

Seafood Progress

Grocery Stores' Commitment to Sustainable and Socially Responsible Seafood

64
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 Save-On-Foods](#)



Sustainable Commitment
click here



Progress Reports
2021, 2020, 2019, 2018



Location
Across Western Canada and the Yukon

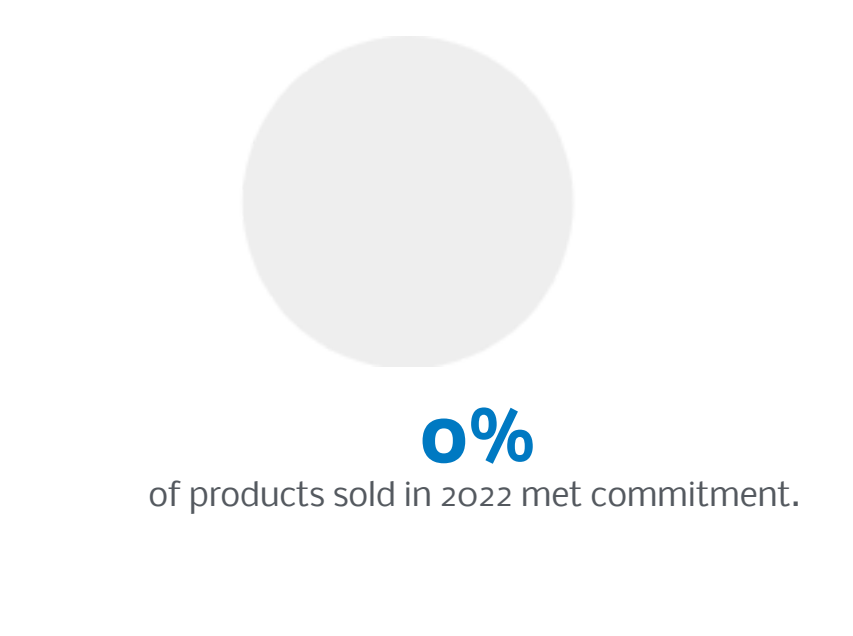
OVERVIEW

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



Sustainability Commitment. Save-On-Foods is committed to sourcing Ocean Wise Recommended fresh and frozen private label and national brand products, and aims to include shelf stable under this commitment by the end of 2022. Save-On did not report on the percentage of seafood that was in line with this commitment in the past year in time for the release of its 2022 Seafood Progress profile. However, it did share with SeaChoice that it is committed to implementing a full chain traceability policy that traces at least the scientific name, geographic origin and gear type or farming method for all its private label and national products by the end of 2023 (personal communication, M. Santos, 03/06/2022).

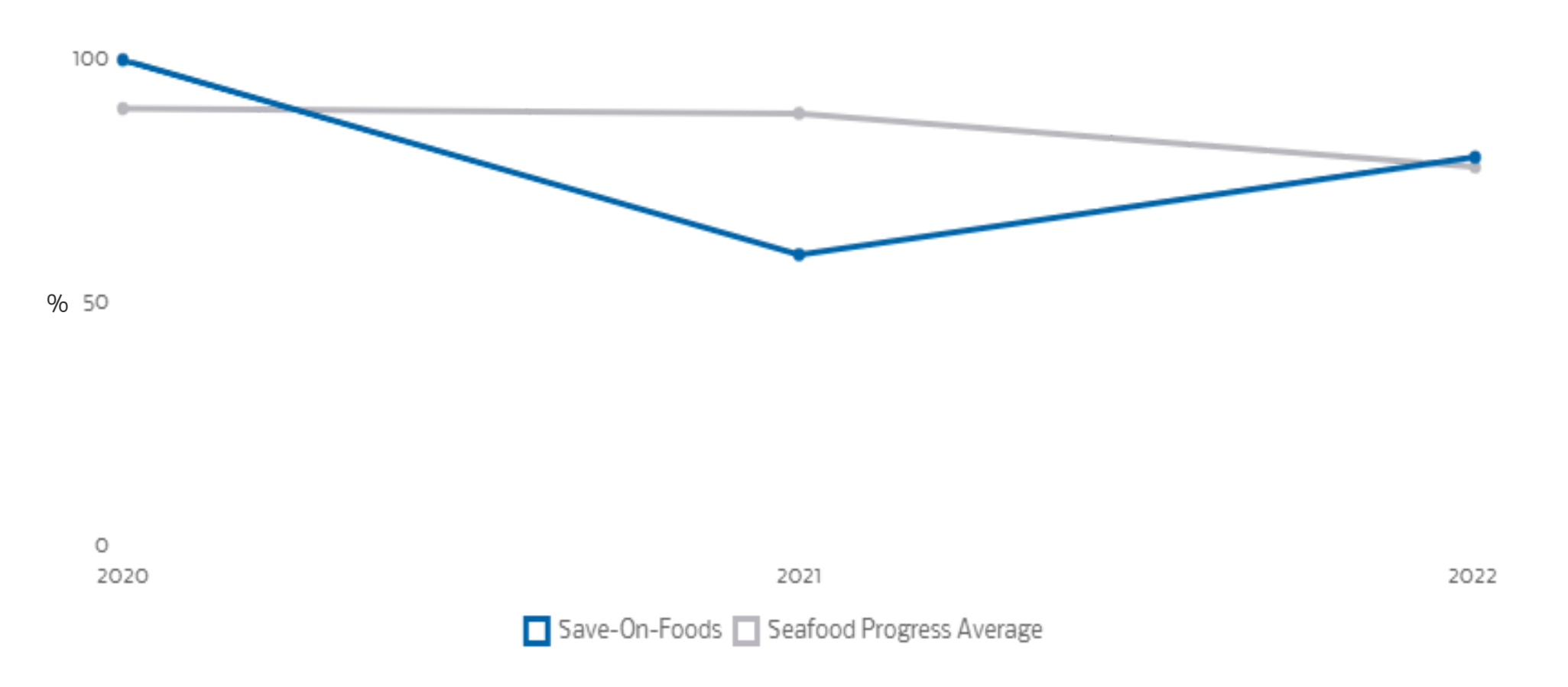
Clear Objectives	✗
Supplier Expectations	✗
Traceability Policy	✗
Reporting on Activities	✗

Social Responsibility Commitment. Save-On-Foods is committed to only sourcing socially responsible seafood that adheres to national legislation. Furthermore, commodity-specific standards are built into all supplier contracts. In 2019, Save-On was in the process of developing a supplier Code of Conduct, and in March 2022, Save-On reported that it is nearly complete (personal communication, J. Dickson, 22/03/2022).

STEP 1: COMMITMENT



1.1 Grocery store 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, and aims to include shelf stable under this commitment by the end of 2022. In June 2022, Save-On reported to SeaChoice that it is committed to implementing a full chain traceability policy that traces at least the scientific name, geographic origin and gear type or farming method for all its private label and national products by 2023 (personal communication, M. Santos, 03/06/2022).

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.

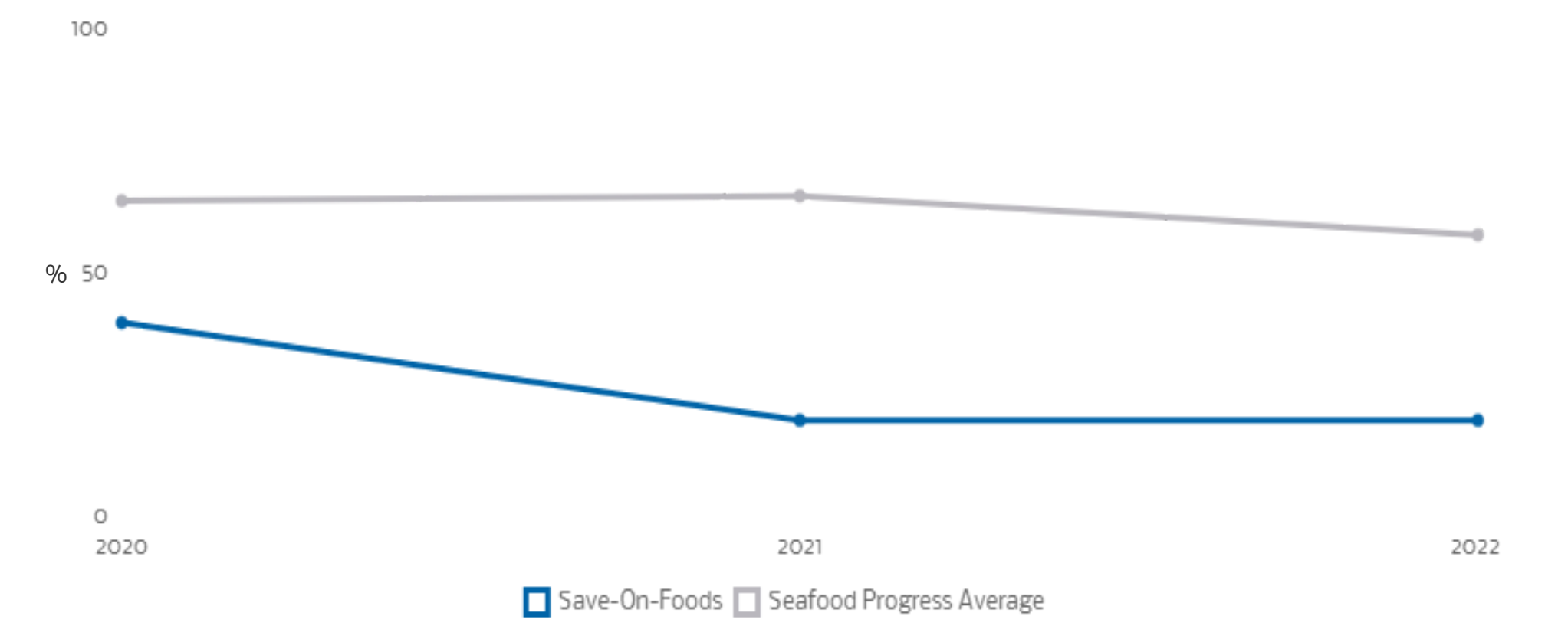
60% Commitment to environmental sustainability that includes clear objectives that are supported by references to credible standards (such as Seafood Watch or Ocean Wise ratings, eco-certifications, etc.).

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.



Save-On-Foods states it is committed to only sourcing socially responsible seafood and that adherence to national legislation and commodity-specific standards are built into all supplier contracts. In 2019, Save-On was in the process of developing a supplier Code of Conduct, and in March 2022, Save-On reported that it is nearly complete (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.

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

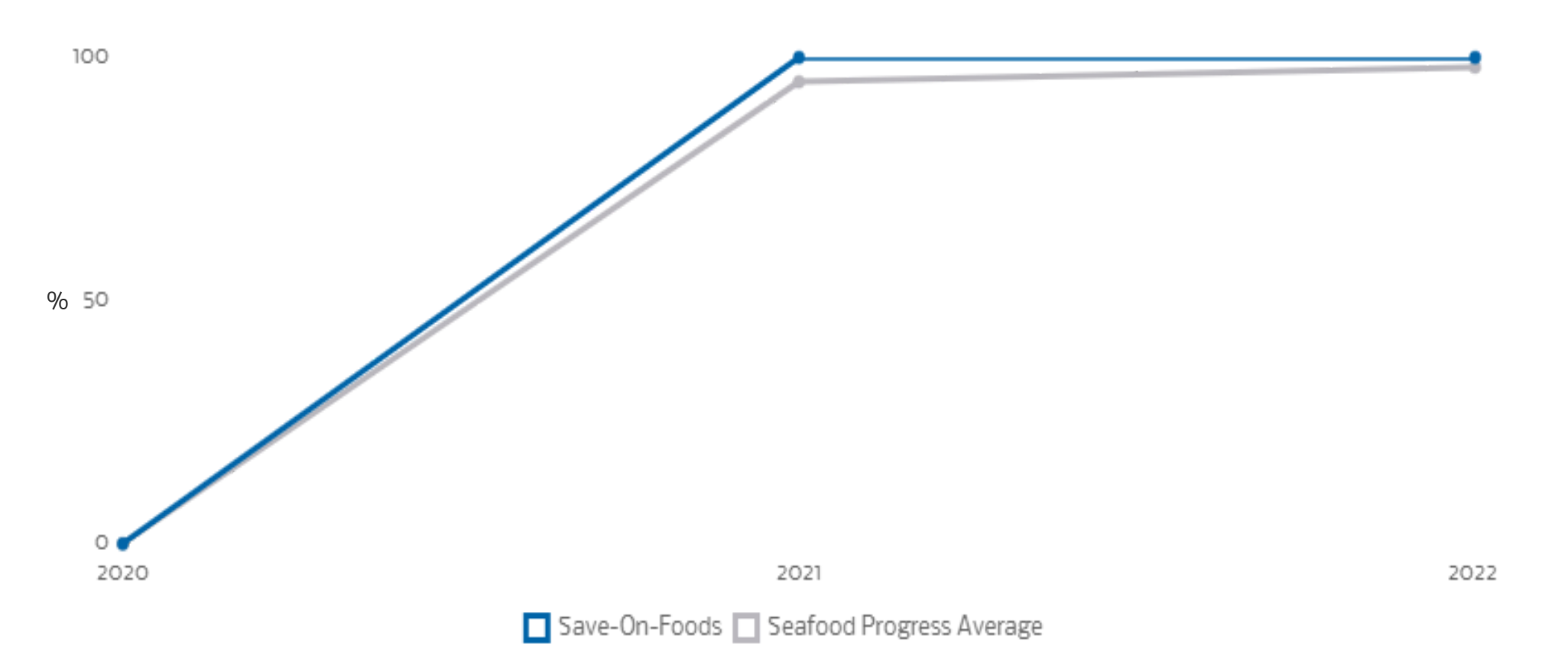
60% Commitment to social responsibility includes clear objectives and actions or expectations for seafood suppliers.

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.



Save-On-Foods' sustainable seafood policy includes all of its store banners (personal communication, S. Heasman, 22/03/2022).

Scoring

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

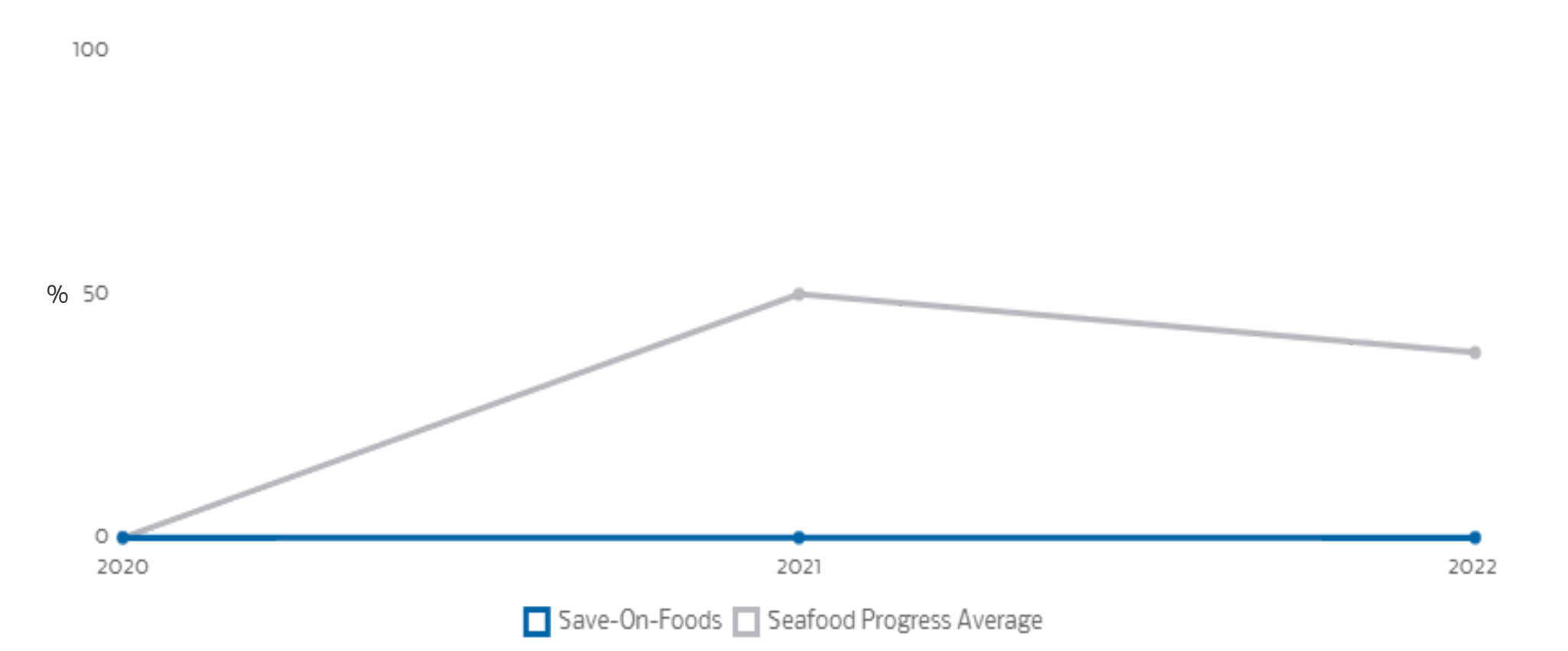
75% Grocery store includes 75% or more of its banners in its sustainable seafood commitment.

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.



Save-On-Foods commitment does not cover any of its shelf stable or national brand products, but aims to cover these product categories by the end of 2022 (personal communication, S. Heasman, 22/03/2022).

Scoring

100%

Grocery store’s commitment includes all of its shelf stable AND national brand products.

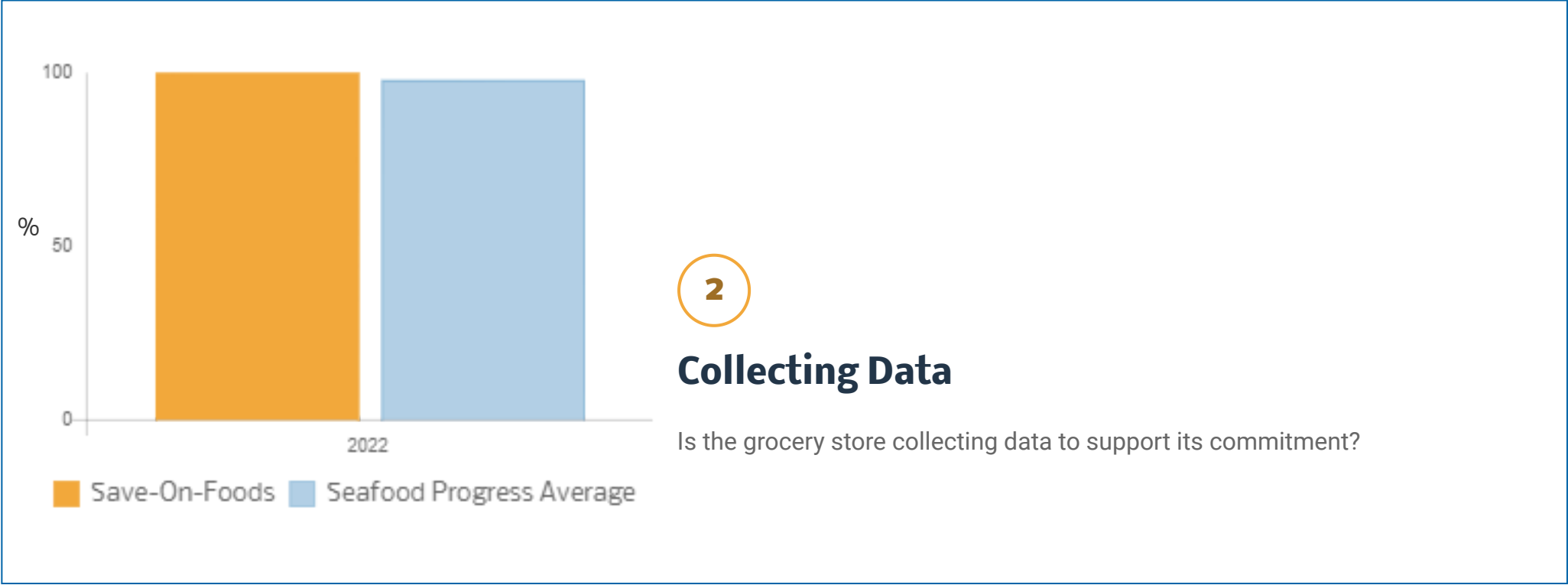
50%

Grocery store’s commitment includes all of its shelf stable or national brand products.

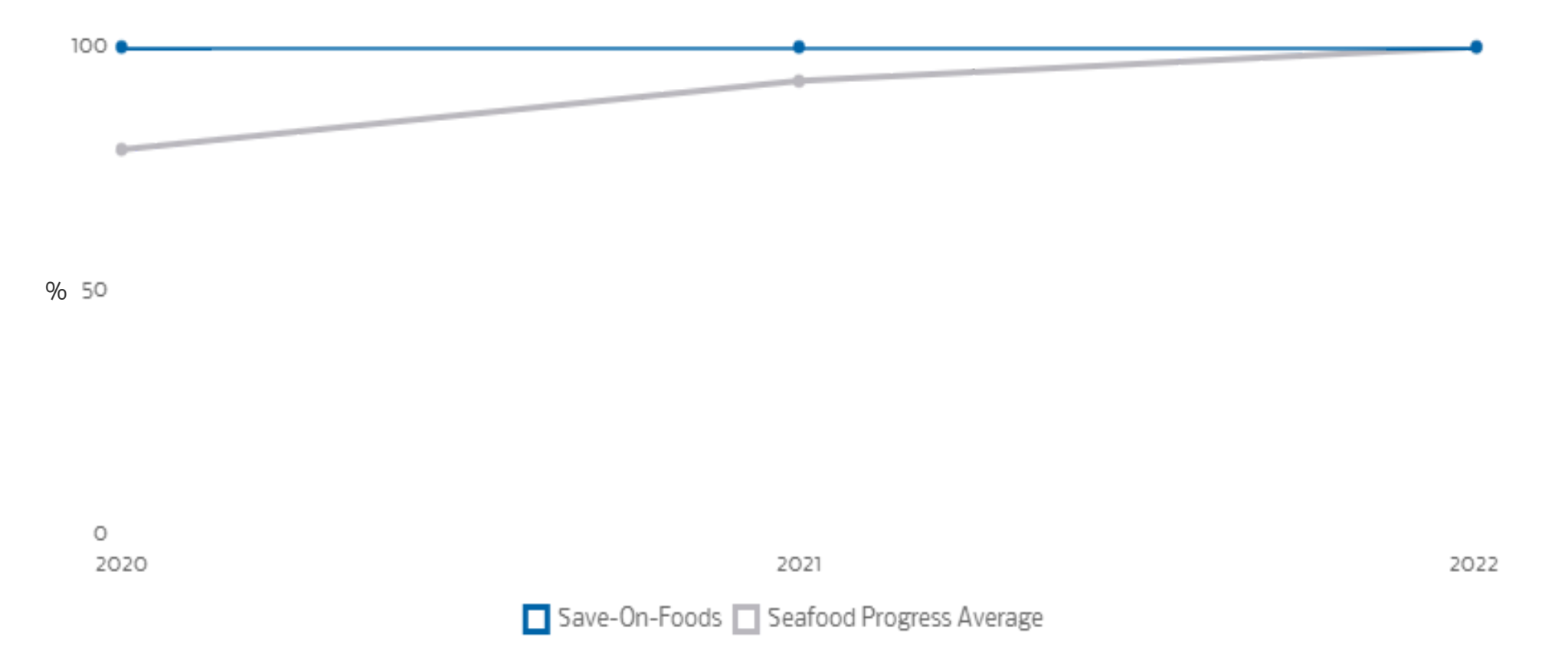
0%

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.



Save-On collects data on scientific name for all fresh and frozen products (personal communication, S. Heasman, 22/03/2022).

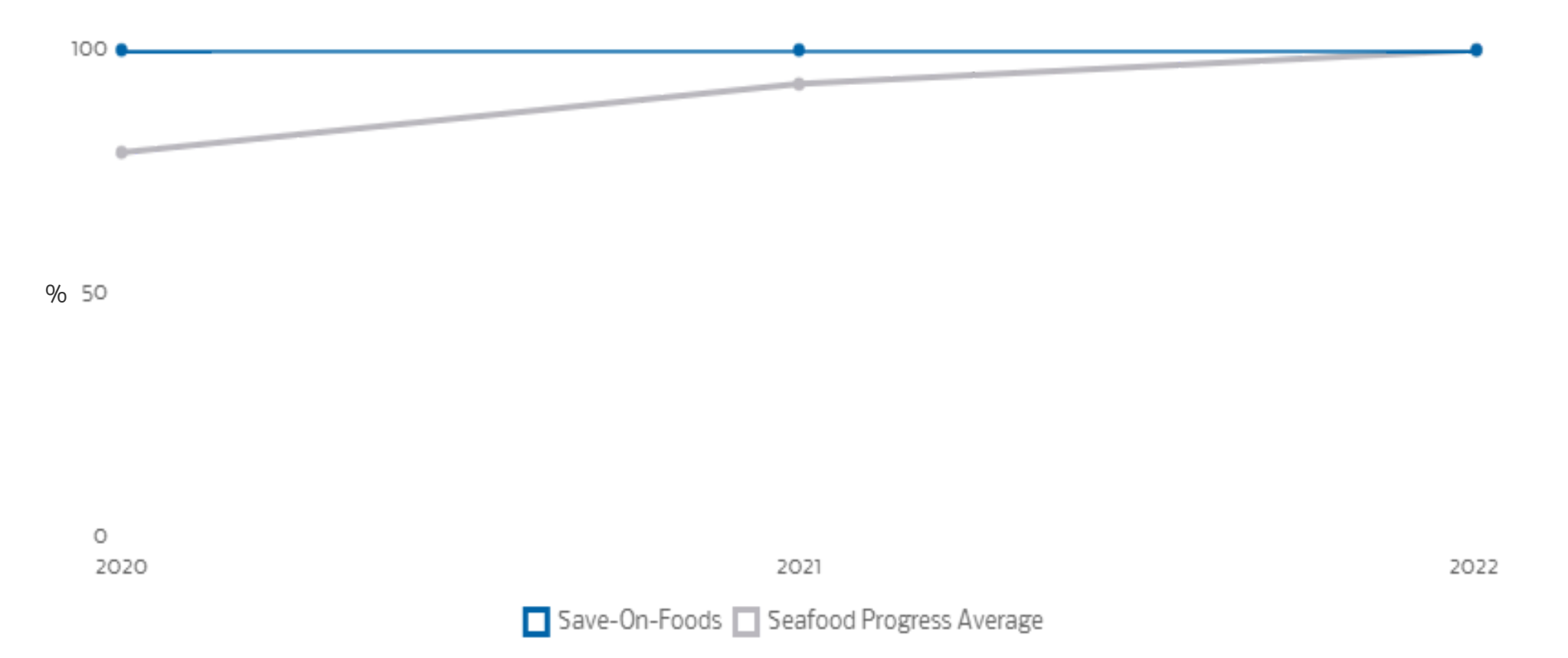
Scoring

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.



Save-On collects data on geographic origin for all fresh and frozen products (personal communication, S. Heasman, 22/03/2022).

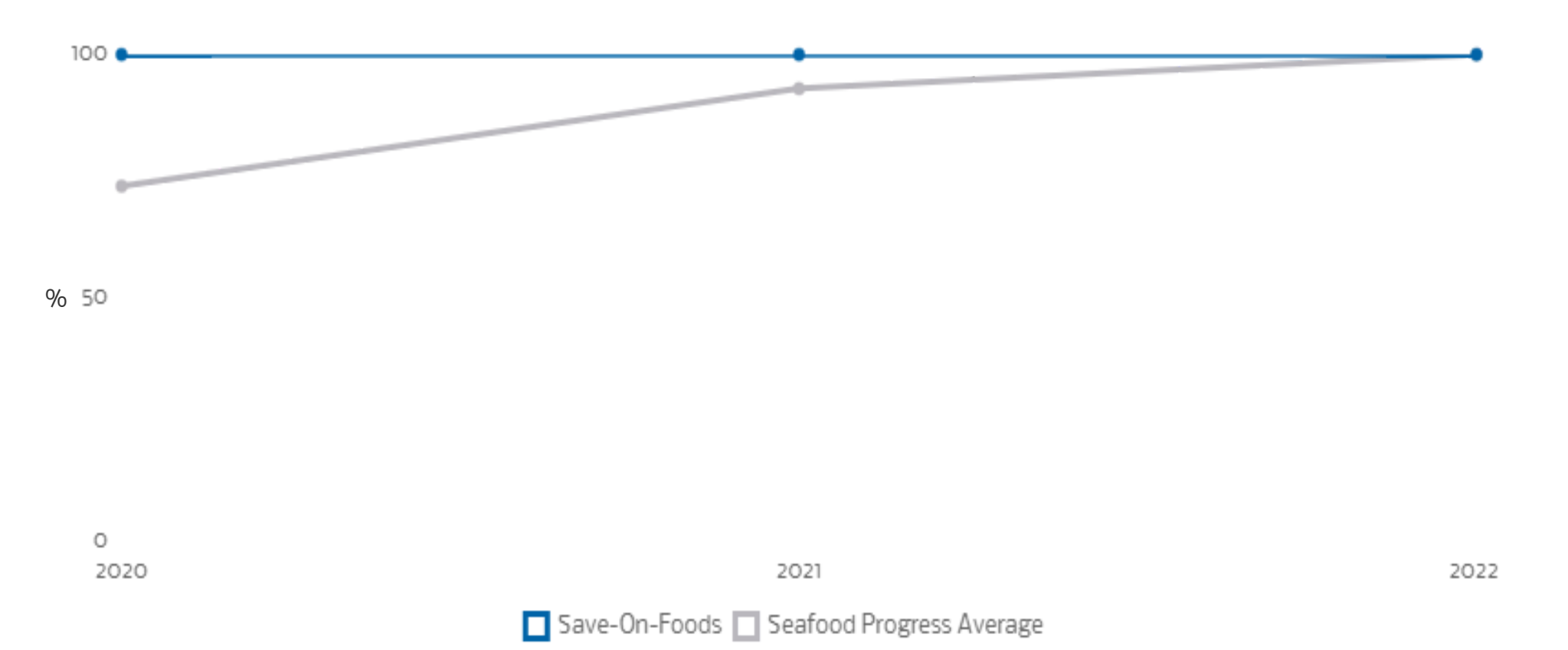
Scoring

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.



Save-On collects data on whether wild or farmed for all fresh and frozen products (personal communication, S. Heasman, 22/03/2022).

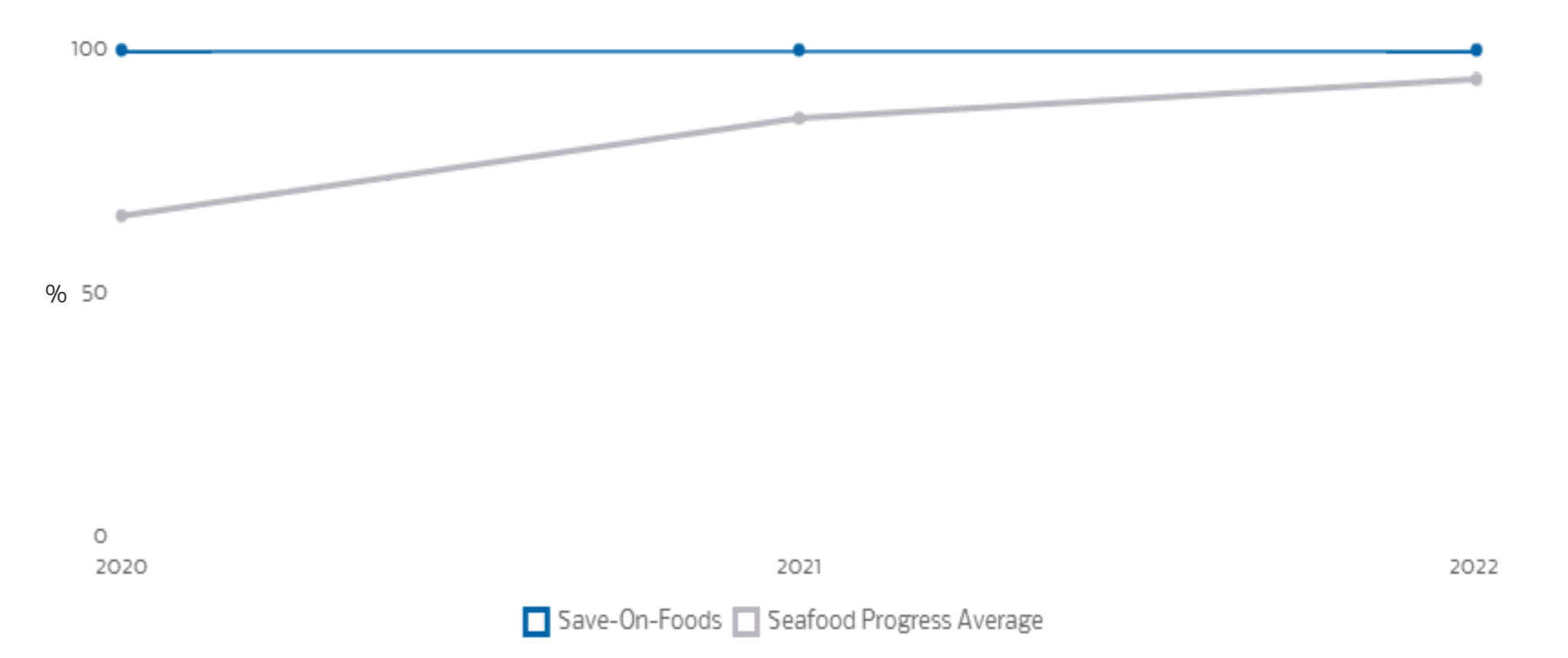
Scoring

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.



Save-On collects data on gear type and farming method for all fresh and frozen products (personal communication, S. Heasman, 22/03/2022).

Scoring

100% Collects data for all products.

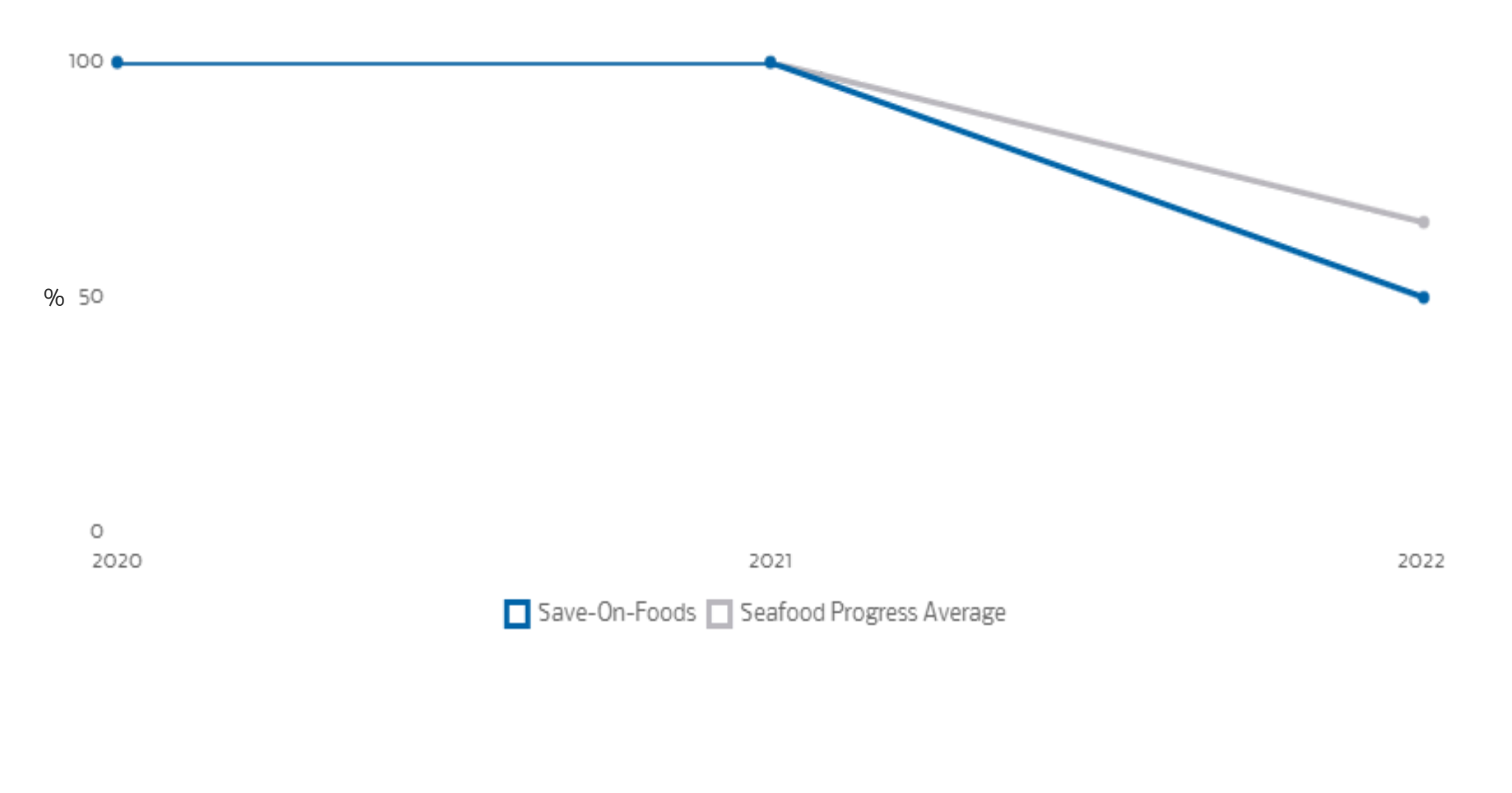
50% Collects data for some products.

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

STEP 3: SOURCING



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



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 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.

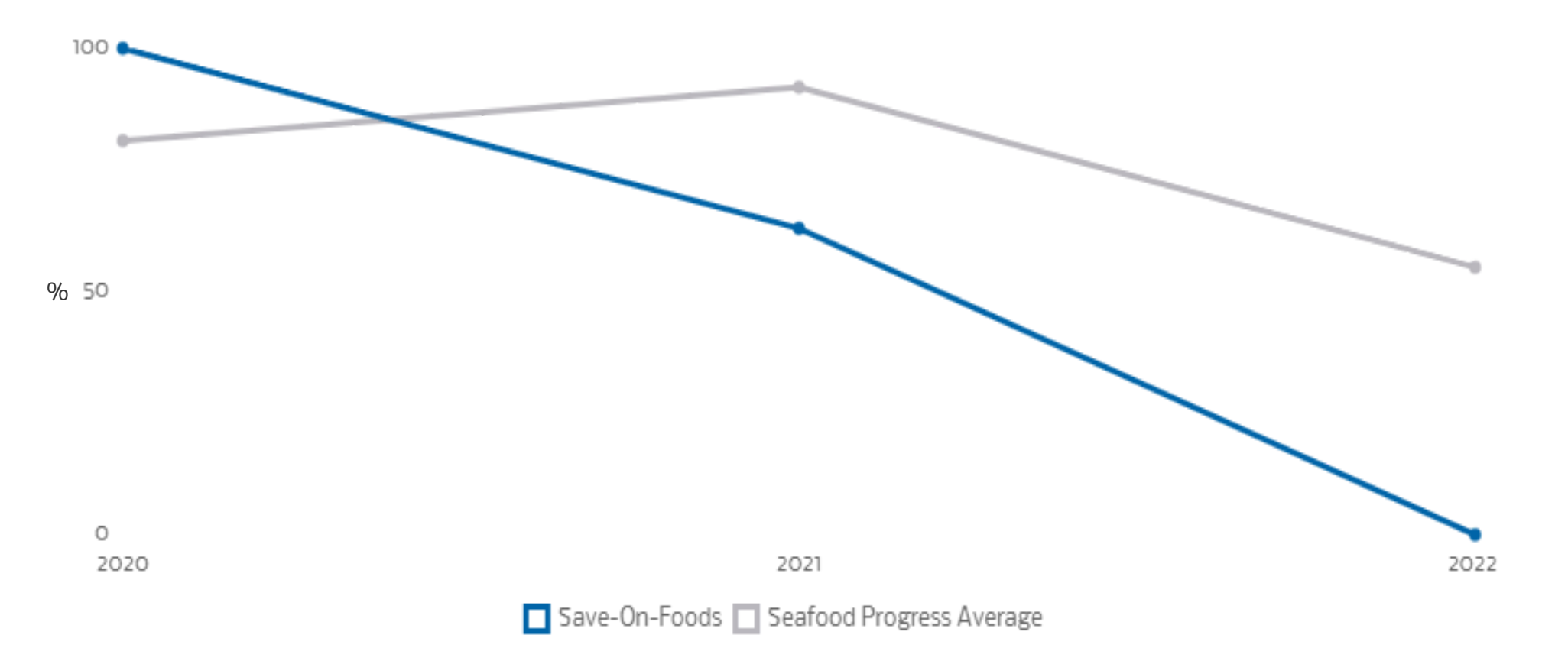
25%

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.



Save-On-Foods did not report on the overall percentage of seafood sold in the past year that was in line with its commitment in time for the release of its 2022 Seafood Progress profile.

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.

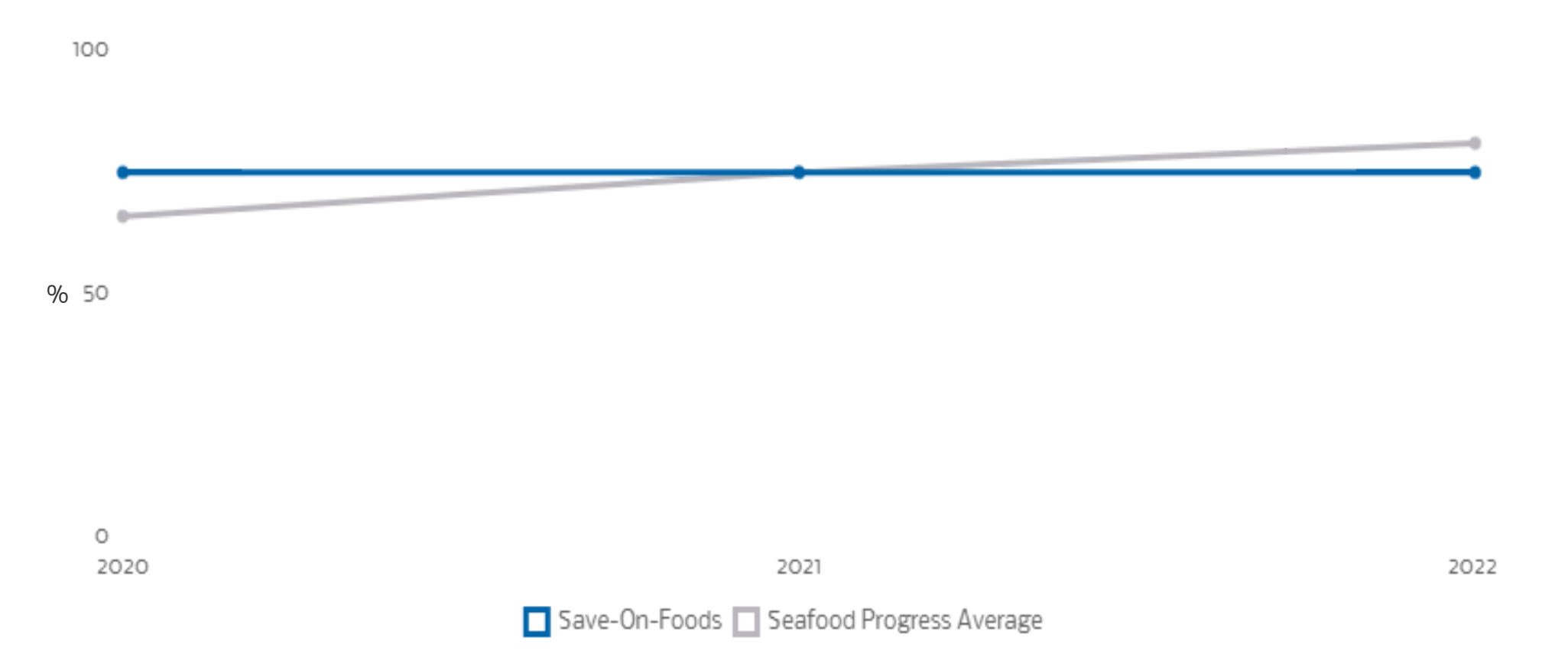
25%

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.



All of Save-On-Foods' seafood suppliers' contracts include requirements that are in keeping with Save-On's commitment to sourcing a high proportion of Ocean Wise Recommended fresh and frozen seafood (personal communication, S. Heasman, 22/03/2022).

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.

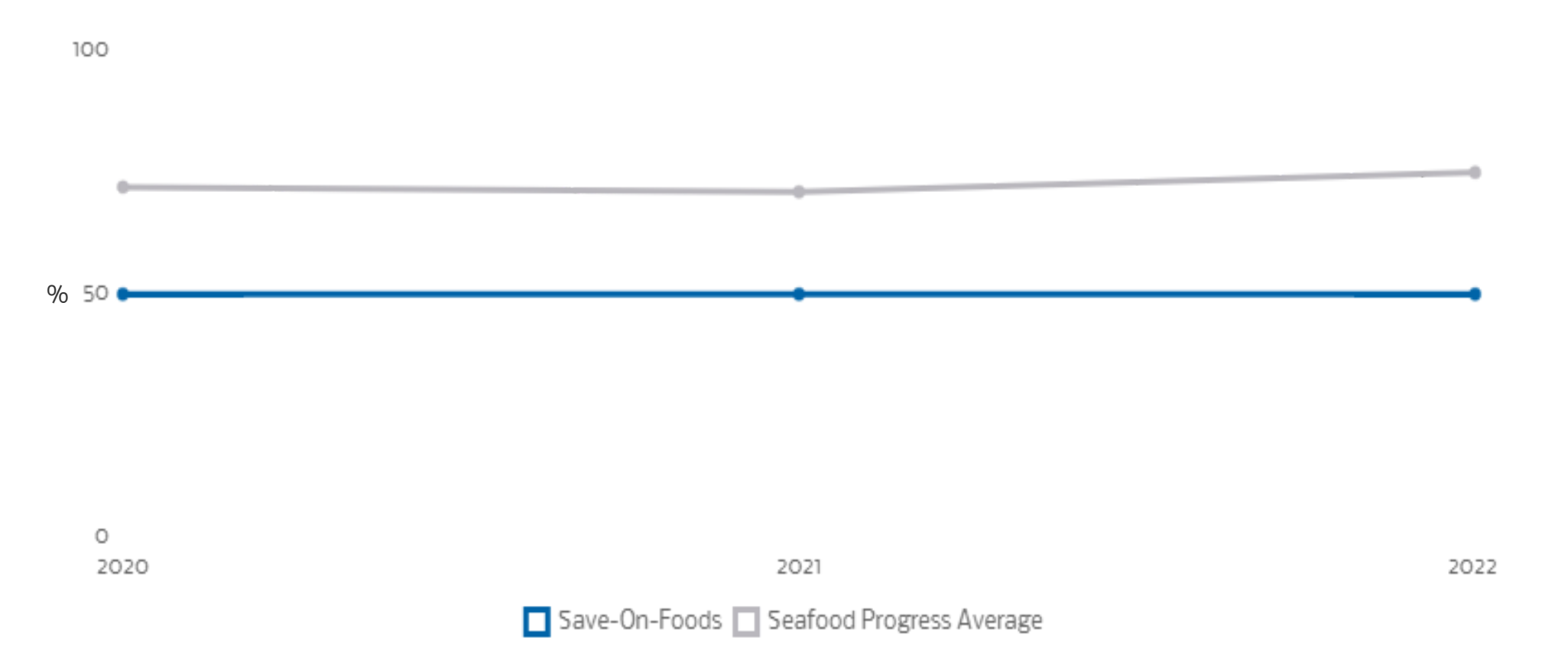
75% Rubric for retailers Feb 17 2022 Rubric for retailers Feb 17 2022 .XLSX 100% 10 B84 All suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct that covers all of the retailer's environmental sustainability commitment. Screen reader support enabled. All suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct that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



In 2019, Save-On was in the process of developing a supplier Code of Conduct, and in March 2022, Save-On reported that it is near completion (personal communication, J. Dickson, 22/03/2022).

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.

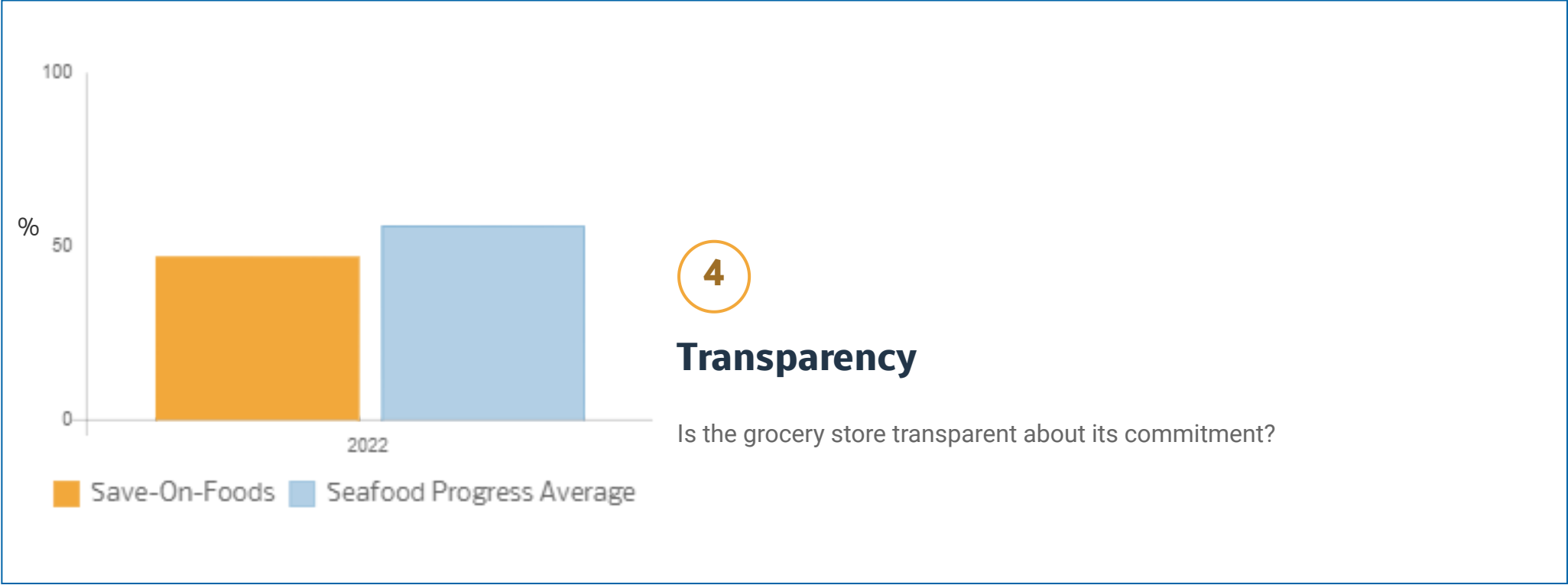
25%

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

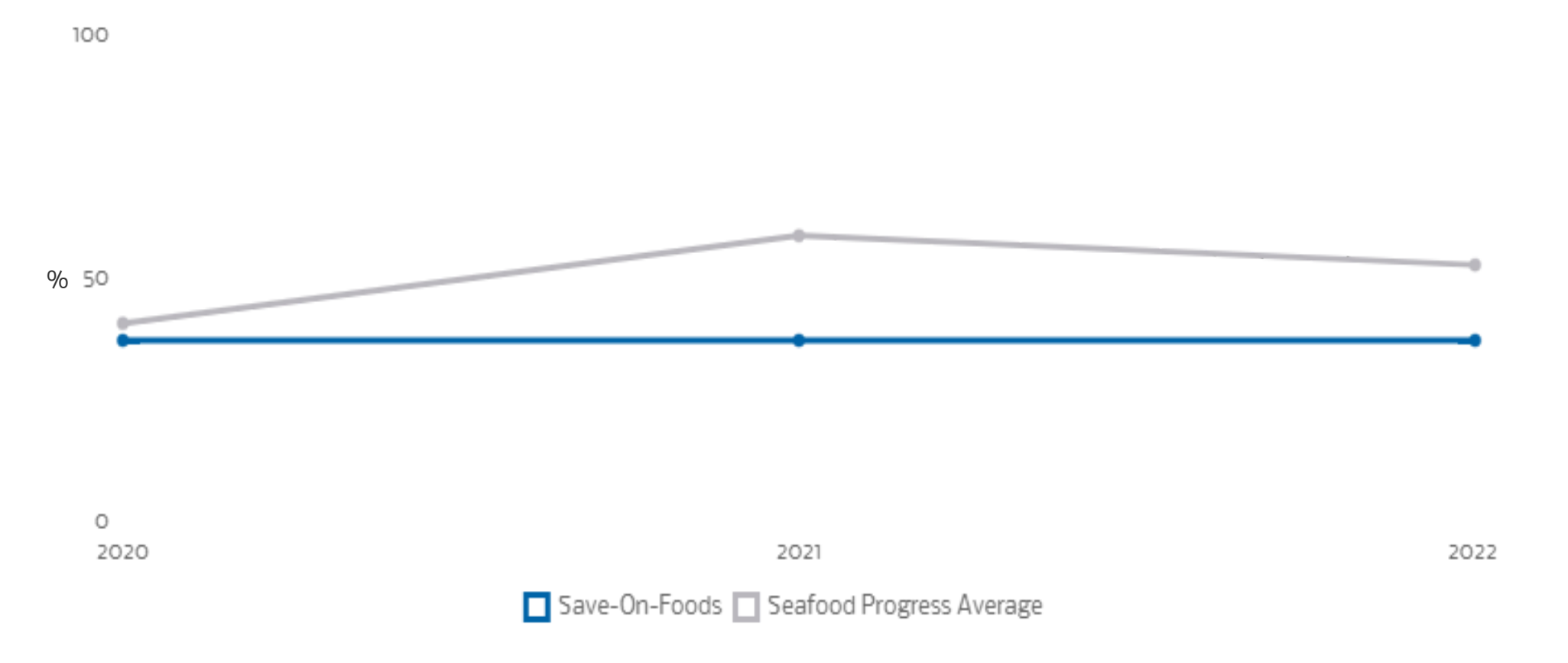
0%

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.



Some frozen products are labelled with the species’ scientific name, and some fresh and frozen products are labelled with country of origin and wild or farmed (personal communication, S. Heasman, 22/03/2022).

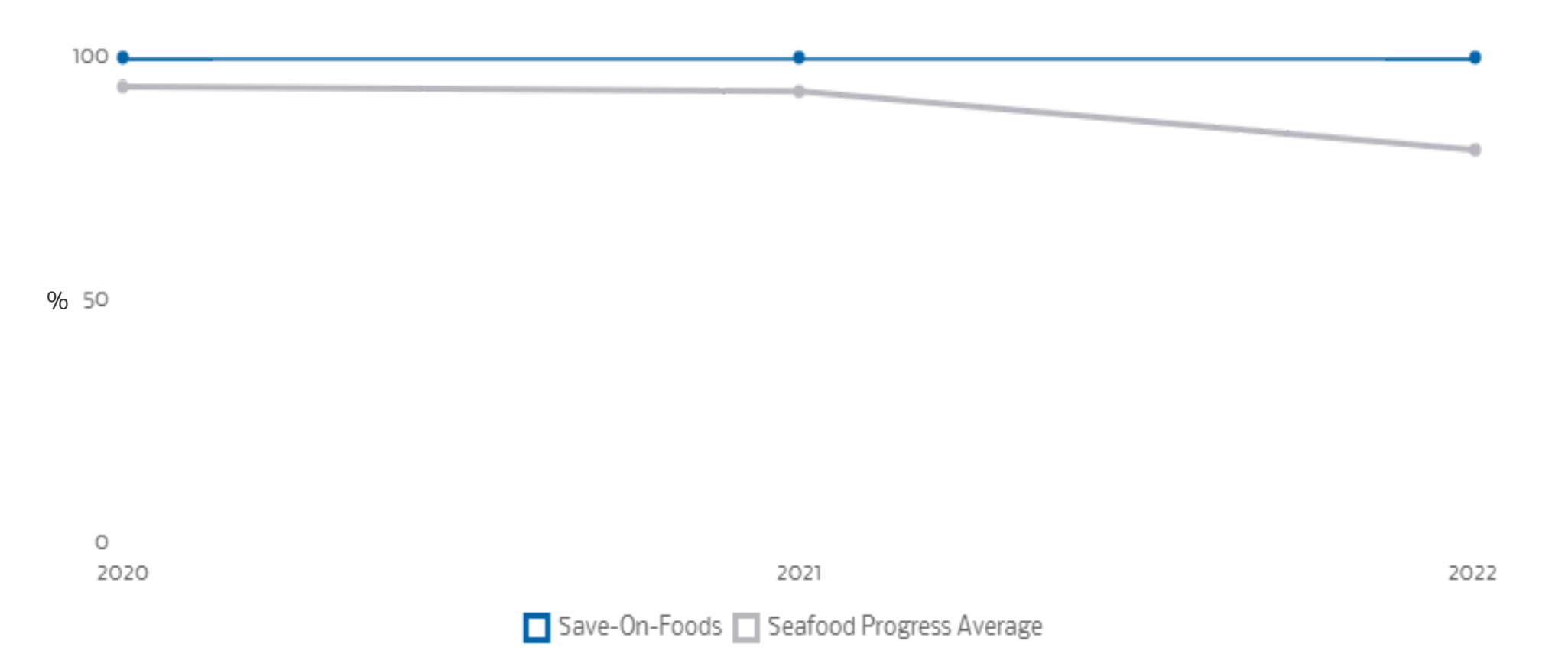
Scoring

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.



Save-On-Foods uses the Ocean Wise logo or includes “O/W” on applicable fresh product labels (personal communication, S. Heasman, 22/03/2022).

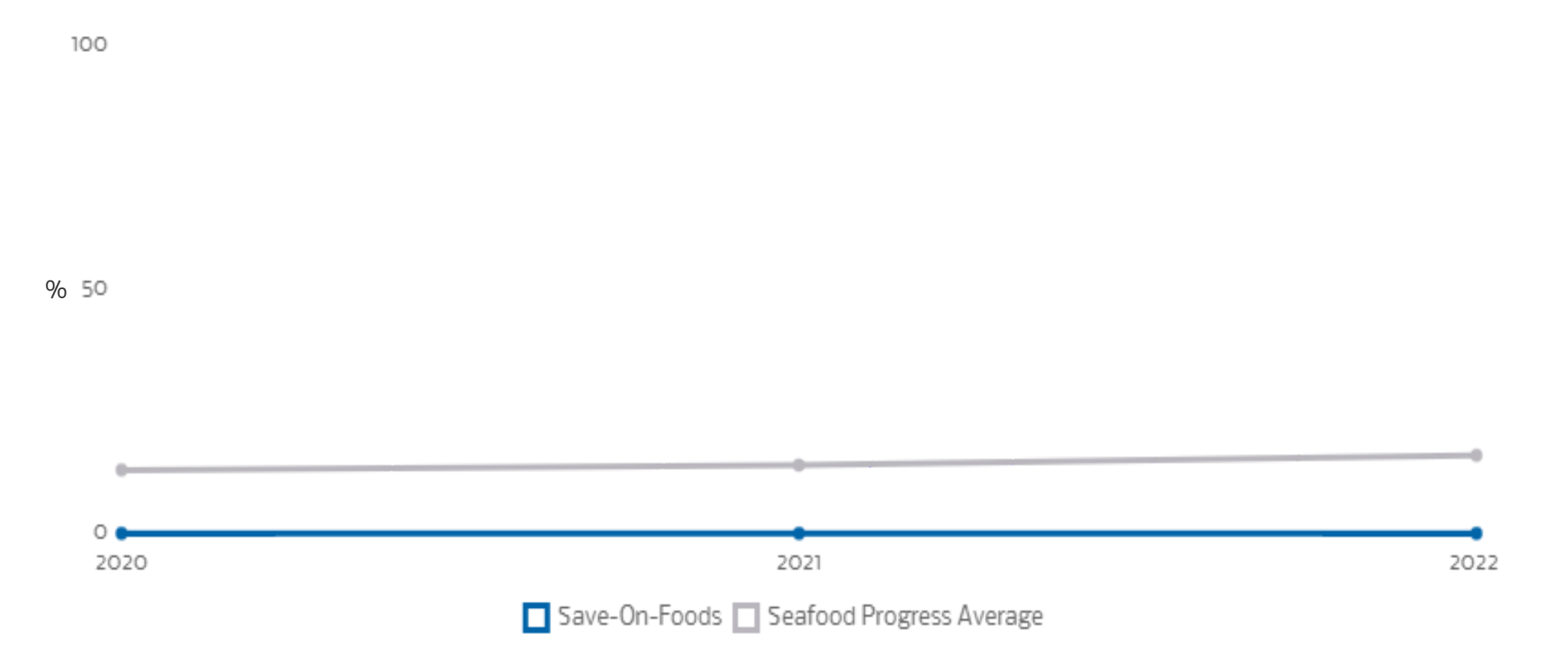
Scoring

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.



Save-On-Foods does not publish this information (personal communication, S. Heasman, 22/03/2022).

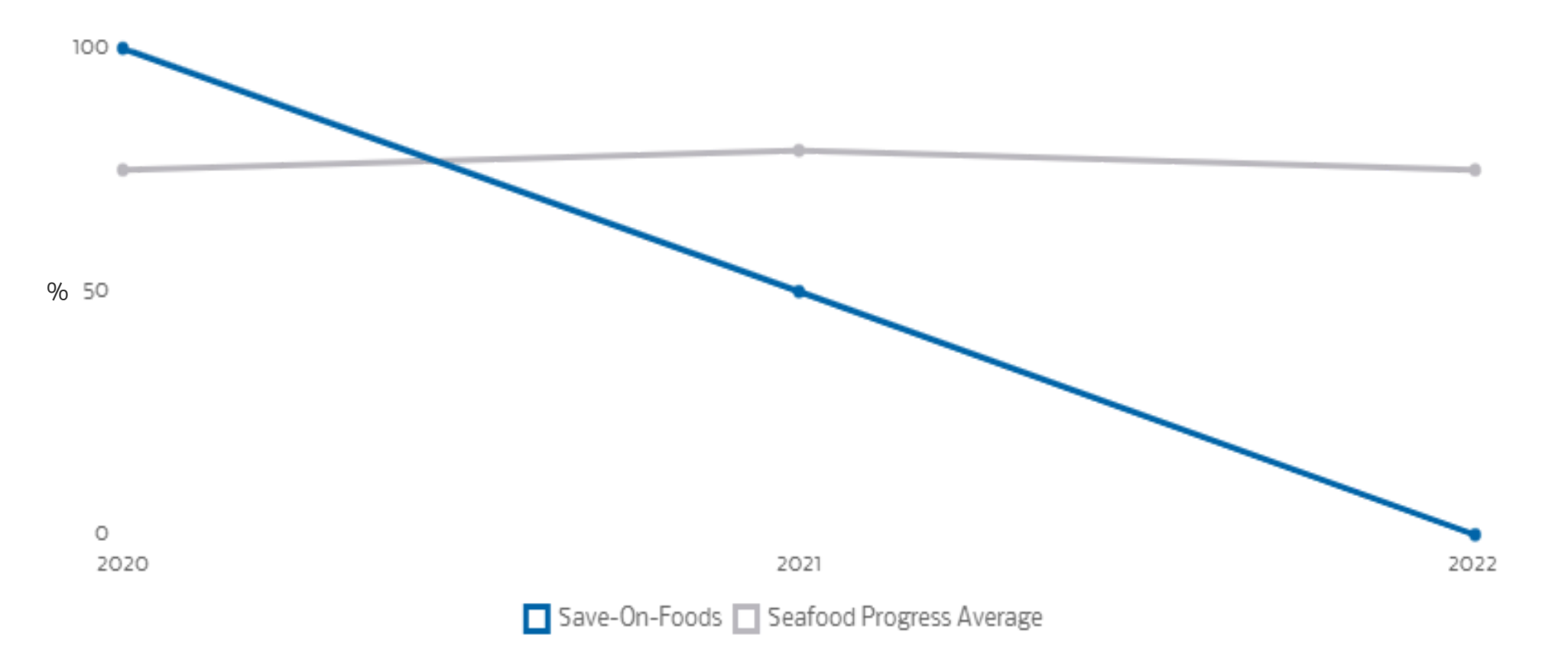
Scoring

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.



Save-On-Foods reported publicly how much of its seafood sold met its commitment in 2018 and again in 2021, but did not report in time for the release of its 2022 Seafood Progress profile.

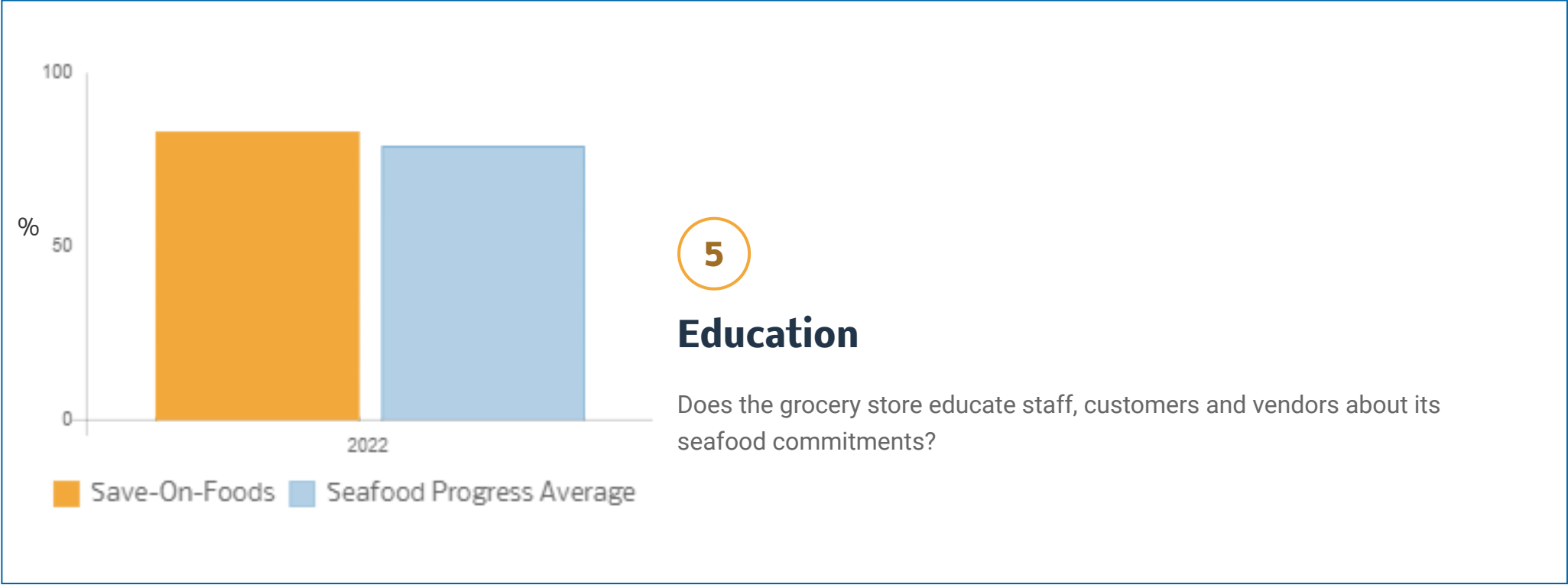
Scoring

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

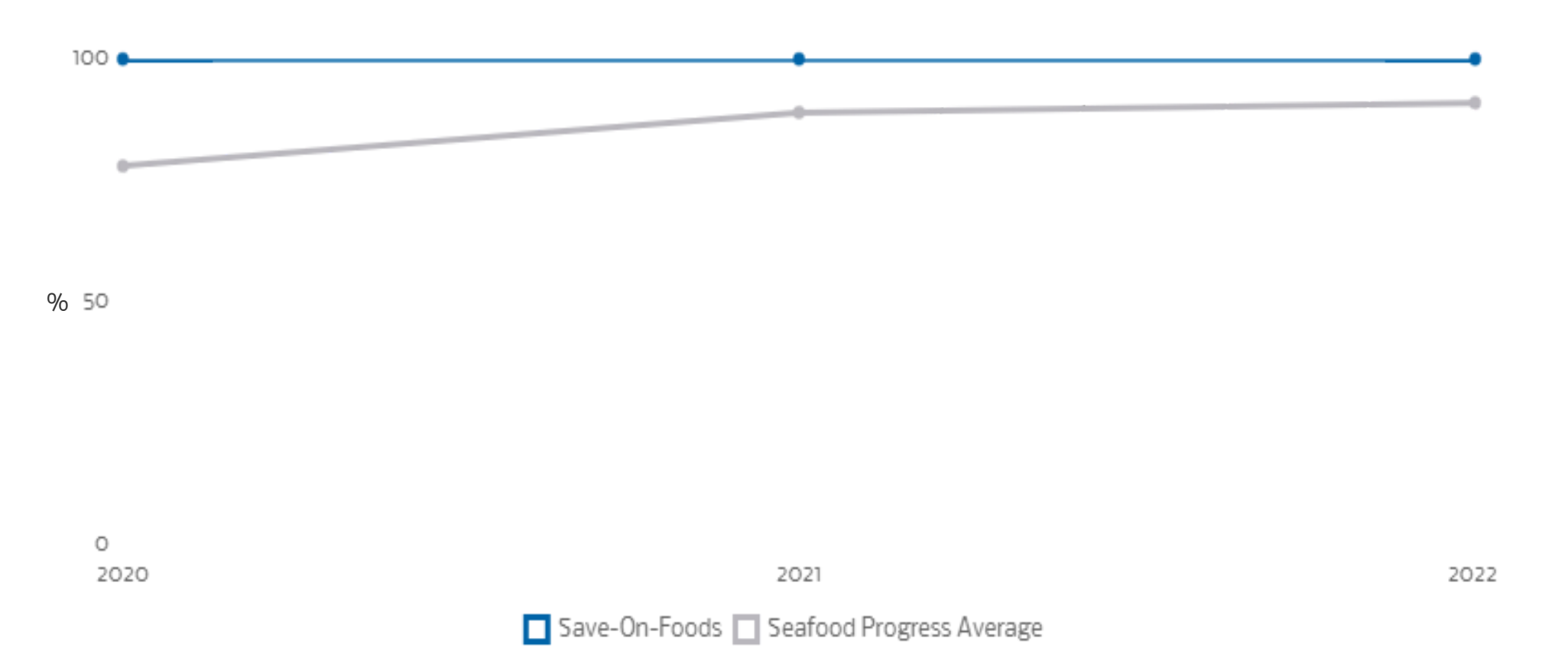
50% Rubric for retailers Feb 17 2022 Rubric for retailers Feb 17 2022 .XLSX 100% 10 B123 Retailer has at one point reported publicly how much of its seafood sold meets its commitment. Screen reader support enabled. Retailer has at one point reported publicly how much of its seafood sold meets its commitment.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



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, S. Heasman, 22/03/2022).

Scoring

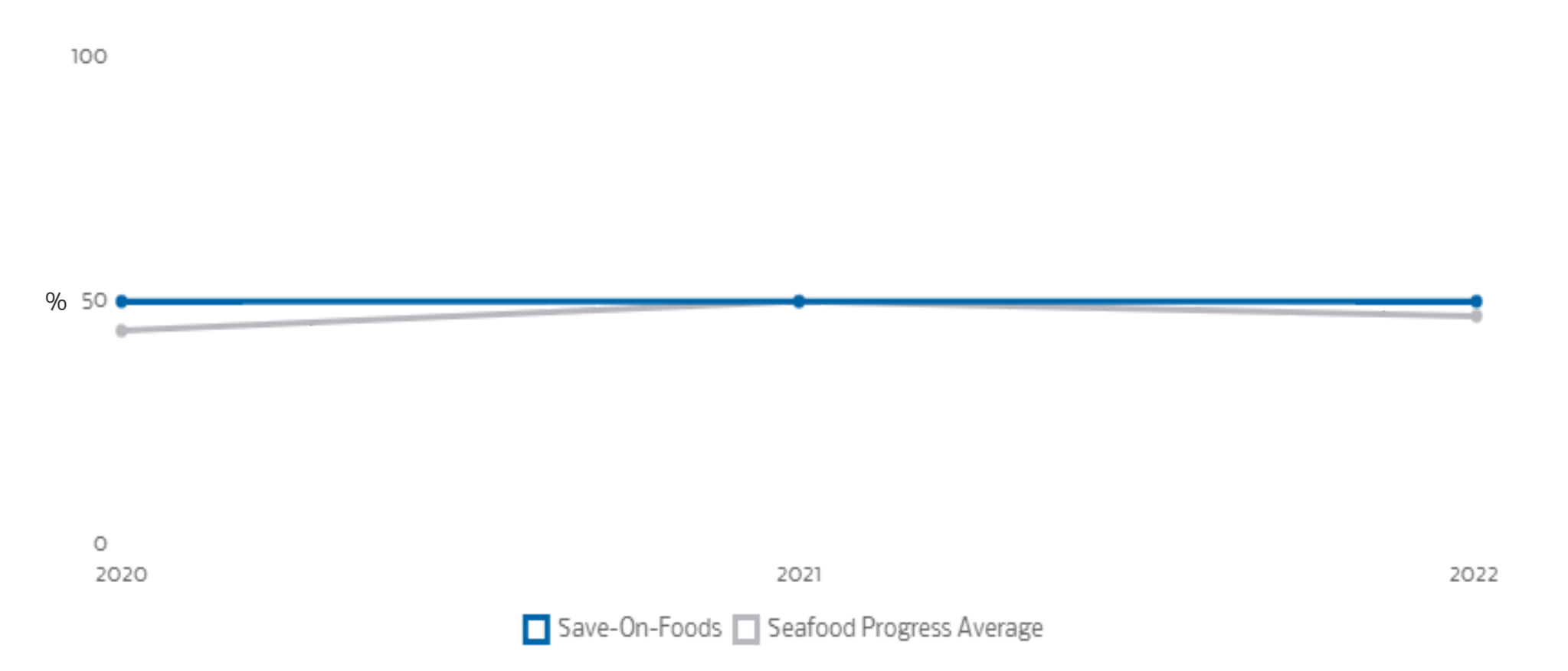
100% Training programs regularly conducted for all seafood staff.

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.



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

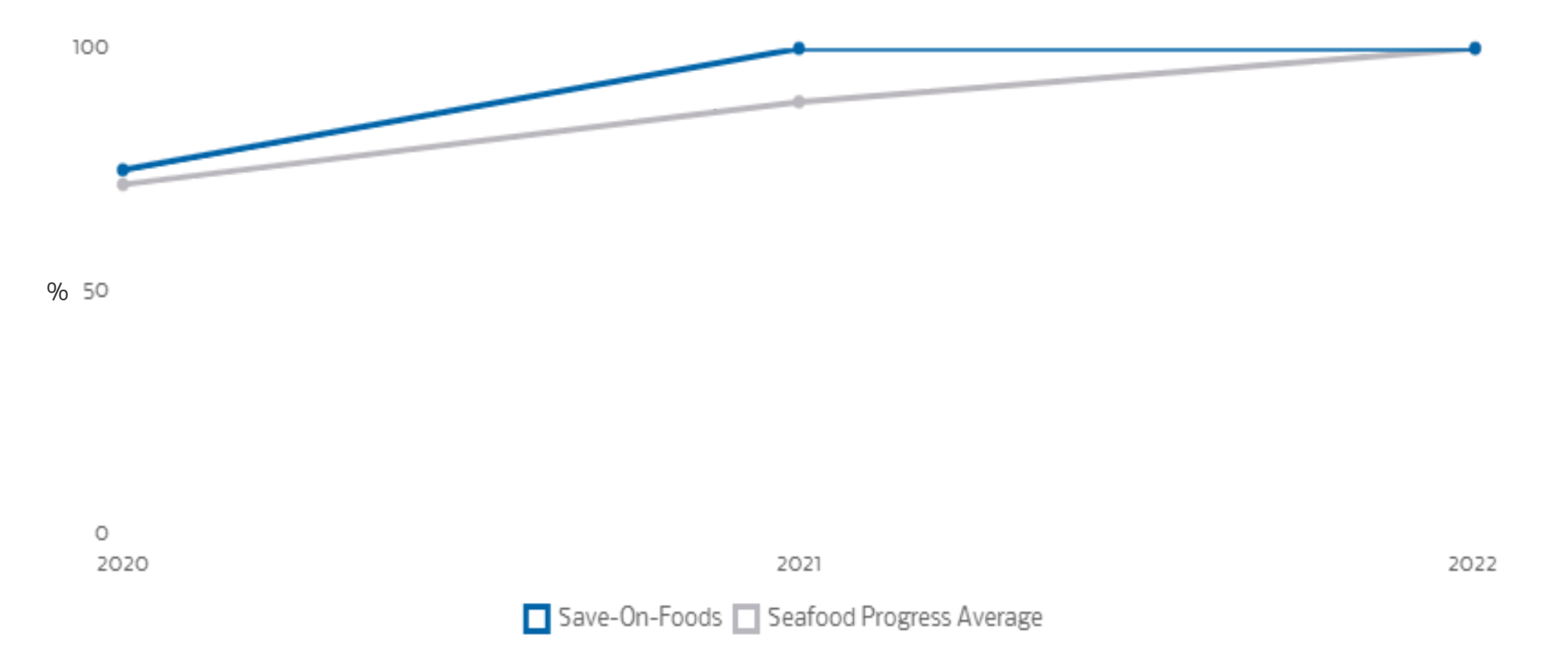
50%

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.



Save-On-Foods regularly engages with its seafood suppliers to ensure they understand its sustainable seafood commitment. The company also provides suppliers with recommendations to ensure that the products they supply are in line with its commitment (personal communication, S. Heasman, 22/03/2022).

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.

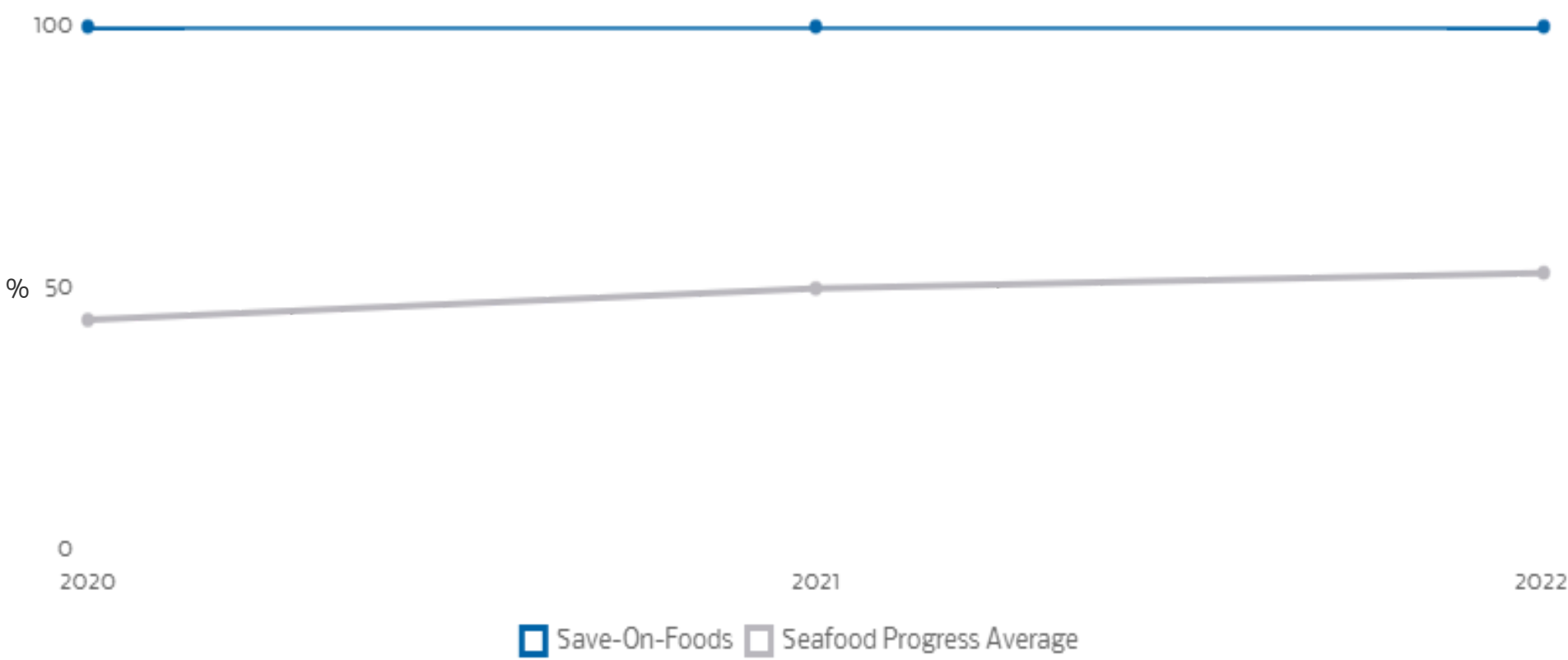
0%

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

STEP 6: TAKING INITIATIVE



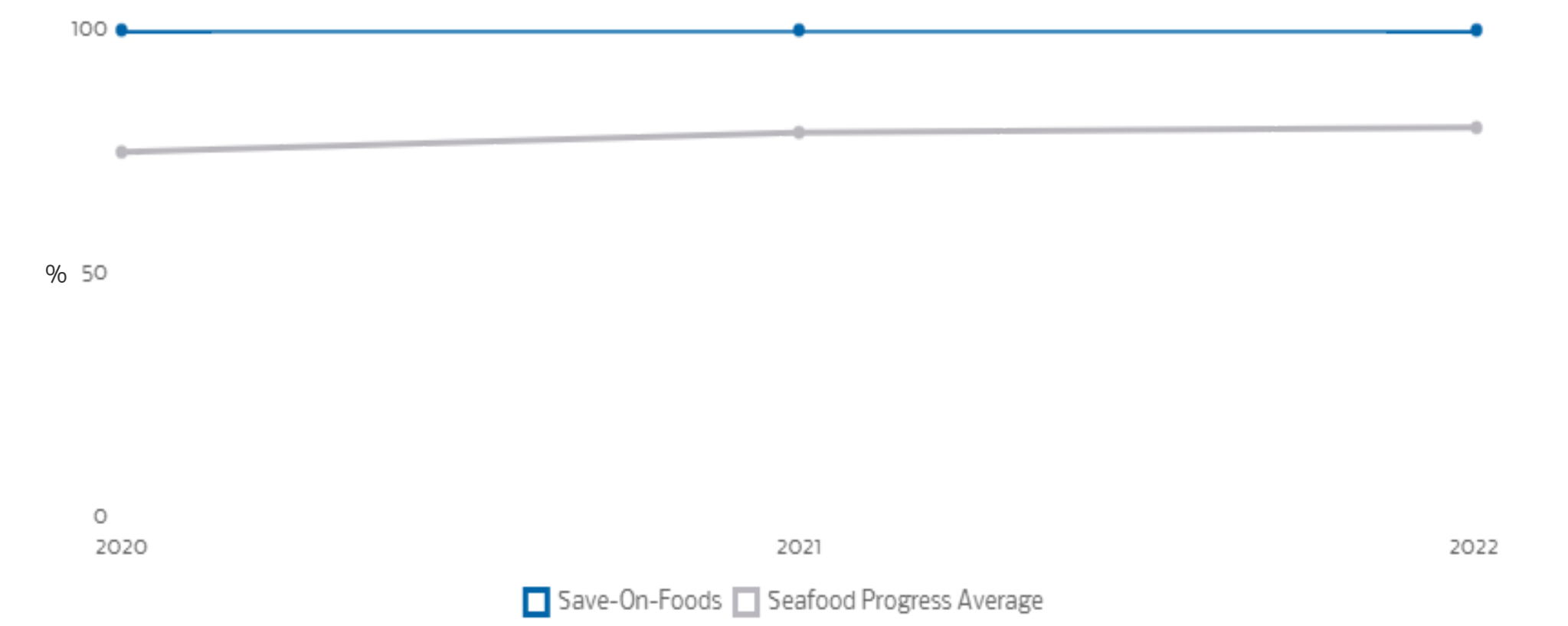
6.1 Farmed Atlantic salmon (either Canadian produced or imported)



All of Save-On’s private label and national brand farmed Atlantic salmon products are ASC certified (personal communication, C. Saunders, 22/03/2022).

- ✔ 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).

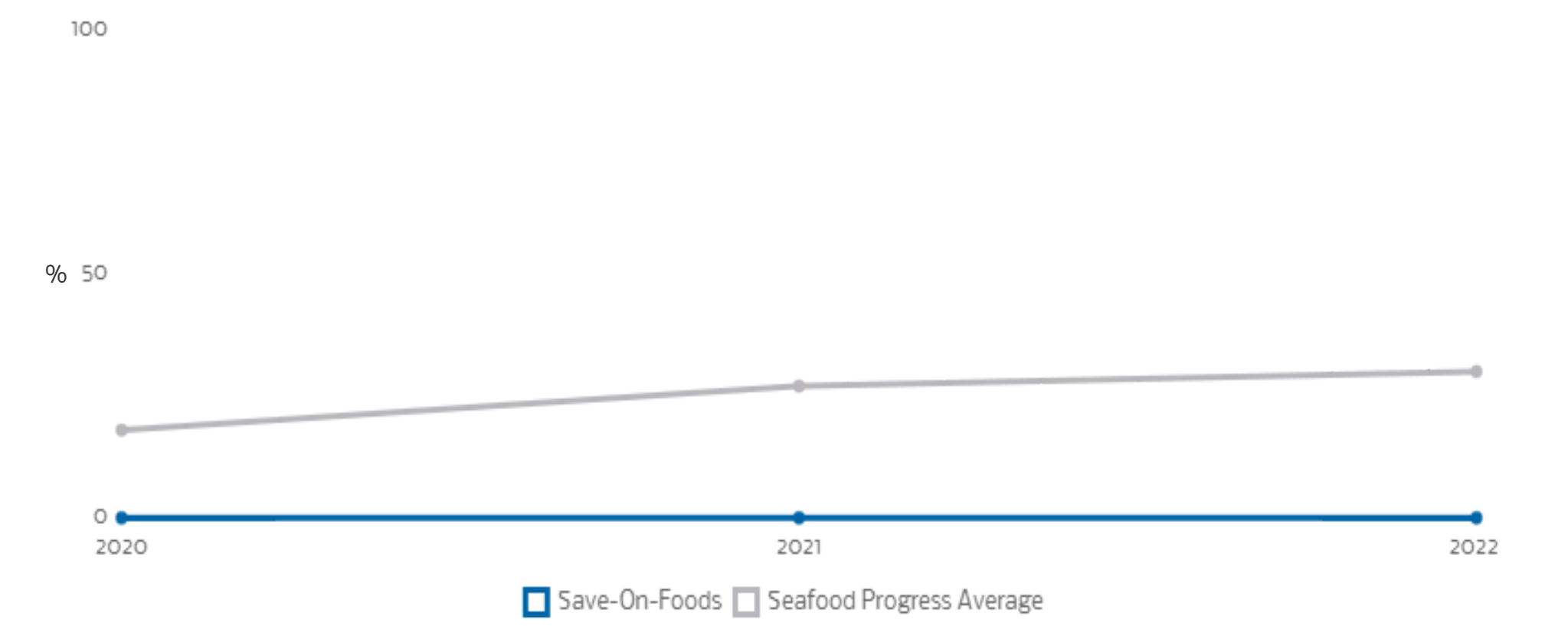
6.2 Farmed shrimps and prawns, Imported - multiple spp.



Save-On-Foods only sells farmed shrimp and prawn products that are Ocean Wise Recommended (personal communication, C. Saunders, 22/03/2022).

- ✓ 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.



Save-On is not currently engaged in any actions to support improvements in the production of skipjack tuna. Save-On is working on bringing canned skipjack tuna under its commitment to source 50% Ocean Wise Recommended products by the end of 2022 (personal communication, S. Heasman, 22/03/2022).

- ✗ 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.



Save-On-Foods’ preferentially sources Ocean Wise Recommended products and MSC certified rockfish (Pacific snapper) for their Western Family brand rockfish products (personal communication, J. Dickson, 22/03/2022). In January of 2022, Save-On-Foods signed on to a letter coordinated by SeaChoice and Oceana to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in support of an electronic and interoperable boat-to-plate traceability system for all seafood sold in Canada.

- ✗ 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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