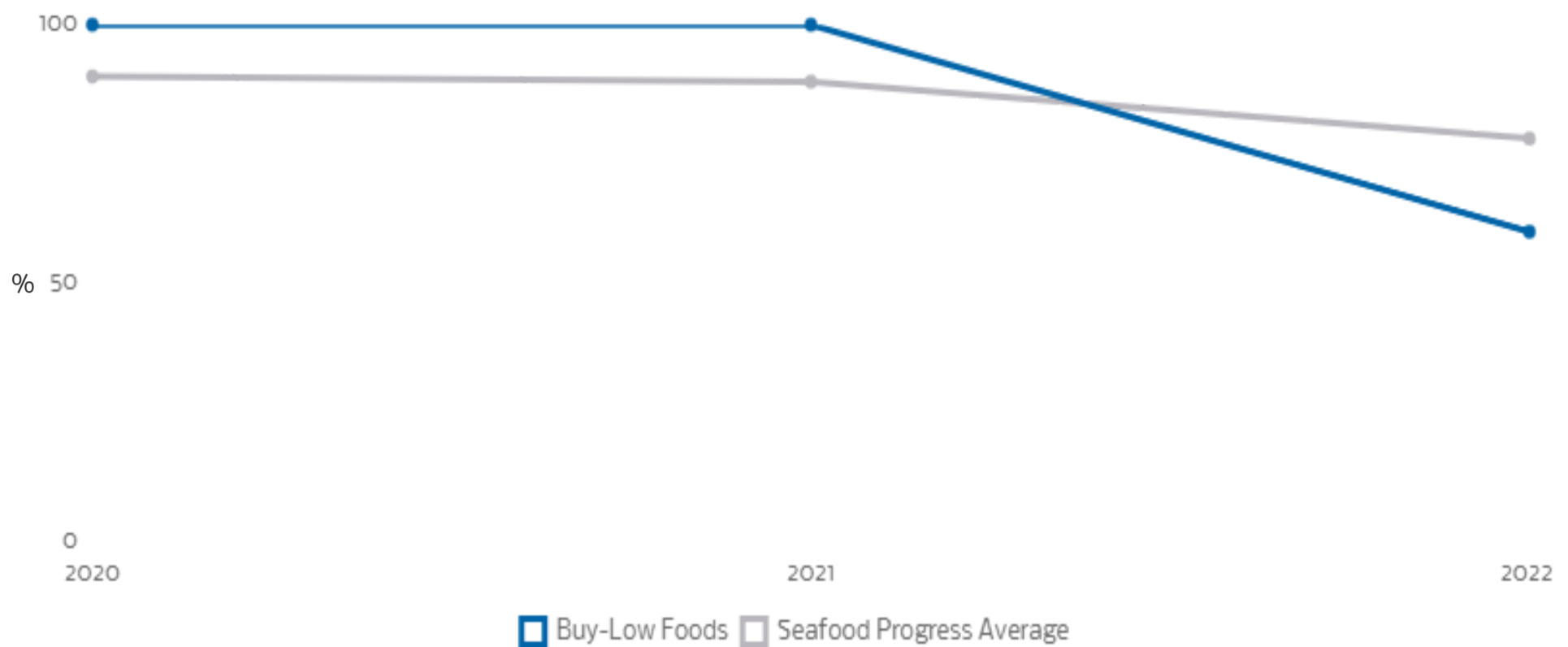


Social Responsibility Commitment. Buy-Low's commitment to social responsibility states clear objectives that are based on credible international standards (UN Declaration on Human Rights and ILO) and clear expectations for suppliers, but it is not supported by a traceability policy. Additionally, the company does not report publicly on any activities it conducts to support its commitment.

STEP 1: COMMITMENT



1.1 Grocery store has a publicly available commitment on environmentally sustainable seafood.



Buy-Low Foods is committed to procuring all its private label and national brand fresh and frozen seafood products from sources that are (in priority order): 1) Ocean Wise recommended, 2) Rated a “Good Alternative” or “Best Choice” by Seafood Watch, or 3) From fisheries and farms that are engaged in credible improvement projects. Buy-Low is also committed to not selling any farmed salmon. Buy-Low does not currently have a full chain traceability policy in place to support its commitment (personal communication, G. Genereux, 30/03/2022).

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 that traces at least the product scientific name, geographic origin, farmed/wild and gear type or farming method.

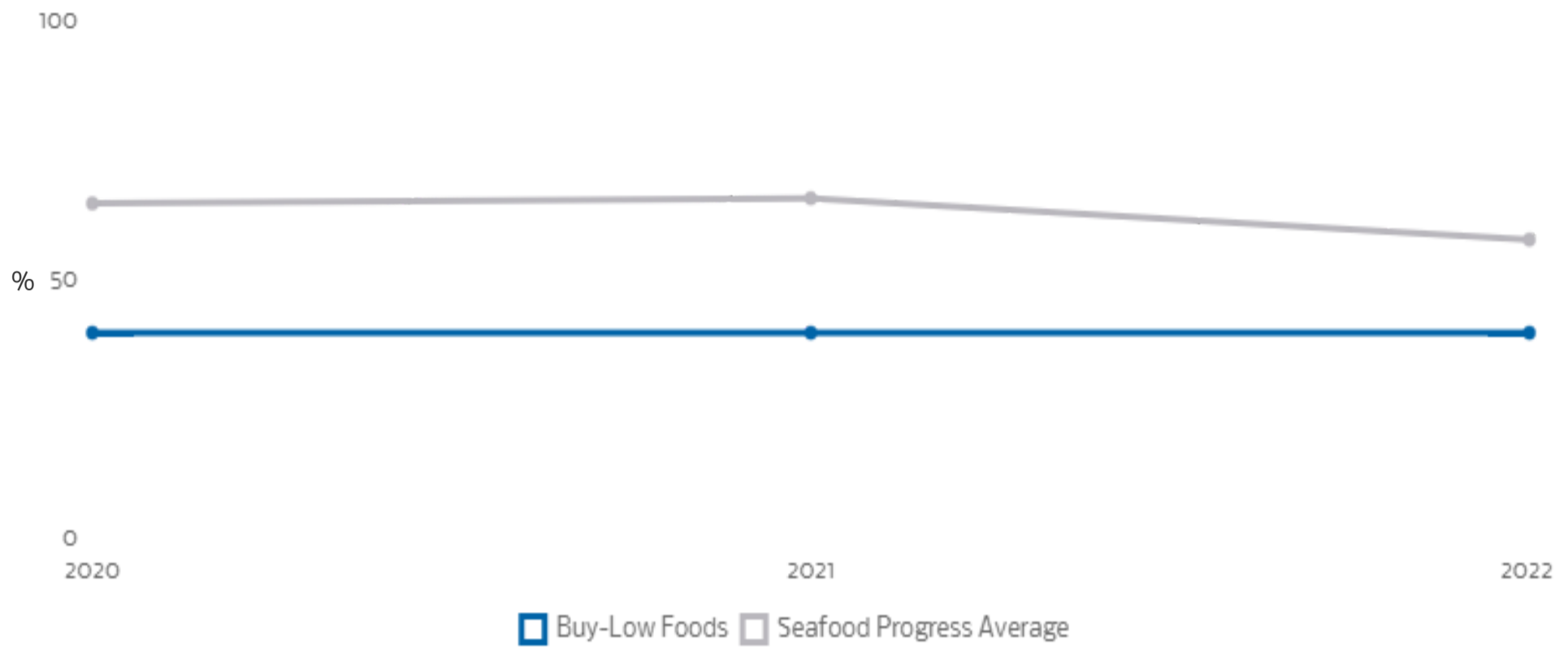
60% Commitment to environmental sustainability that includes clear objectives that are supported by references to credible standards (such as Seafood Watch or Ocean Wise ratings, eco-certifications, etc.).

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 Grocery store has a publicly available commitment on socially responsible seafood.



The [Responsible Sourcing Tab](#) on Buy-Low Foods' website states that it supports the UN's Universal Declaration on Human Rights and adherence to relevant Conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and expects its suppliers to ensure that its labour practices reflect national laws and international standards.

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.

80% Commitment to social responsibility includes clear objectives, actions or expectations for seafood suppliers, and a clear and effective traceability policy.

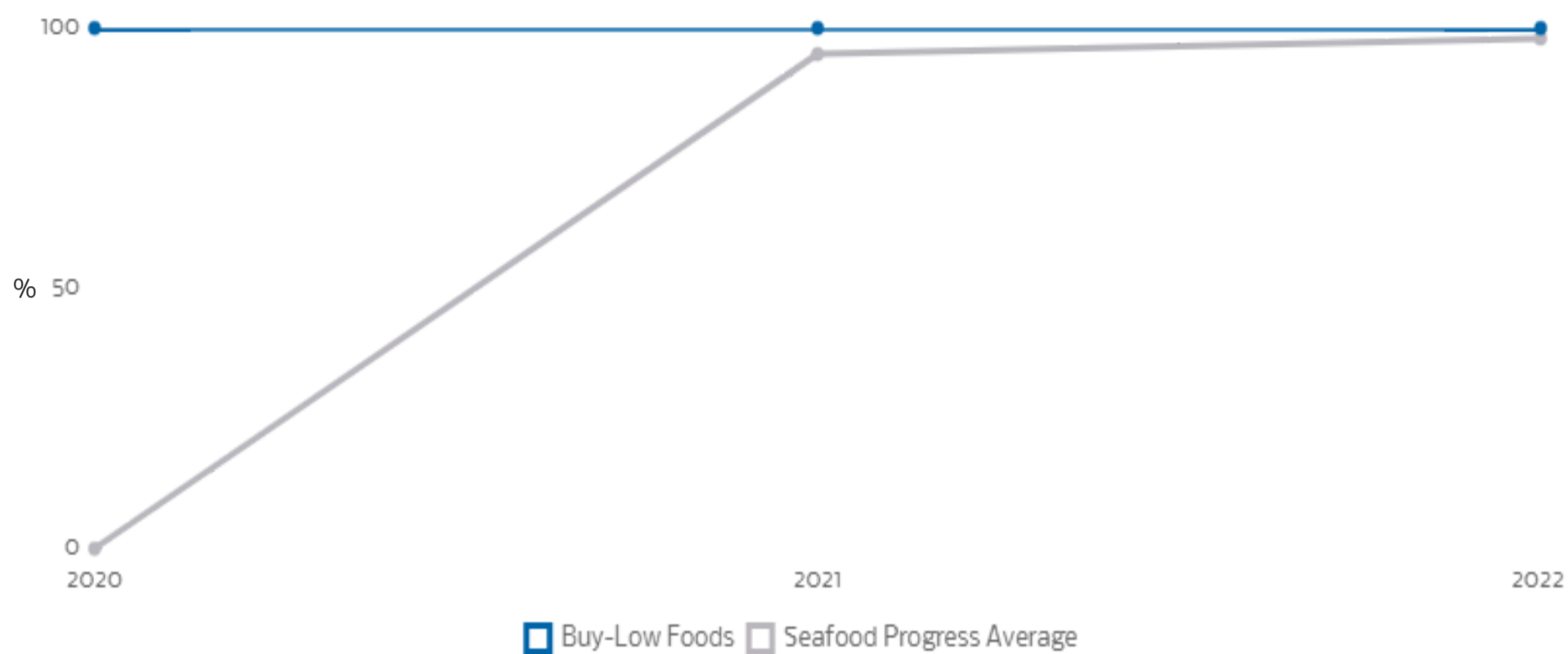
60% Commitment to social responsibility includes clear objectives and actions or expectations for seafood suppliers.

40% Commitment to social responsibility includes clear objectives for socially responsible procurement (for example by referring to credible international standards such as ILO, UN Declaration, etc.).

20% General commitment to socially responsible seafood.

0% No publicly available social responsibility commitment.

1.3 Grocery store covers all banners that sell seafood in its sustainable seafood commitment.



Buy-Low Foods' sustainable seafood policy applies to both Buy-Low Foods and Nesters Market (personal communication, G. Genereux, 20/05/2021).

Scoring

100% Grocery store includes 100% of its banners in its sustainable seafood commitment.

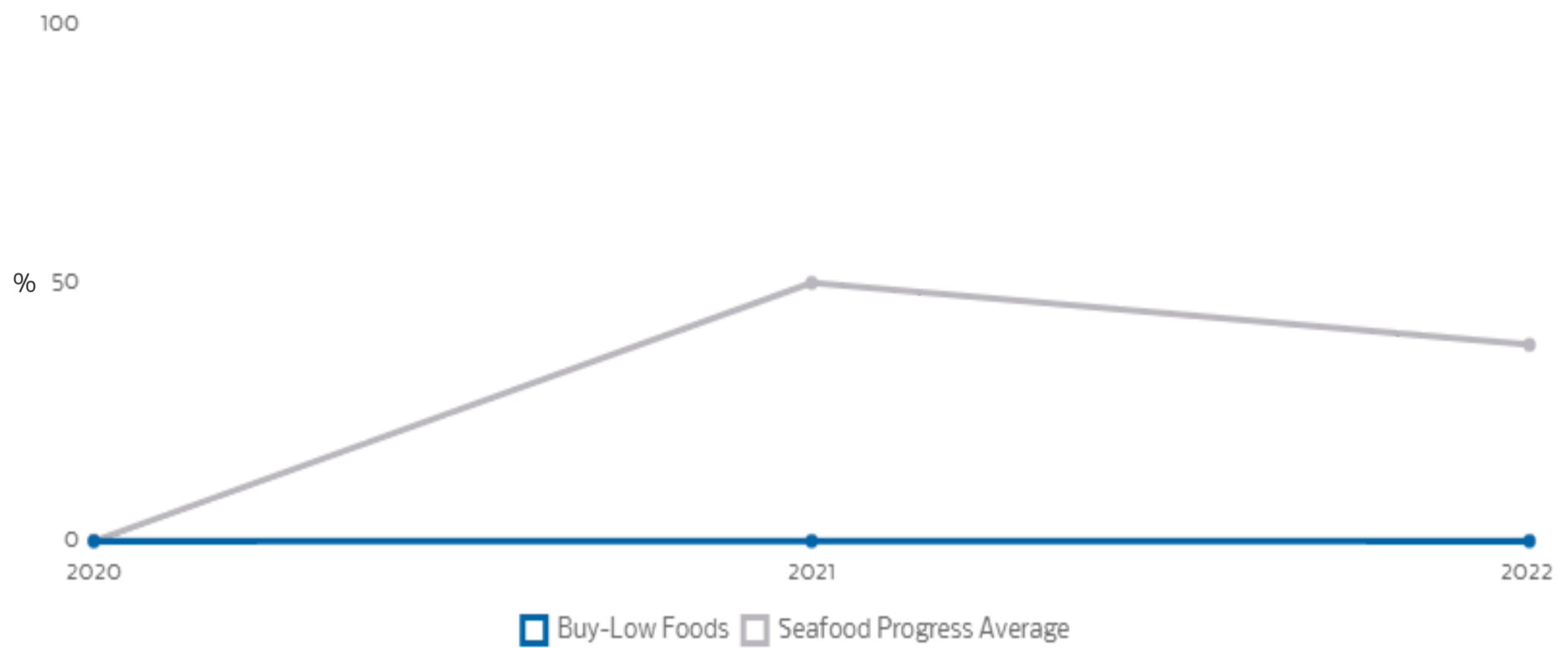
75% Grocery store includes 75% or more of its banners in its sustainable seafood commitment.

50% Grocery store includes 50% or more of its banners in its sustainable seafood commitment.

25% Grocery store includes 25% or more of its banners in its sustainable seafood commitment.

0% Grocery store does not include any banners in its sustainable seafood commitment.

1.4 Grocery store covers all shelf stable and national brand products in its sustainable seafood commitment.



Buy-Low Foods' sustainable seafood policy does not yet cover its private label or national brand shelf stable products, but it is working on bringing these product categories under its commitment (personal communication, G. Genereux, 30/03/2022).

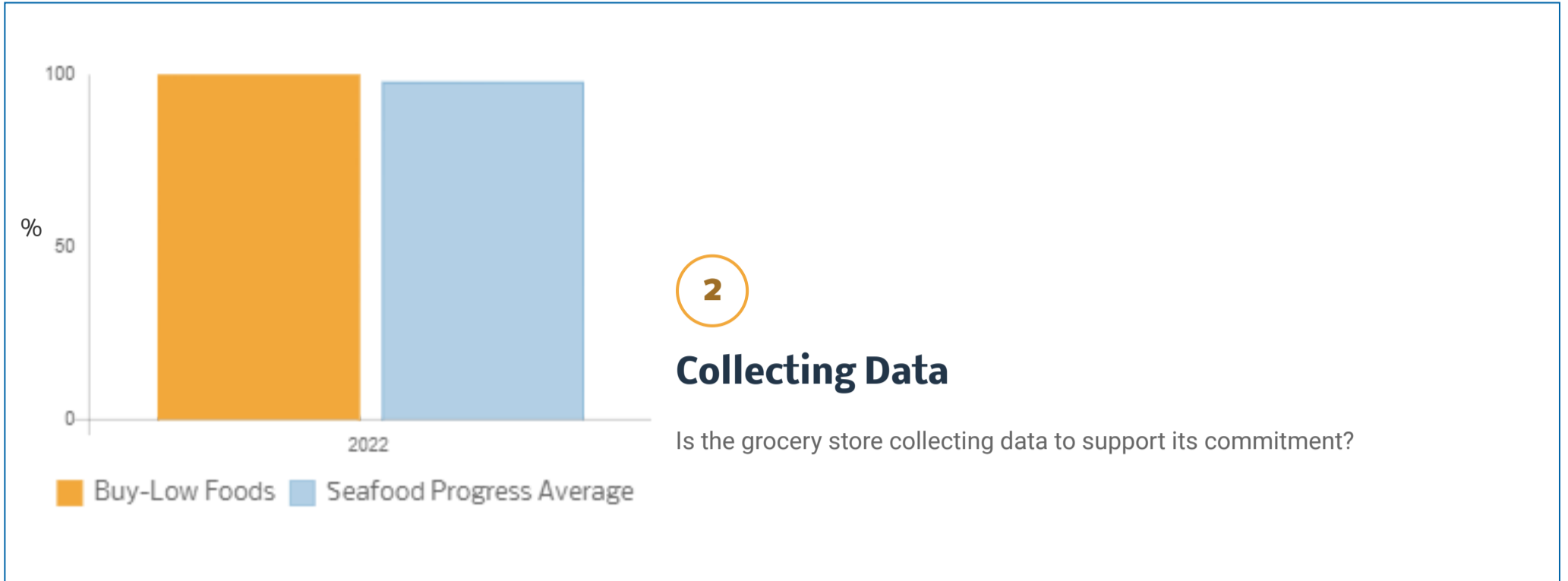
Scoring

100% Grocery store's commitment includes all of its shelf stable AND national brand products.

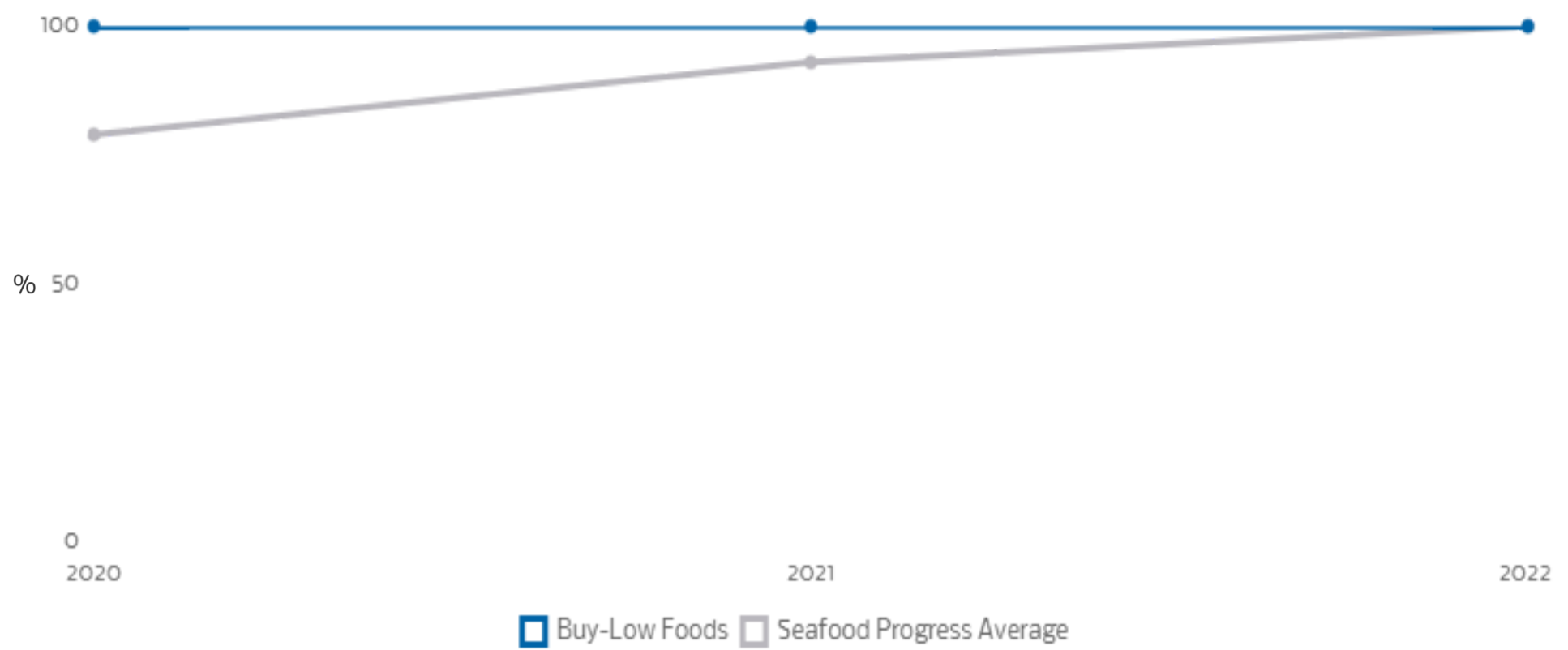
50% Grocery store's commitment includes all of its shelf stable or national brand products.

0% Grocery store's commitment includes neither all of its shelf stable or national brand products.

STEP 2: COLLECTING DATA



2.1 Grocery store collects data on species scientific name.



Buy-Low Foods collects data on species' scientific names for all products covered by its seafood commitment (personal communication, G. Genereux, 30/03/2022).

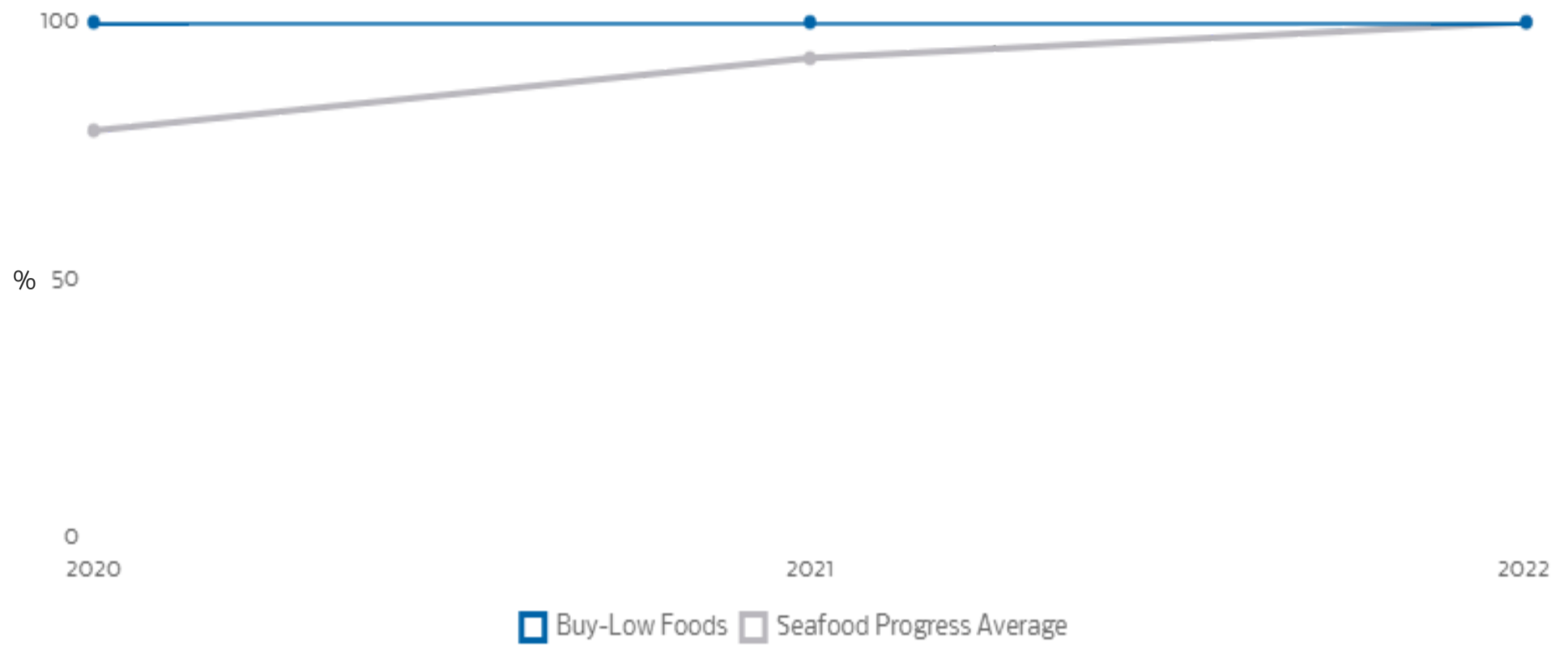
Scoring

100% Collects data for all products.

50% Collects data for some products.

0% Does not collect data (or no information available).

2.2 Grocery store collects data on geographic origin.



Buy-Low Foods collects data on geographic origin for all products covered by its seafood commitment (personal communication, G. Genereux, 30/03/2022).

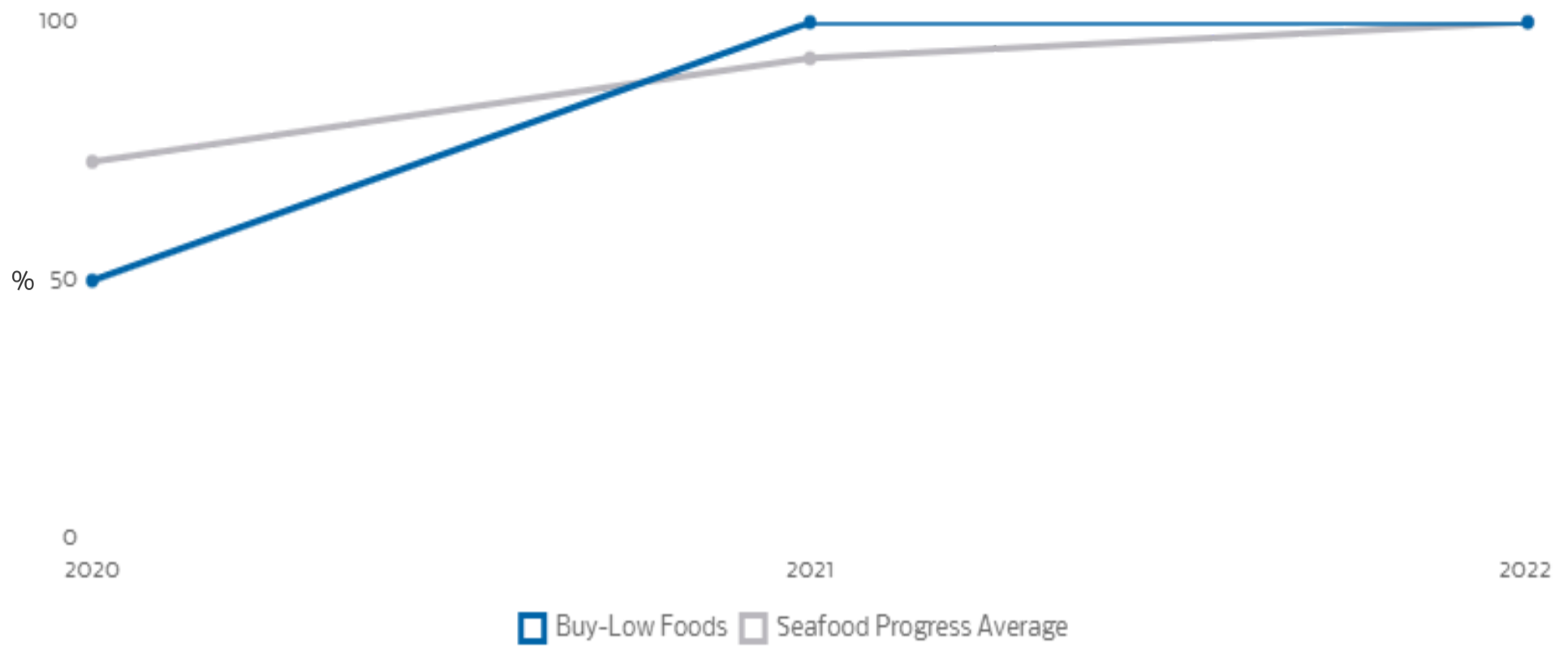
Scoring

100% Collects data for all products.

50% Collects data for some products.

0% Does not collect data (or no information available).

2.3 Grocery store collects data on whether wild or farmed.



Buy-Low Foods collects data on whether wild or farmed for all products covered by its sustainability commitment (personal communication, G. Genereux, 30/03/2022).

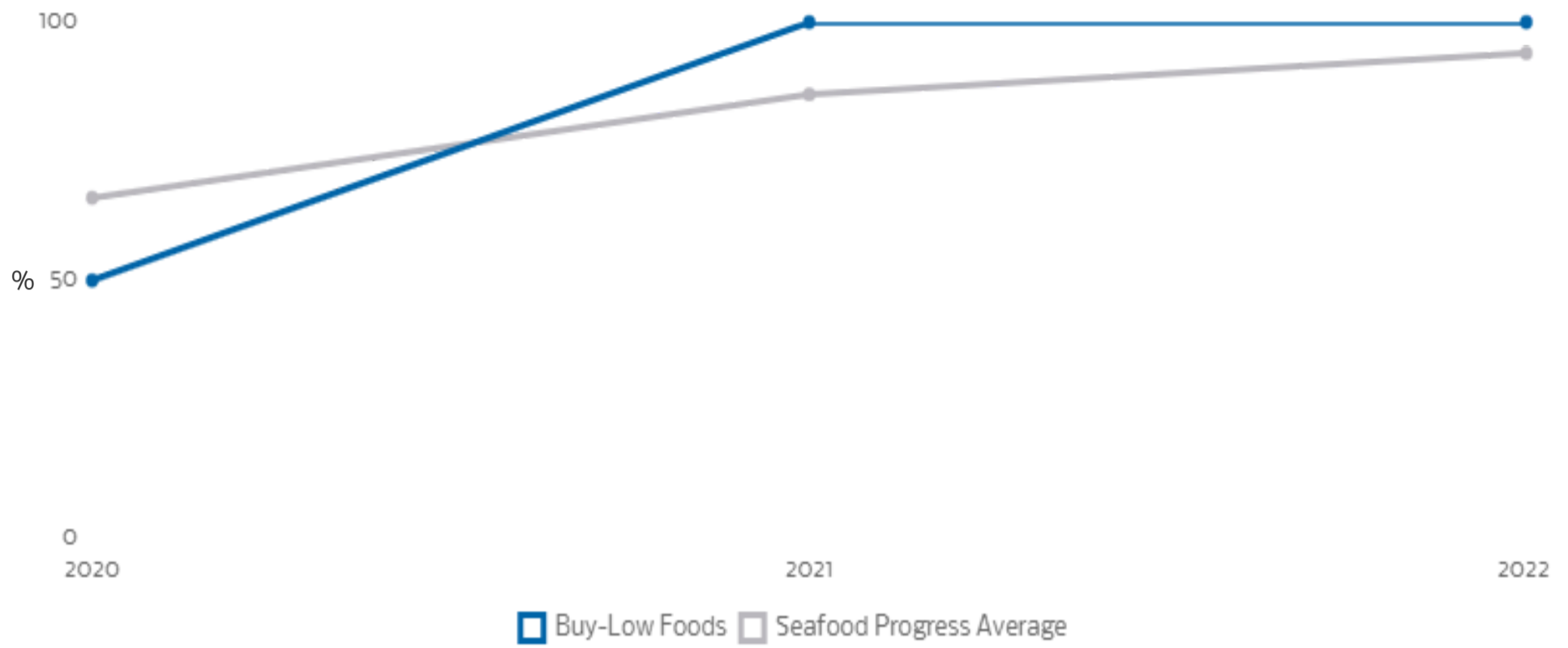
Scoring

100% Collects data for all products.

50% Collects data for some products.

0% Does not collect data (or no information available).

2.4 Grocery store collects data on gear type or farming methods.



Buy-Low Foods collects data on gear type or farming method on all products covered by its sustainability commitment (personal communication, G. Genereux, 30/03/2022).

Scoring

100% Collects data for all products.

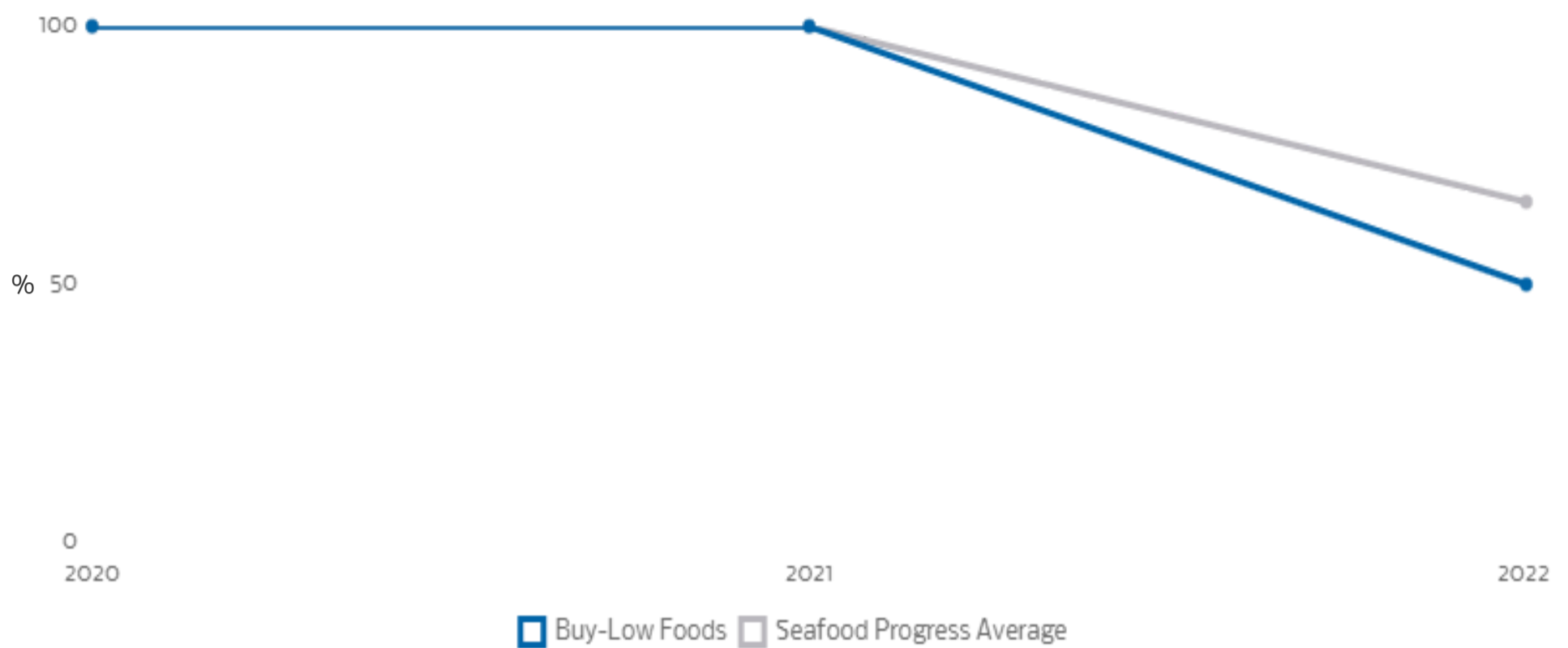
50% Collects data for some products.

0% Does not collect data (or no information available).

STEP 3: SOURCING



3.1 Grocery store publishes a clear hierarchy demonstrating its sourcing priorities.



Through its Seafood Progress profile, Buy-Low publishes a clear hierarchy of sustainability standards it uses for sourcing its private label fresh and frozen products, and salmon, but doesn't identify the standards it uses to inform its purchasing decisions for national brand or shelf stable products.

Scoring

100% Publishes a clear hierarchy of sustainability standards demonstrating its sourcing priorities for all commodities it sells.

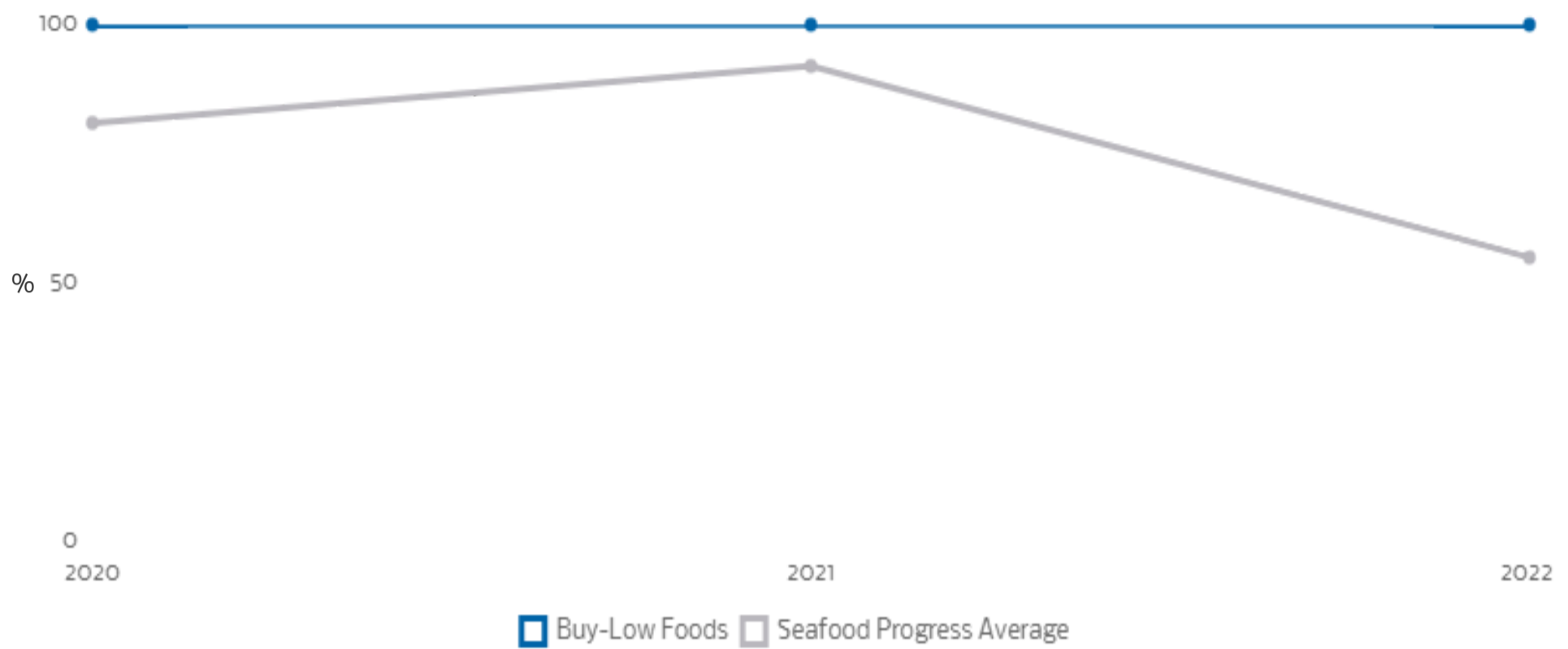
75% Publishes a clear hierarchy of sustainability standards used for sourcing some commodities, and identifies a general list of sustainability standards that it uses to inform its purchasing decisions for other commodities.

50% Publishes a clear hierarchy of sustainability standards used for sourcing some commodities, but doesn't identify the standards it uses to inform its purchasing decisions for other commodities.

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 Grocery store has reported on the percentage of its seafood sold in the last year that meets its sustainability commitment by volume or value.



In 2015 Buy-Low achieved its commitment for 100% of its fresh and frozen private label seafood products to be Ocean Wise Recommended, rated “Good Alternative” or “Best Choice” by Seafood Watch or from fisheries and farms engaged in credible improvement projects.

Scoring



100% Grocery store has reported that 100% of its seafood sold meets its sustainability commitment.

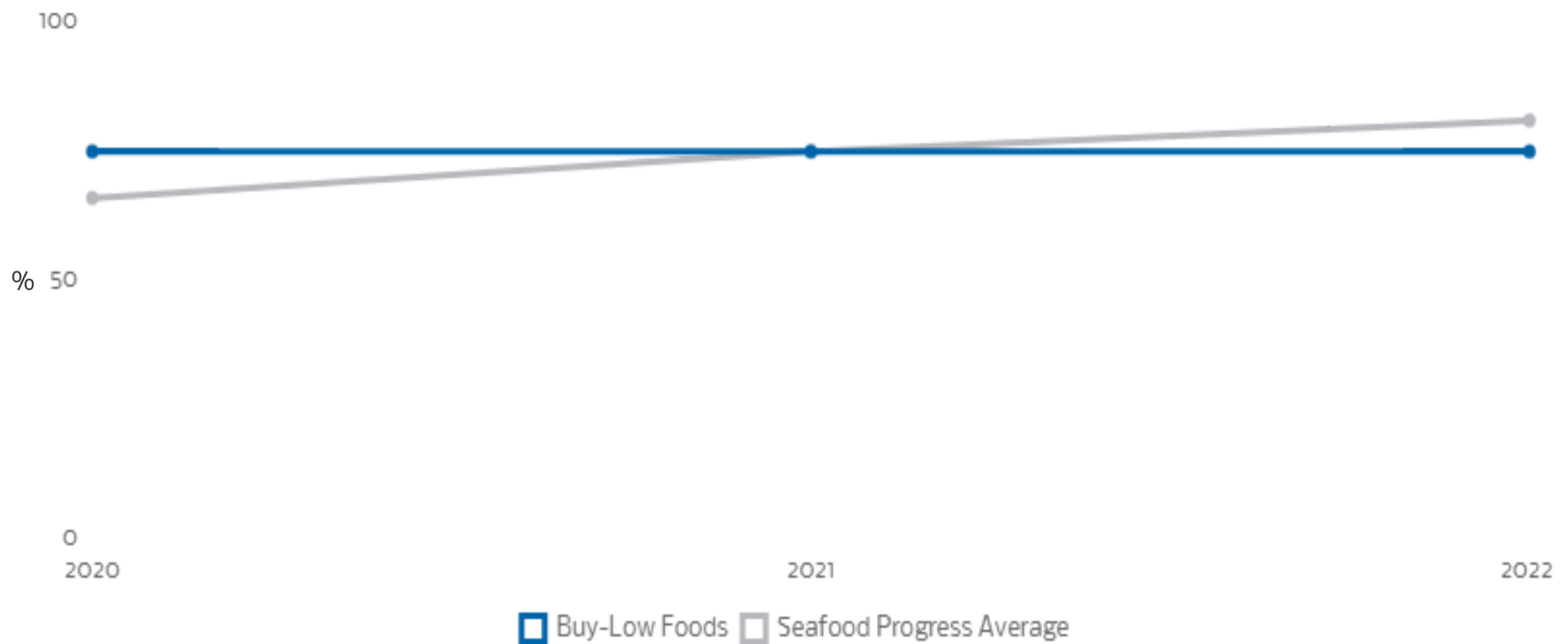
75% Grocery store has reported that 75% or more of its seafood sold meets its sustainability commitment.

50% Grocery store has reported that 50% or more of its seafood sold meets its sustainability commitment.

25% Grocery store has reported that 25% or more of its seafood sold meets its sustainability commitment.

0% Grocery store has not reported on the percentage of its seafood sold that meets its sustainability commitment (or no information available).

3.3 Suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct to uphold the grocery store's environmental sustainability commitment.



Buy-Low sends an email to all suppliers on an annual basis relaying its sustainability commitment, and requires that they respond to indicate compliance. The company is not currently taking any actions to verify that this commitment is being upheld (personal communication, G. Genereux, 30/03/2022).

Scoring

100% All suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct that covers all of the retailer's environmental sustainability commitment and the retailer actively verifies that this commitment is being upheld on at least an annual basis.

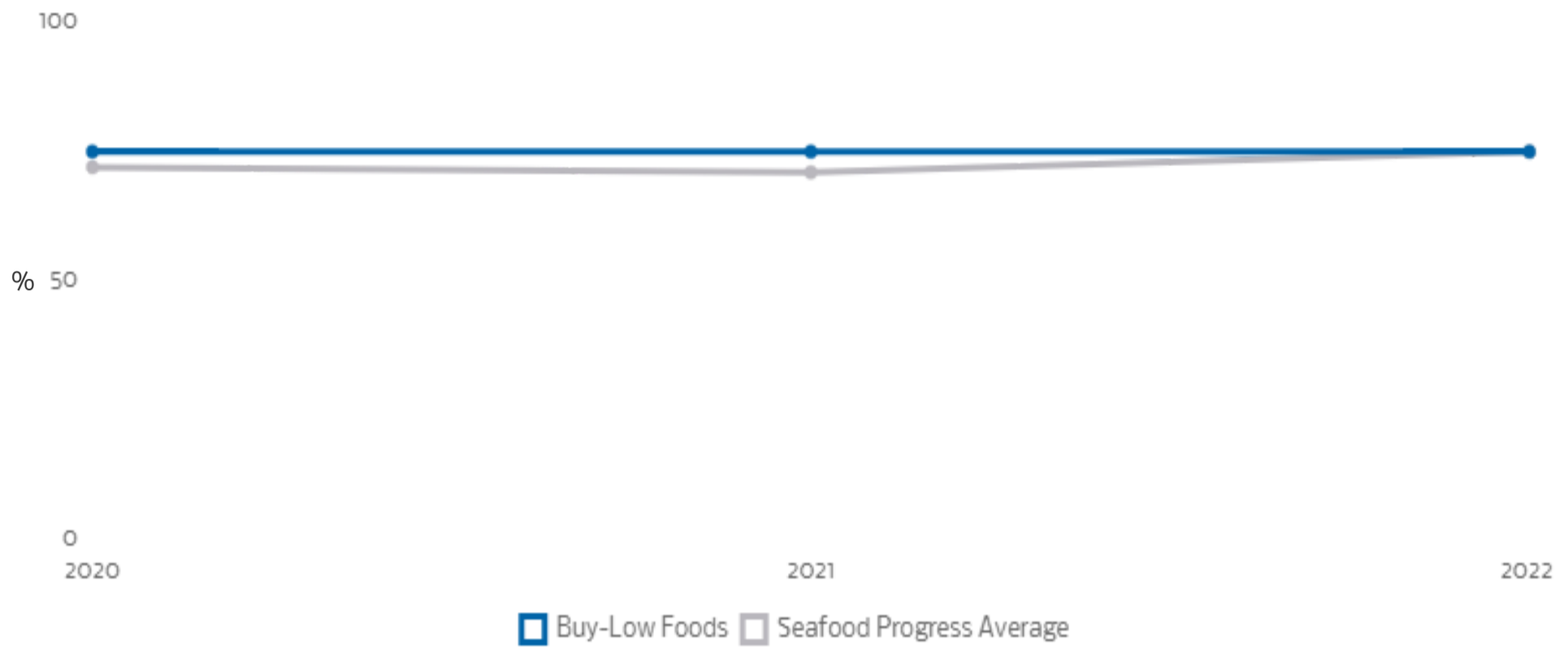
75% Rubric for retailers Feb 17 2022 Rubric for retailers Feb 17 2022 .XLSX 100% 10 B84 All suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct that covers all of the retailer's environmental sustainability commitment. Screen reader support enabled. All suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct that covers all of the retailer's environmental sustainability commitment. Turn on screen reader support

50% Rubric for retailers Feb 17 2022 Rubric for retailers Feb 17 2022 .XLSX 100% 10 B83 All suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct that covers some of the retailer's environmental sustainability commitment. Screen reader support enabled. All suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct that covers some of the retailer's environmental sustainability commitment. Turn on screen reader support

25% Some suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct that covers some of the retailer's environmental sustainability commitment.

0% Suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct to uphold the grocery store's environmental sustainability commitment.

3.4 Suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct to uphold the grocery store's social responsibility commitment.



All of Buy-Low Foods' seafood suppliers have signed a Code of Conduct on social responsibility that reflects their public social responsibility commitment to support the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights, adhere to relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization, and ensure that their labour practices reflect national laws and international standards. Buy-Low is not currently taking any actions to verify that this commitment is being upheld (personal communication, G. Genereux, 30/03/2022).

Scoring

100% All suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct that covers all of the retailer's social responsibility commitment and the retailer actively verifies that this commitment is being upheld on at least an annual basis.

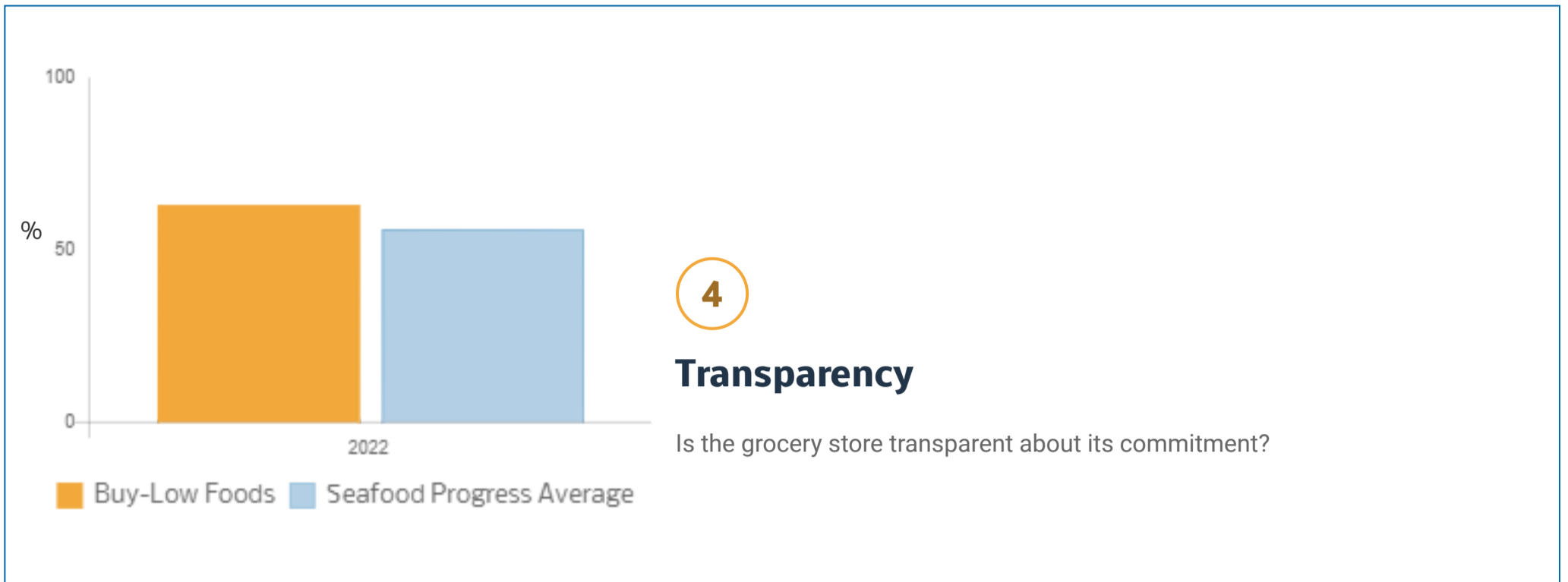
75% Rubric for retailers Feb 17 2022 Rubric for retailers Feb 17 2022 .XLSX 100% 10 B92 All suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct that covers all of the retailer's social responsibility commitment. Screen reader support enabled. All suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct that covers all of the retailer's social responsibility commitment. Turn on screen reader support

50% All suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct that covers some of the grocery store's social responsibility commitment.

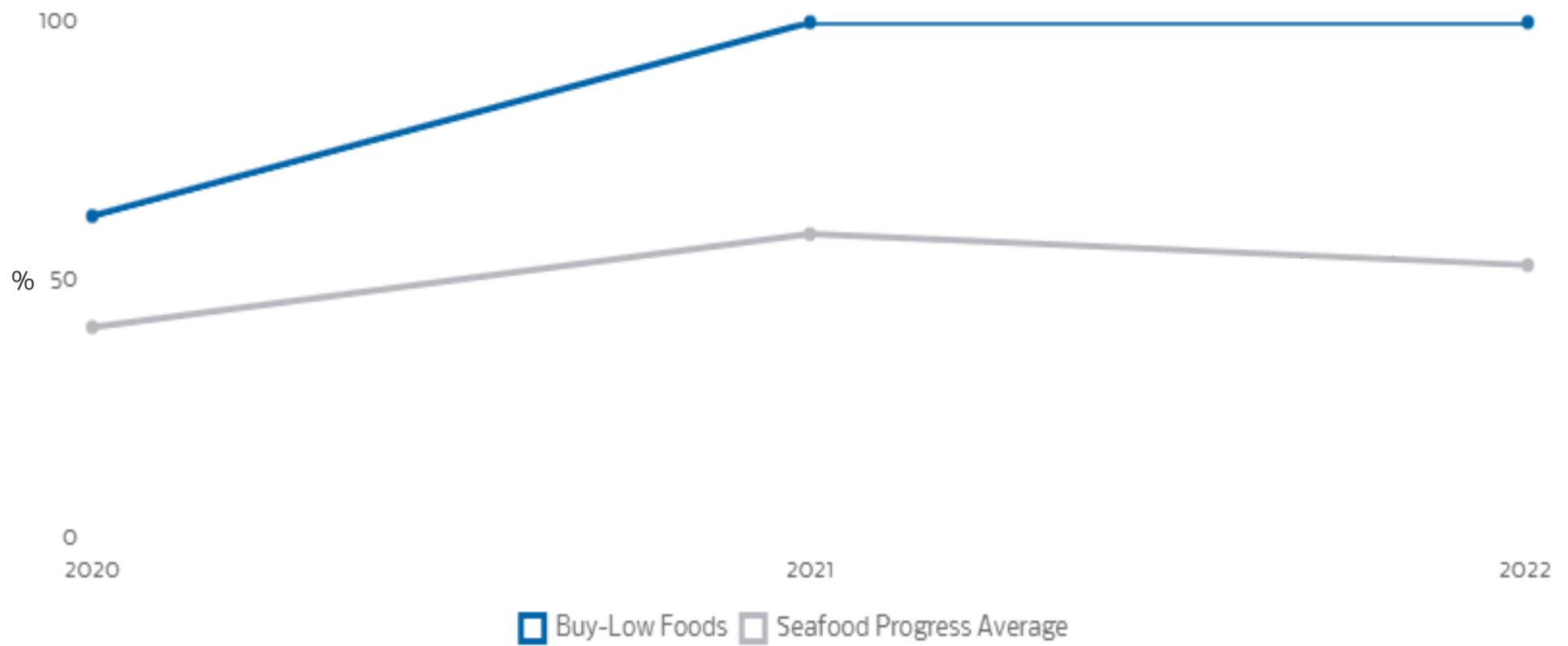
25% Some suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct that covers some of the grocery store's social responsibility commitment.

0% Suppliers are not required to sign a code of conduct (or no information).

STEP 4: TRANSPARENCY



4.1 Grocery store labels products with the information that allows consumers to make informed decisions.



Buy-Low labels all private label fresh and frozen products with species' scientific name, geographic origin, wild, farmed, gear type and farming method (personal communication, G. Genereux, 30/03/2022).

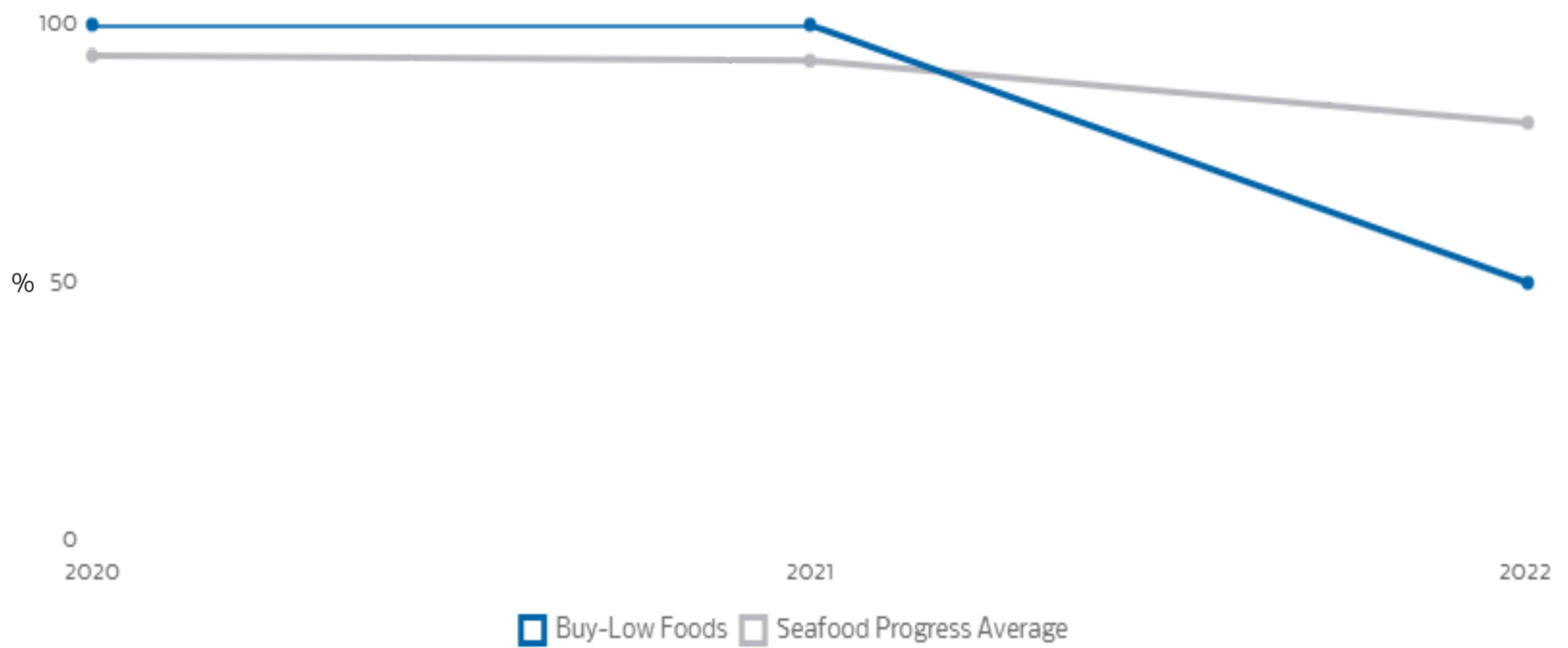
Scoring

100% Grocery store labels all products with the information.

50% Grocery store labels some products with the information.

0% Grocery store does not label products with the information (or no information available).

4.2 Grocery store labels products with an ecolabel, allowing consumers to make informed decisions OR all products fit under a standard and is communicated as such.



Buy-Low Foods labels all applicable products with the Ocean Wise ecolabel but does not label applicable products with the ASC or MSC ecolabels (personal communication, G. Genereux, 30/03/2022).

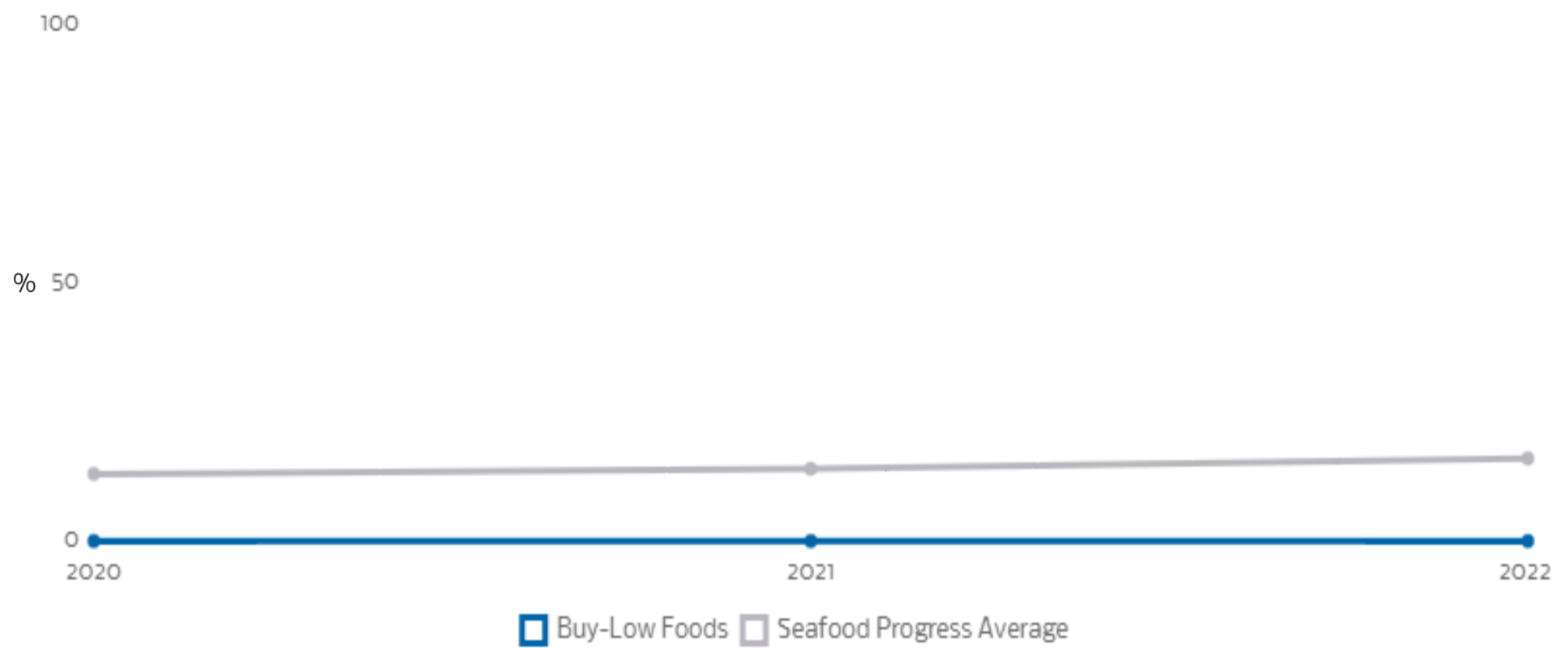
Scoring

100% Grocery store labels all products with an ecolabel as appropriate.

50% Grocery store labels some products with an ecolabel as appropriate.

0% Grocery store does not label products with an ecolabel as appropriate (or no information available).

4.3 Scientific name, geographic origin and harvest method of the brand's products is publicly available.

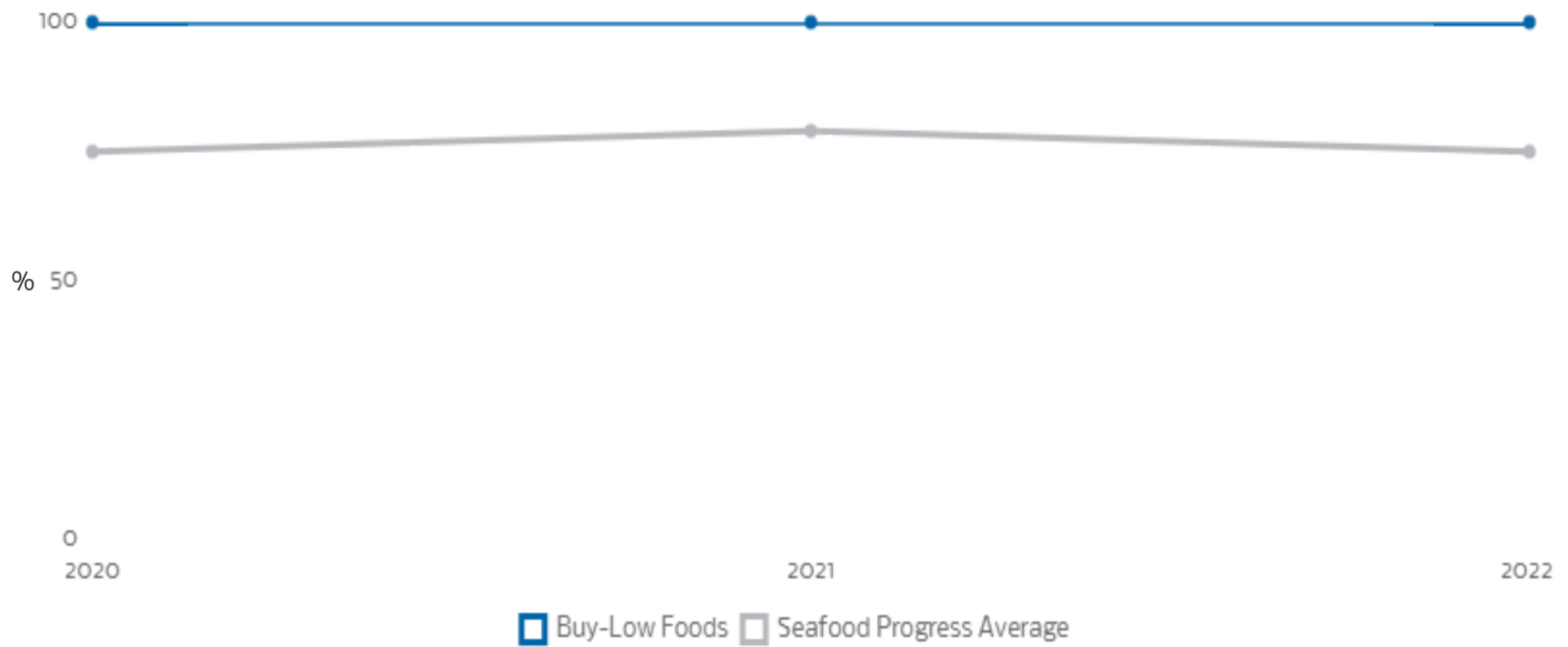


Buy-Low Foods currently does not disclose this information.

Scoring

- 100% All seafood products with region and gear type has been made available.
- 50% Some seafood products with region and gear type has been made available.
- 0% No list of products procured with region and gear type has been made available.

4.4 Grocery store publicly reports how much of its seafood meets its sustainability criteria by volume or value of sales.



Buy-Low Foods reported in 2015 the achievement of its commitment and reaffirmed this in 2017 through the SeaChoice/Buy-Low Foods press release, and then to Seafood Progress on an annual basis since then.

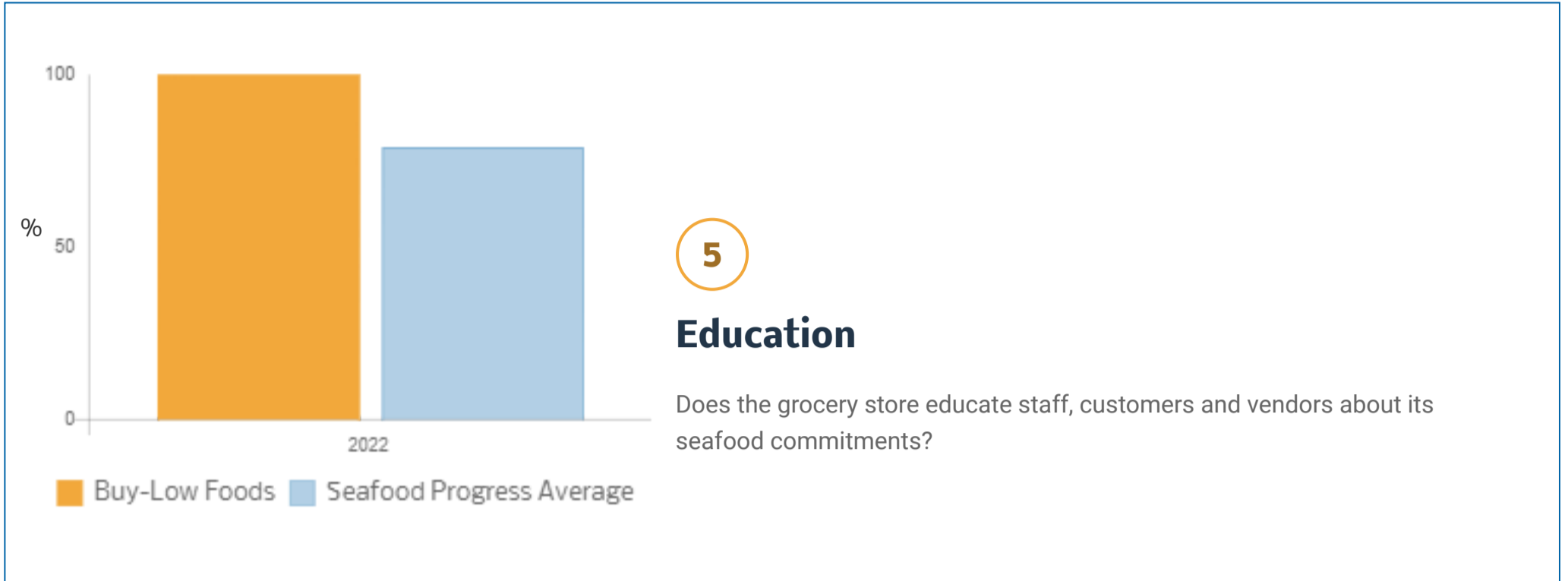
Scoring

100% Retailer regularly reports publicly how much of its seafood sold meets its commitment by volume or value of sales every year.

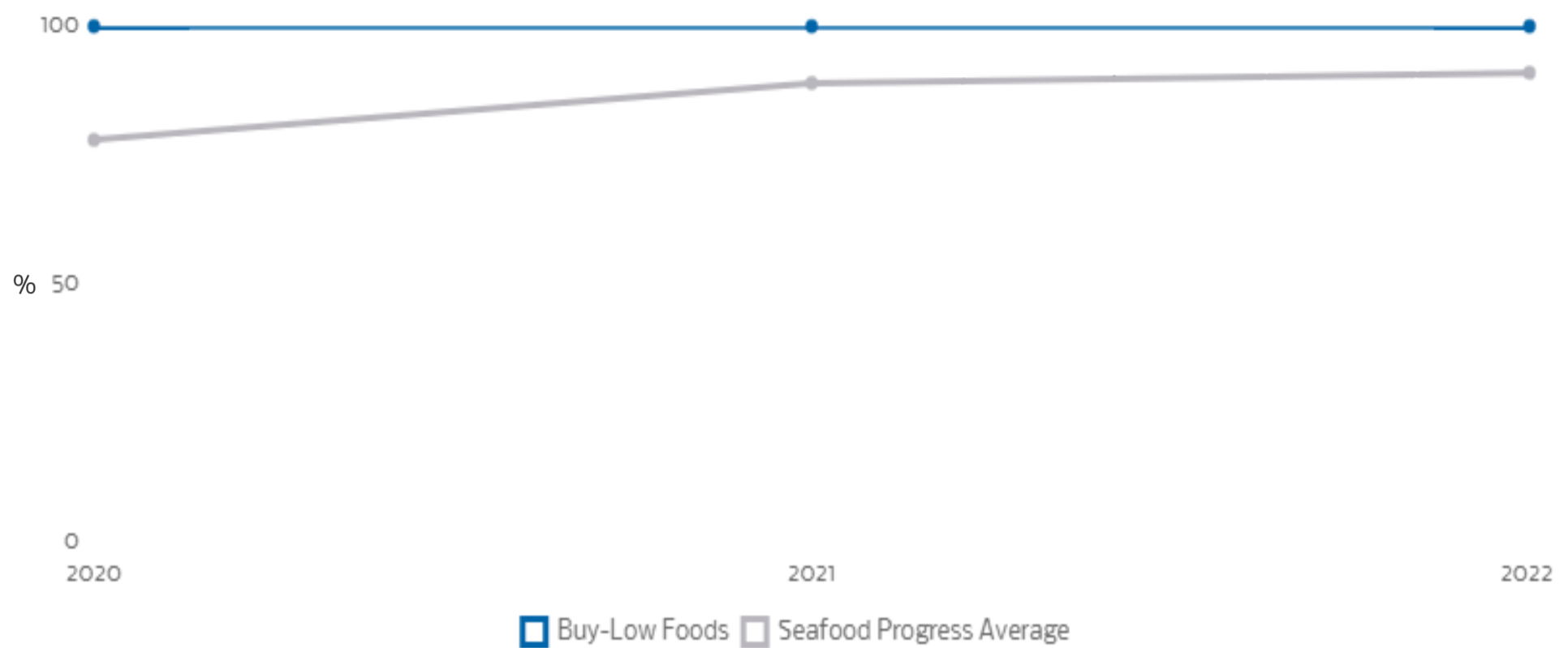
50% Rubric for retailers Feb 17 2022 Rubric for retailers Feb 17 2022 .XLSX 100% 10 B123 Retailer has at one point reported publicly how much of its seafood sold meets its commitment. Screen reader support enabled. Retailer has at one point reported publicly how much of its seafood sold meets its commitment. Turn on screen reader support

0% No public information on how the grocery store is doing to meet its commitment.

STEP 5: EDUCATION



5.1 Training programs are conducted for seafood staff.



Buy-Low Foods is committed to creating materials and training programs to ensure its employees have a thorough understanding of seafood sustainability, the Ocean Wise Seafood Program, and certification standards (such as MSC and ASC) so they can offer their customers advice on sustainable seafood options. Seafood counter staff are updated regularly on Buy-Low's sustainable product options so that they can in turn educate and engage customers (personal communication, G. Genereux, 30/03/2022).

Scoring

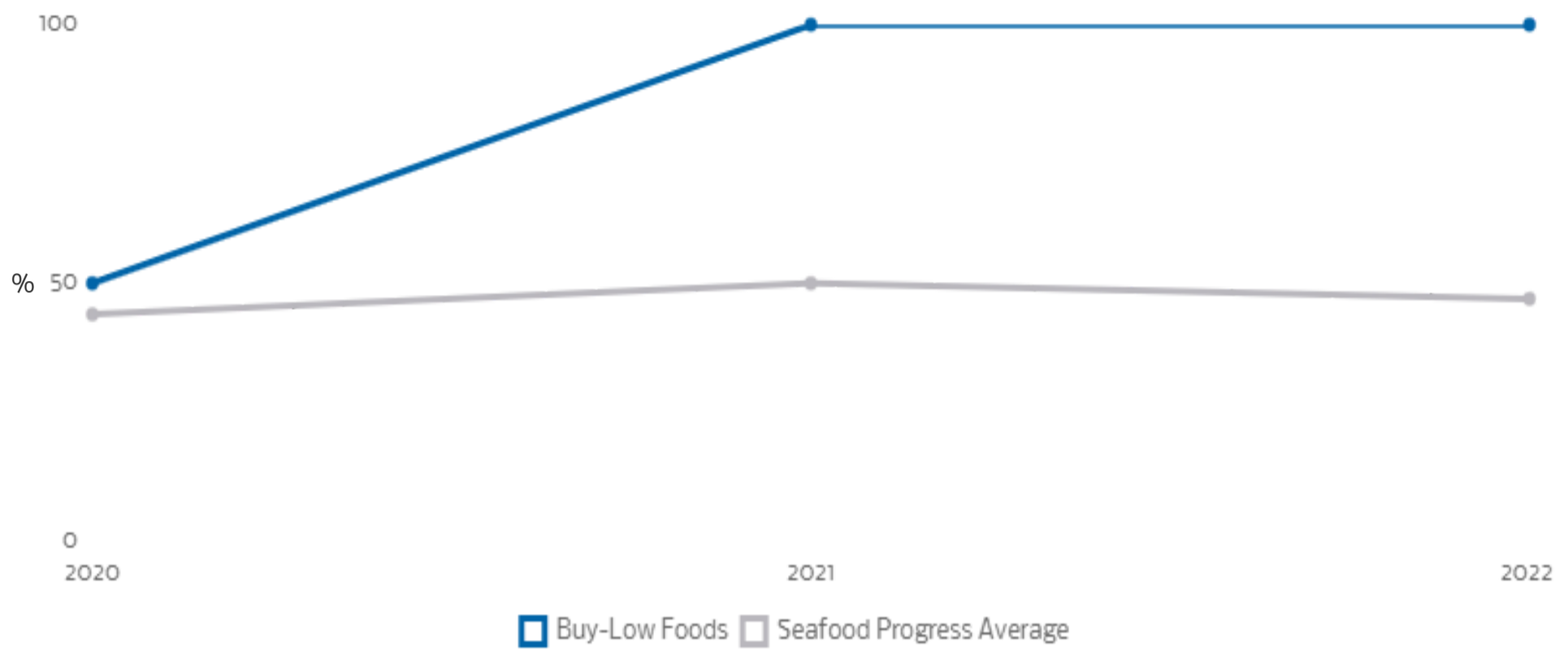
100% Training programs regularly conducted for all seafood staff.

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 grocery store's commitments to sustainable and socially responsible seafood in store.



Since 2021, Buy-Low has displayed comprehensive signage that clearly communicates its commitments to socially responsible and sustainable seafood in all its Buy-Low Foods and Nesters stores (personal communication, G. Genereux, 30/03/2022).

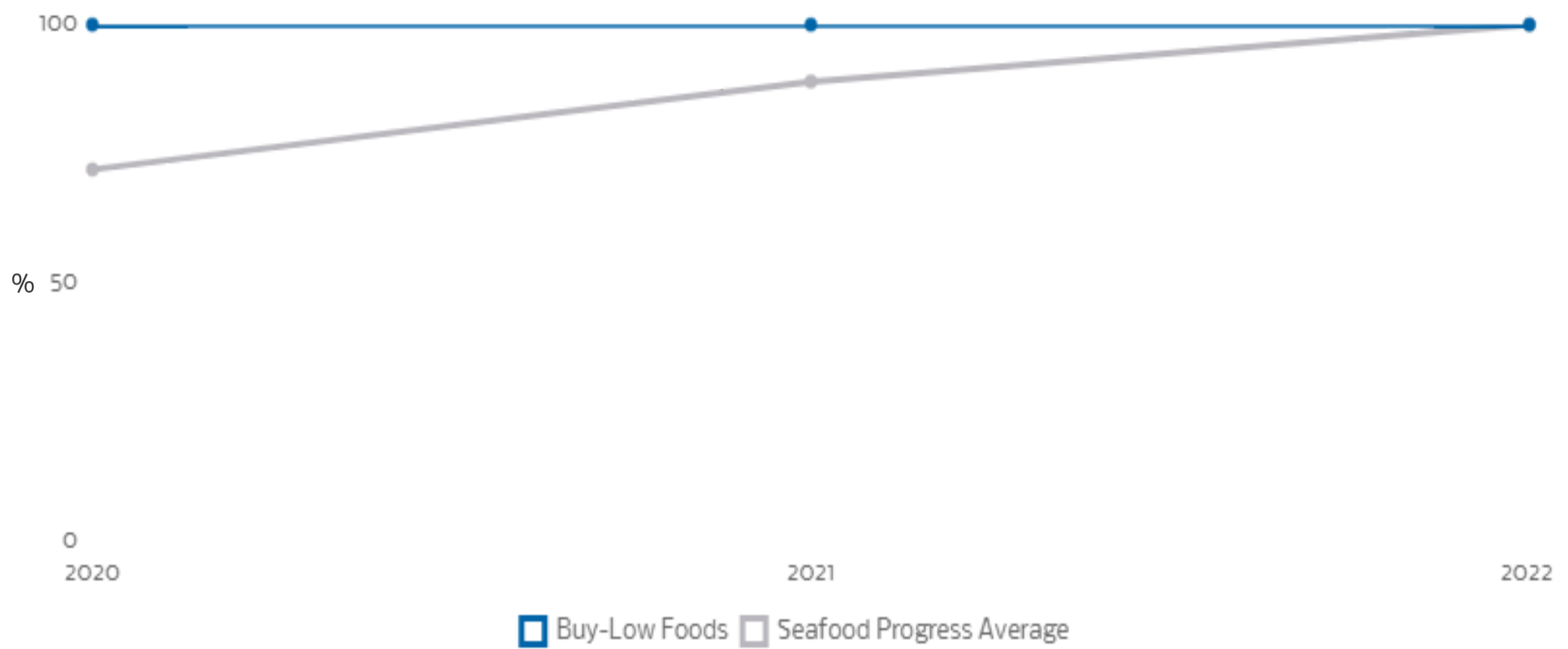
Scoring

100% There is a comprehensive description of the grocery store's commitments to sustainable and socially responsible seafood in store.

50% There is some description of the grocery store's commitment to sustainable seafood and/or socially responsible seafood in store.

0% There is no description of the grocery store's commitments to sustainable and socially responsible seafood in store.

5.3 The grocery store has taken actions to ensure its suppliers or venders are aware of its sustainable seafood commitment or policy.



Buy-Low Foods engages regularly with its suppliers to ensure that the products they supply are in line with its commitment. The retailer also actively seeks out more sustainable options from its suppliers to ensure its customers have access to seafood produced according to best practice (personal communication, G. Genereux, 30/03/2022).

Scoring

100% The grocery store 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 grocery store 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 the grocery store's expectations.

50% The grocery store 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 the grocery store's expectations.

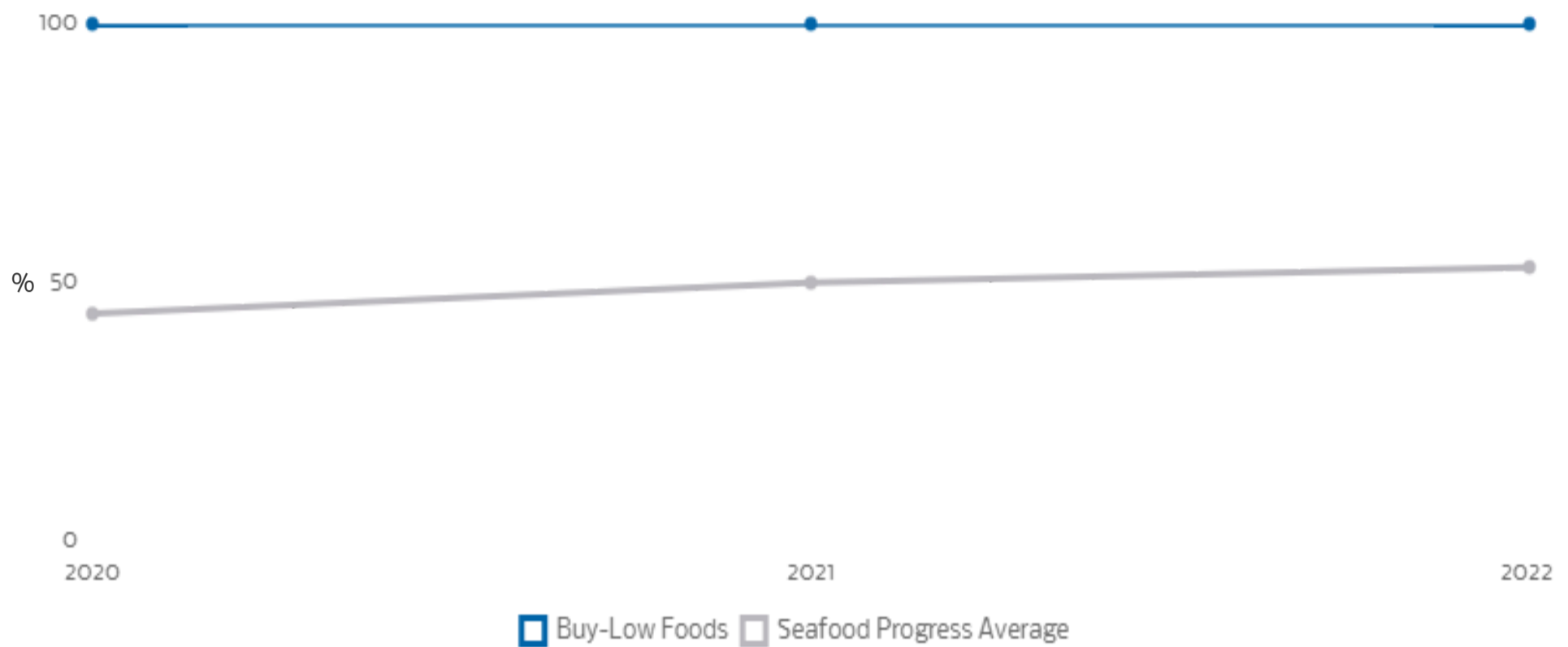
25% The grocery store sends its suppliers or venders a copy of its sustainable seafood commitment.

0% The grocery store has taken no actions OR no information is available.

STEP 6: TAKING INITIATIVE



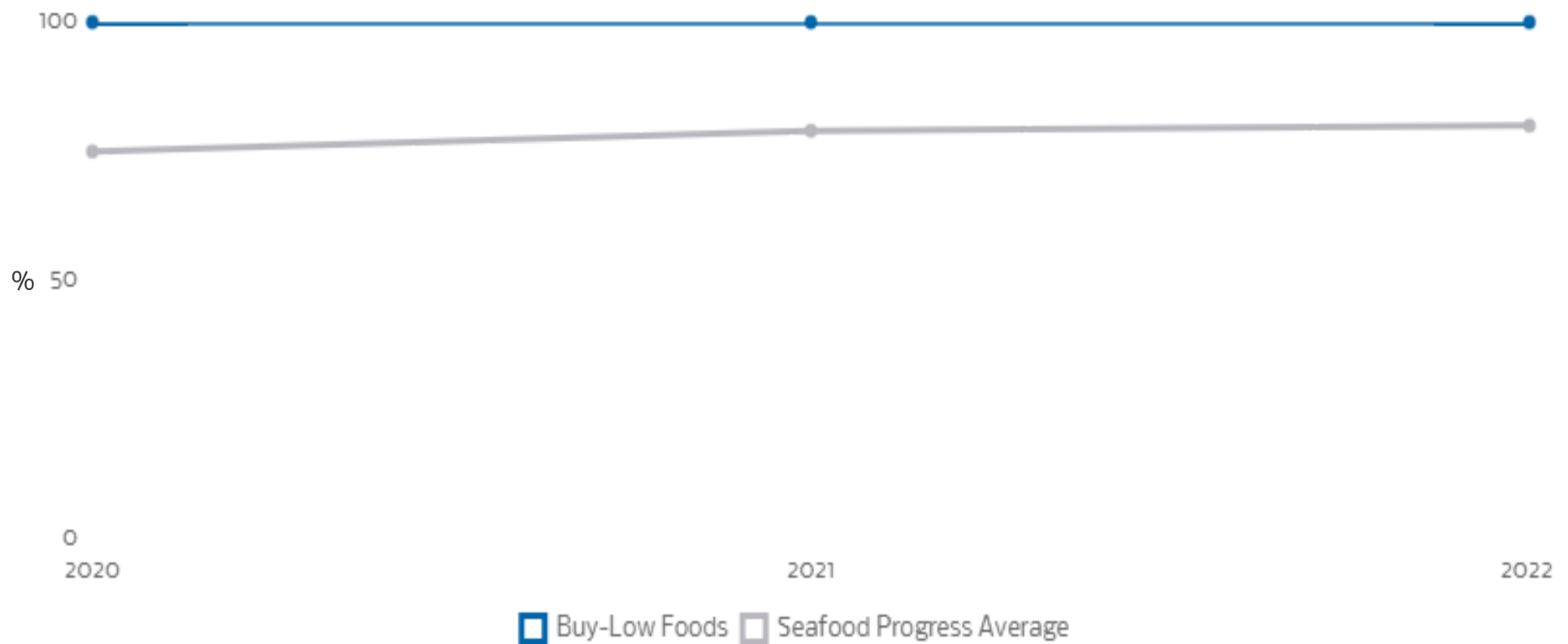
6.1 Farmed Atlantic salmon (either Canadian produced or imported)



Buy-Low Foods does not sell any farmed Atlantic salmon (personal communication, G. Genereux, 30/03/2022).

- ✓ Only sells farmed salmon products that meet the highest bars for sustainability, i.e. are produced in a closed containment facility, certified by 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 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 ASC certified, Not Recommended by Ocean Wise and/or rated Avoid by Seafood Watch (17 pts).
- ✗ Preferentially procures farmed salmon from closed containment producers and sources that are ASC certified, 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).

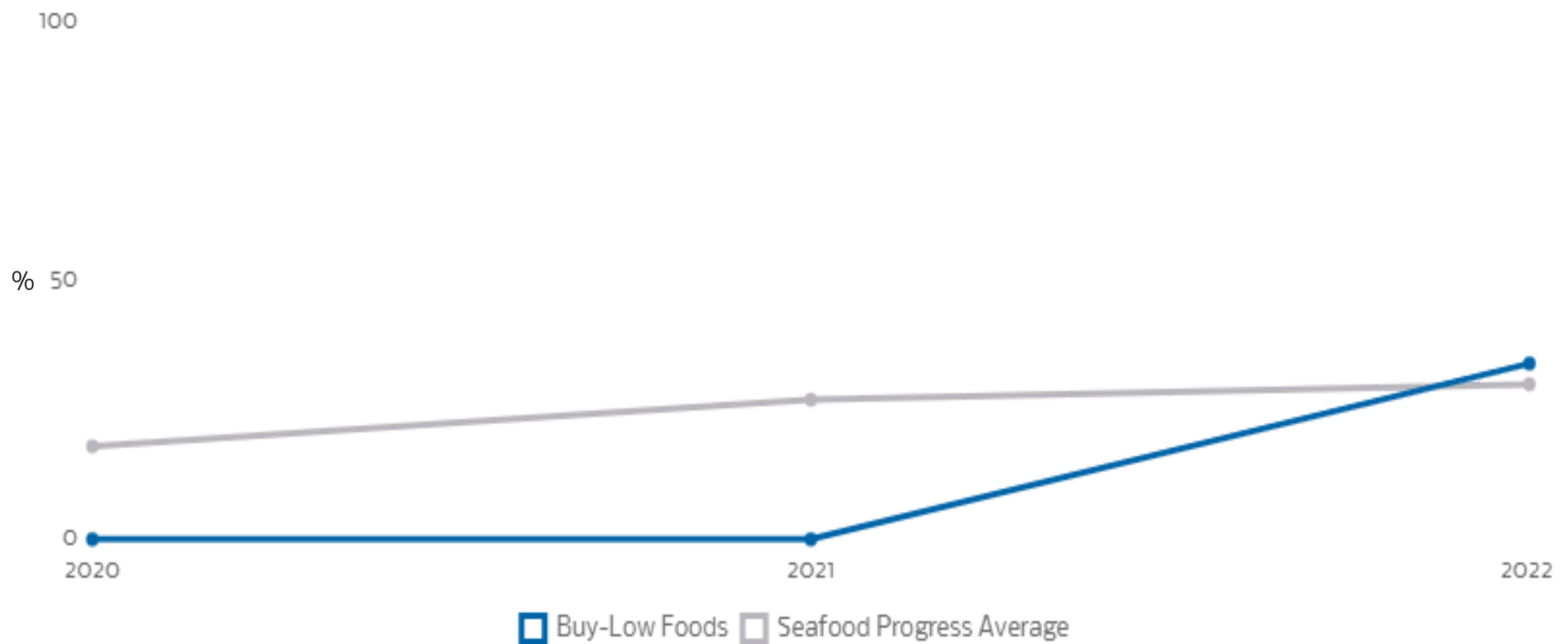
6.2 Farmed shrimps and prawns, Imported - multiple spp.



Buy-Low preferentially sources a wide range of Ocean Wise Recommended shrimp. As of March 2022, the vast majority of its shrimp was Ocean Wise Recommended, and the remainder was ASC or BAP 2 star certified (personal communication, G. Genereux, 30/03/2022).

- ✓ 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 products with high levels of social responsibility and/or traceability (17 pts).

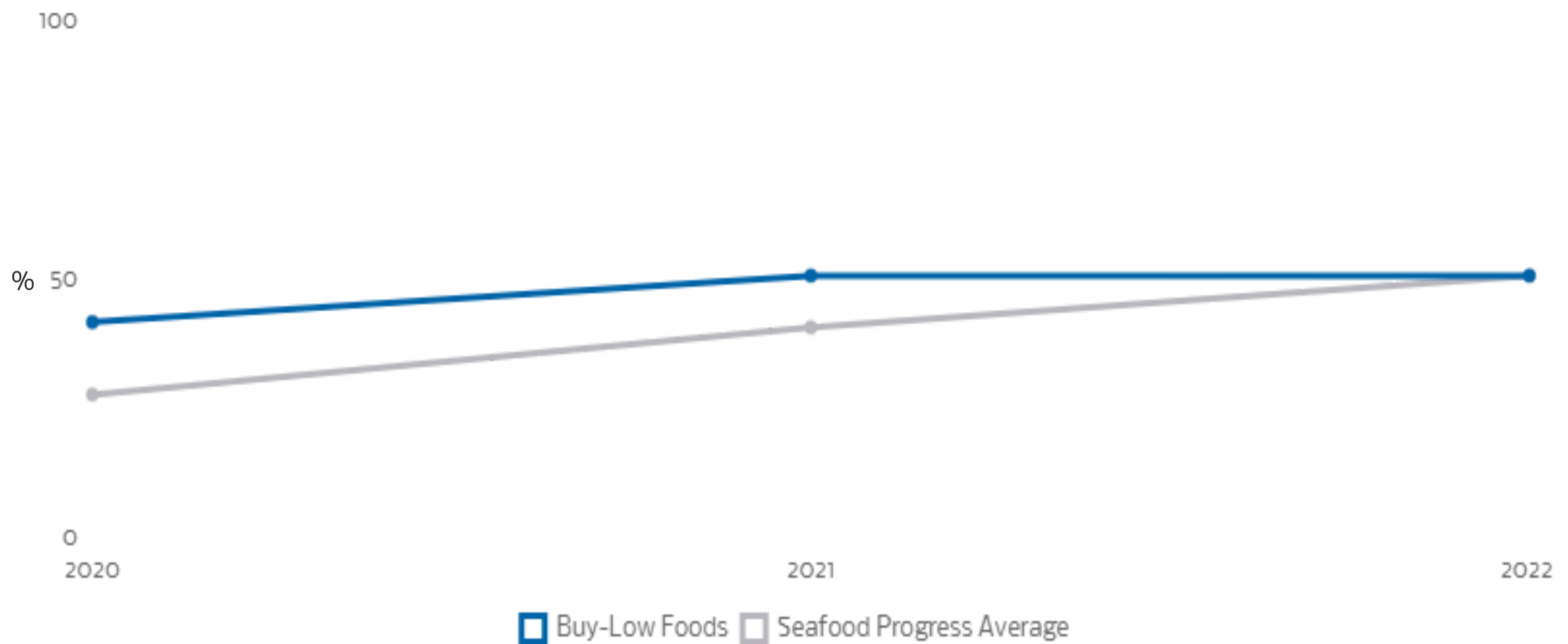
6.3 Skipjack tuna (bonito) - *Katsuwonus pelamis*.



Buy-Low Foods refrains from advertising skipjack tuna products that were not caught by pole and line, and preferentially sources pole and line caught Ocean Wise recommended skipjack products first, followed by pole and line caught skipjack that is MSC certified or rated Best Choice by Seafood Watch (personal communication, G. Genereux, 30/03/2022).

- ✘ 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 products with high levels of social responsibility and/or traceability (17 pts).

6.4 Other seafood products.



Since 2019, Buy-Low Foods has been using the Ocean Wise logo in its flyers to help draw customers' attention to these seafood products which it preferentially sources. In February of 2022, Buy-Low Foods signed on to a letter to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) organized by SeaChoice and Oceana in support of a boat-to-plate traceability program (personal communication, G. Genereux, 30/03/2022).

- ✘ Only sells versions of this product 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 this product 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 products with high levels of social responsibility and/or traceability (17 pts).

SeaChoice is a sustainable seafood partnership of the following three conservation groups:



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