

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
Walton Family

NGO Partner(s)
Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP)



Sustainable Commitment
click here



Progress Reports
2021, 2020, 2019, 2018



Location
Throughout Canada (except for Nunavut)

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



0%

of products sold in 2022 met commitment.

Sustainability Commitment. Walmart Canada's sustainable seafood commitment states that all suppliers of its fresh and frozen (farmed and wild) seafood products, and canned tuna, will be sourced from fisheries or farms certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) or Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP), or by an equivalent program that follows FAO Guidelines and is recognized by the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative by 2025. Walmart is also committed to sourcing from fisheries or farms that are actively working towards certification, or fisheries or farms that are engaged in credible improvement projects. Walmart supports its commitment with a full chain traceability policy that traces the product scientific name, geographic origin, farmed/wild, gear type and farming method. Walmart Canada reports annually on a breakdown of seafood products sold by category that meets its commitment through its ESG disclosures, but has not ever disclosed the overall percentage of seafood products sold (including canned products) that were in line with its commitment.

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

✓ **Social Responsibility Commitment.** Walmart suppliers are expected to comply with [Walmart's Standards for Suppliers](#) and applicable [Responsible Sourcing Program](#) requirements. The Standards for Suppliers apply throughout the supply chain and set out Walmart's expectations of suppliers and their facilities regarding the ethical treatment of workers, workplace safety, environmental responsibility and appropriate business practices. Walmart has a well-developed traceability policy to verify compliance with its social responsibility commitment, and this is verified through the use of social, safety and environmental compliance audits which follow a risk-based approach. Finally, Walmart reported on the results of its FY2021 social compliance audits through its [2021 ESG Report](#).

STEP 1: COMMITMENT

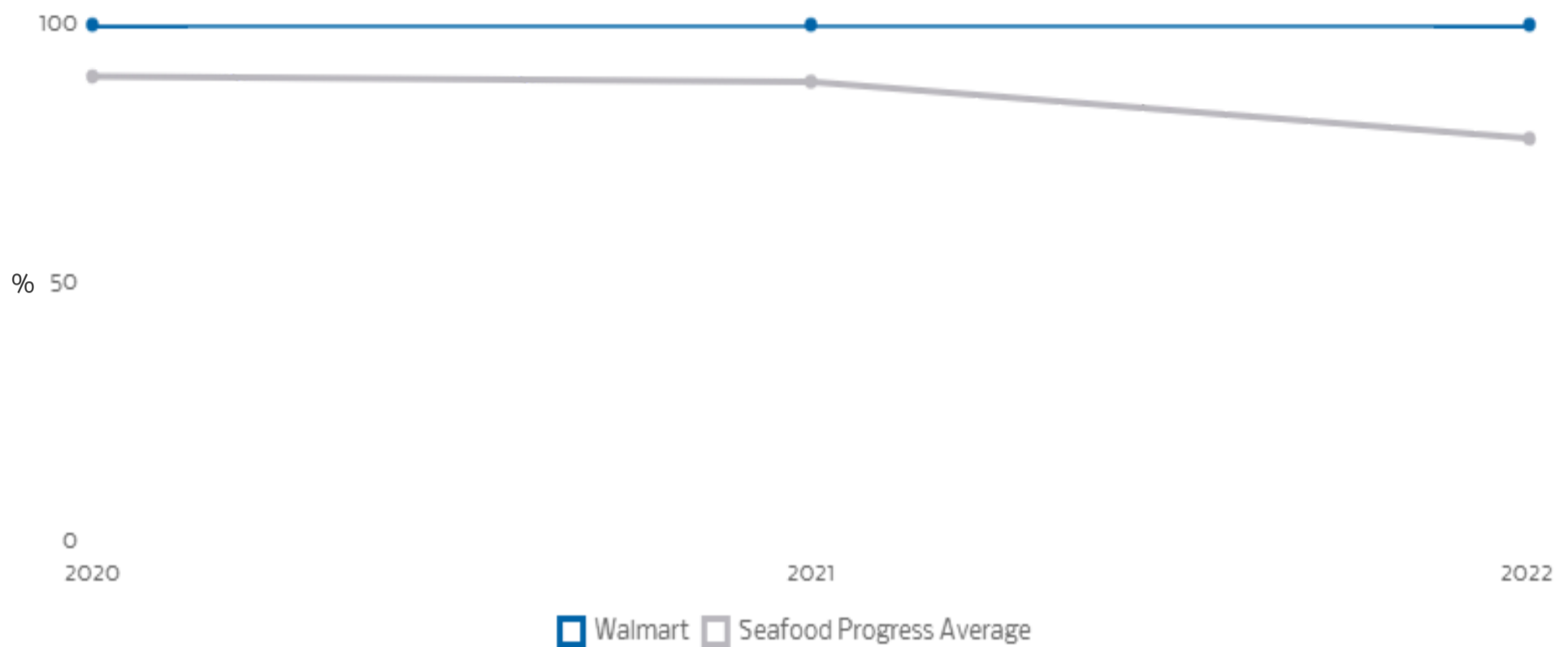


1

Commitment

Does the grocery store have comprehensive commitments to sustainable and socially responsible seafood?

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



Walmart Canada's sustainable seafood policy states that by 2025, "based on price, availability, quality, customer demand, and unique regulatory environments across its global retail markets", all suppliers of its fresh and frozen (farmed and wild) seafood products, and canned tuna, will be sourced from fisheries or farms certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) or Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP), or by an equivalent program that follows FAO Guidelines and is recognized by the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative. Walmart is also committed to sourcing from fisheries or farms that are actively working towards certification, or fisheries or farms that are engaged in improvement projects that have "definitive and ambitious goals, measurable metrics and time bound milestones". For its canned tuna, Walmart will also "source from suppliers using better management fishing practices as validated through chain of custody (e.g. pole and line, free-school sets)." Walmart supports these commitments with a full chain traceability policy that traces the product scientific name, geographic origin, farmed/wild, gear type and farming method (personal communication, K. Novak, 24/03/2022).

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.

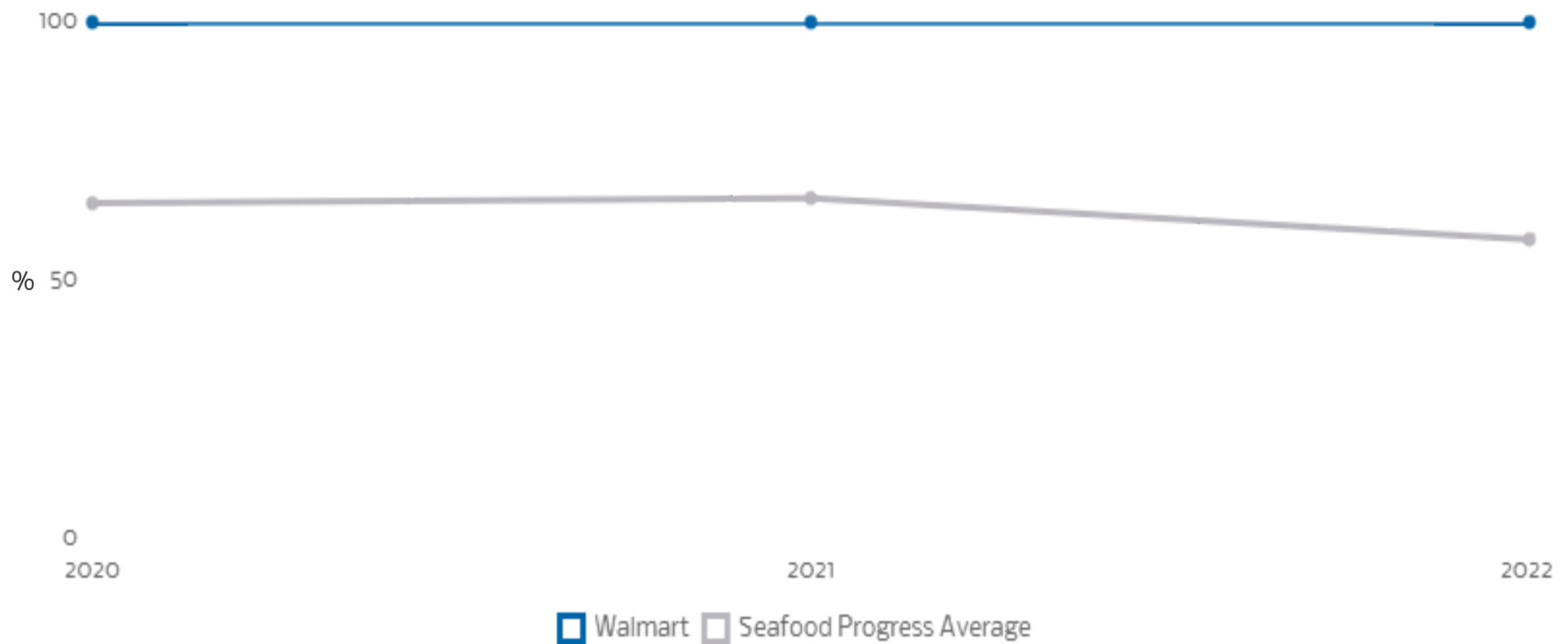
60% Commitment to environmental sustainability that includes clear objectives that are supported by references to credible standards (such as Seafood Watch or Ocean Wise ratings, eco-certifications, etc.).

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.



Walmart suppliers are expected to comply with [Walmart's Standards for Suppliers](#) and applicable [Responsible Sourcing Program](#) requirements. The Standards for Suppliers apply throughout the supply chain and set out Walmart's expectations of suppliers and their facilities regarding the ethical treatment of workers, workplace safety, environmental responsibility and appropriate business practices. Walmart has a well-developed traceability policy to verify compliance with its social responsibility commitment, and this is verified through the use of social, safety and environmental compliance audits which follow a risk-based approach. Finally, Walmart reported on the results of its FY2021 social compliance audits through its [2021 ESG Report](#).

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.

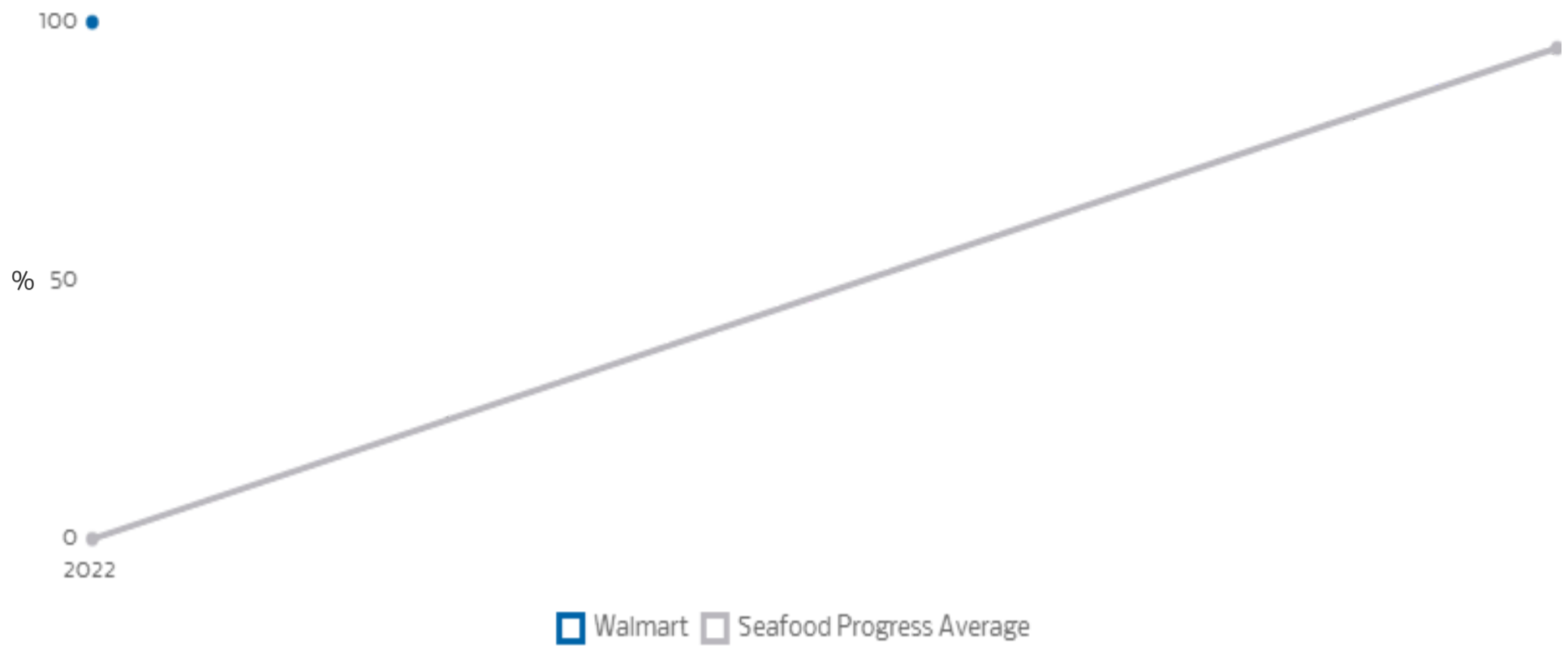
60% Commitment to social responsibility includes clear objectives and actions or expectations for seafood suppliers.

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.



Walmart Canada covers all of its stores in its sustainable seafood commitment (personal communication, Walmart Canada Manager, Sustainability, 24/03/2022).

Scoring

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

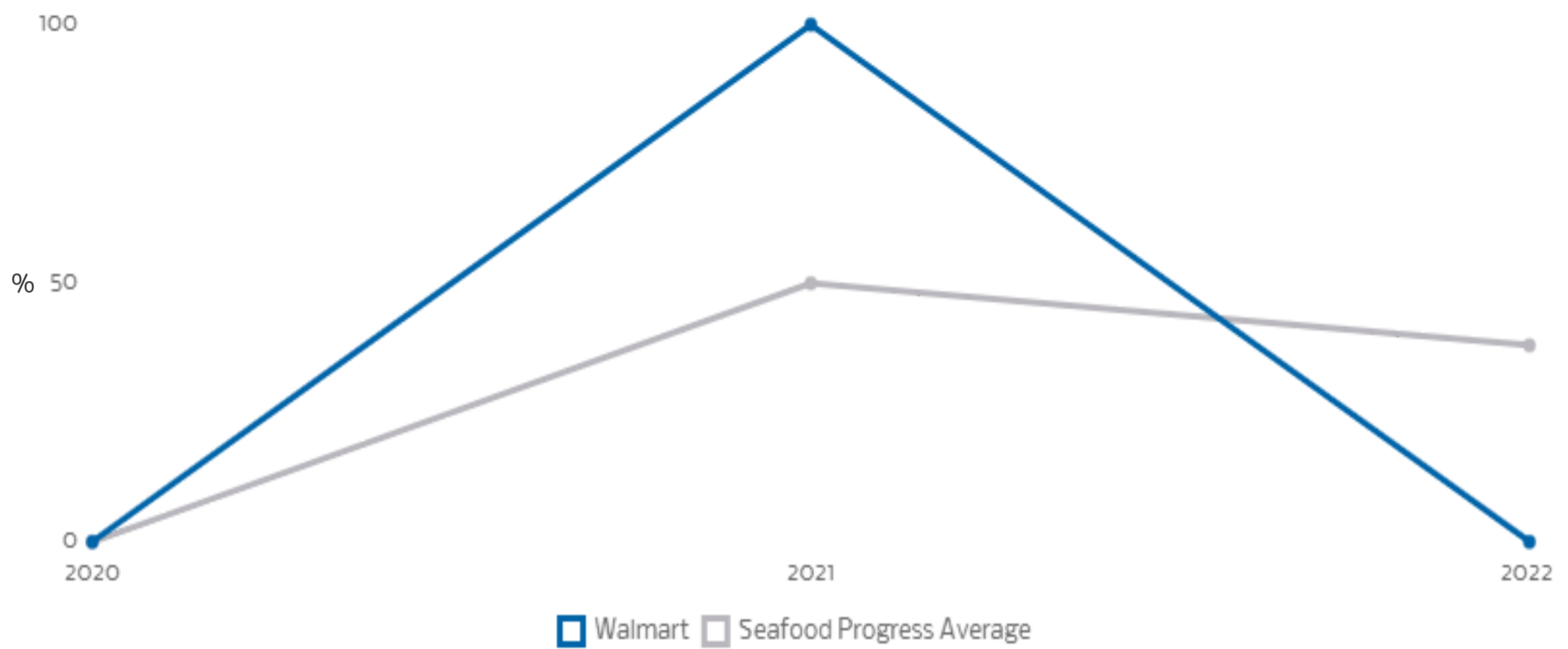
75% Grocery store includes 75% or more of its banners in its sustainable seafood commitment.

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.



Walmart Canada's sustainable seafood commitment includes all canned tuna products but not other shelf stable products (personal communication, Walmart Canada Manager, Sustainability, 24/03/2022).

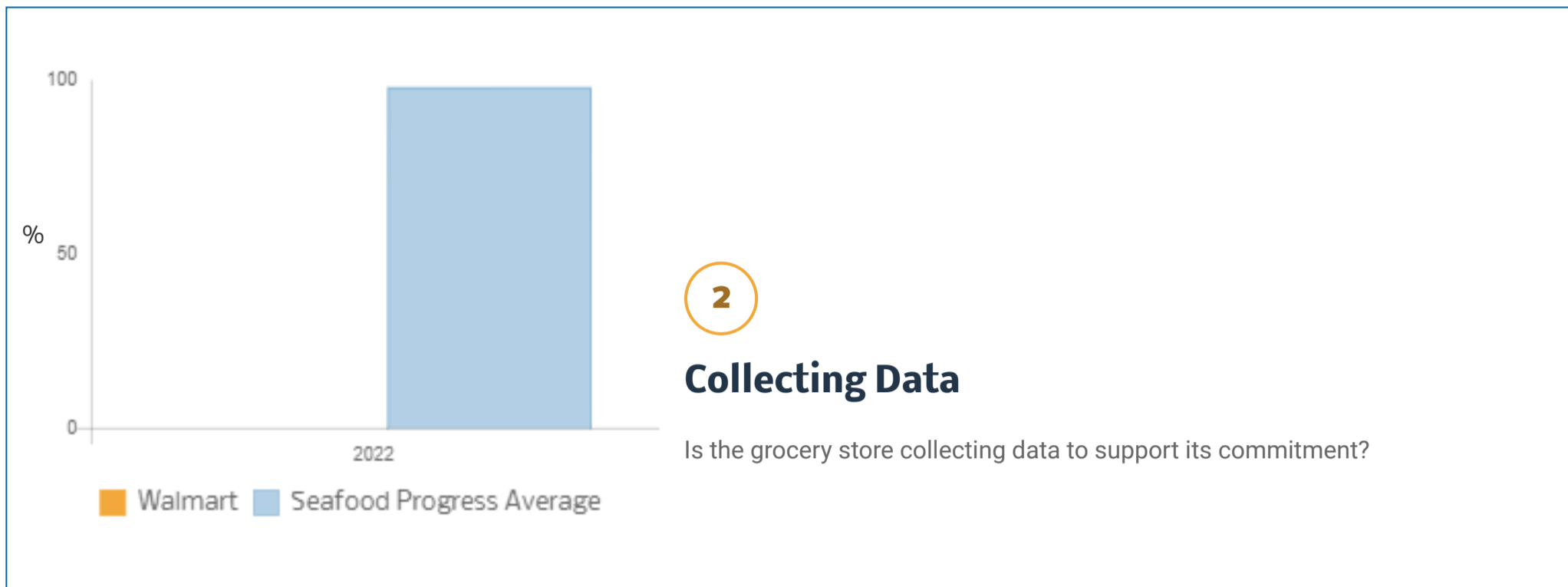
Scoring

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

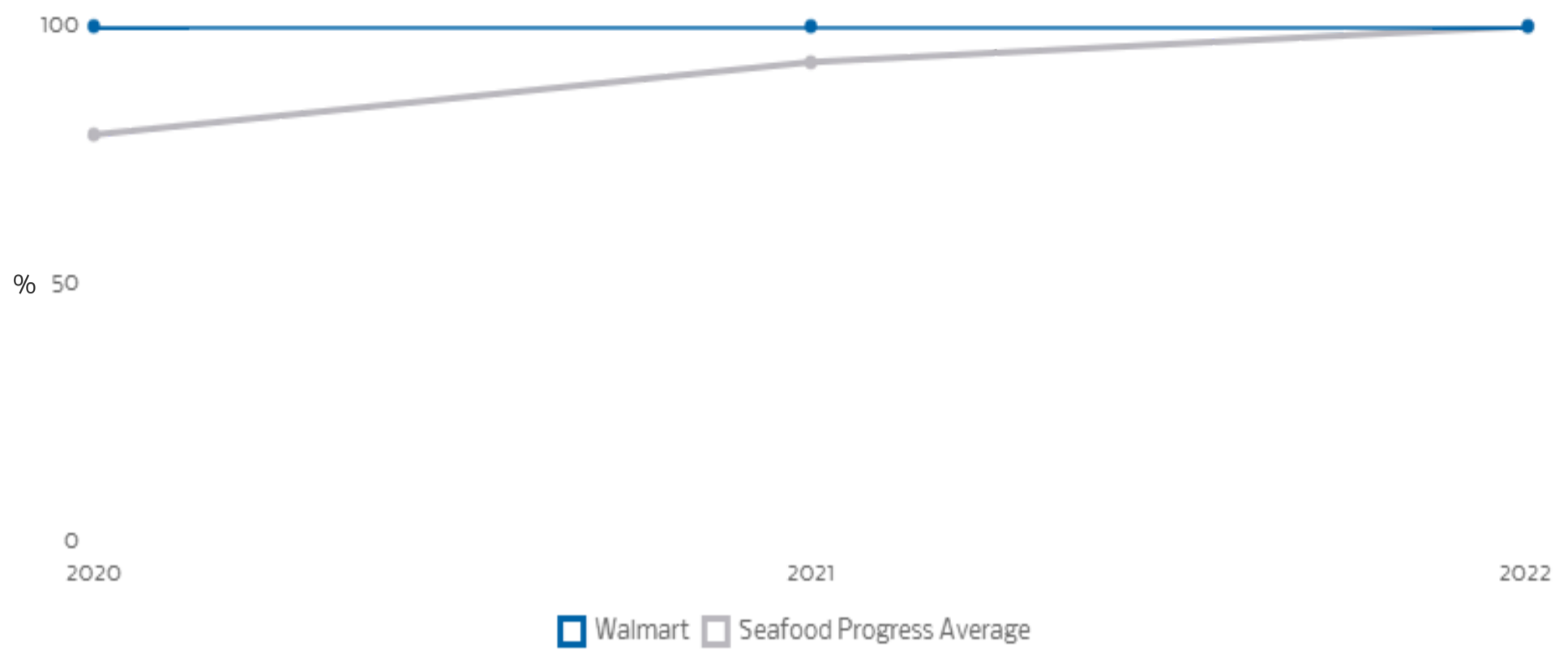
50% Grocery store's commitment includes all of its shelf stable or national brand products.

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.



Walmart collects data on scientific name for all seafood products covered under its sustainability commitment (personal communication, K. Novak, 24/03/2022).

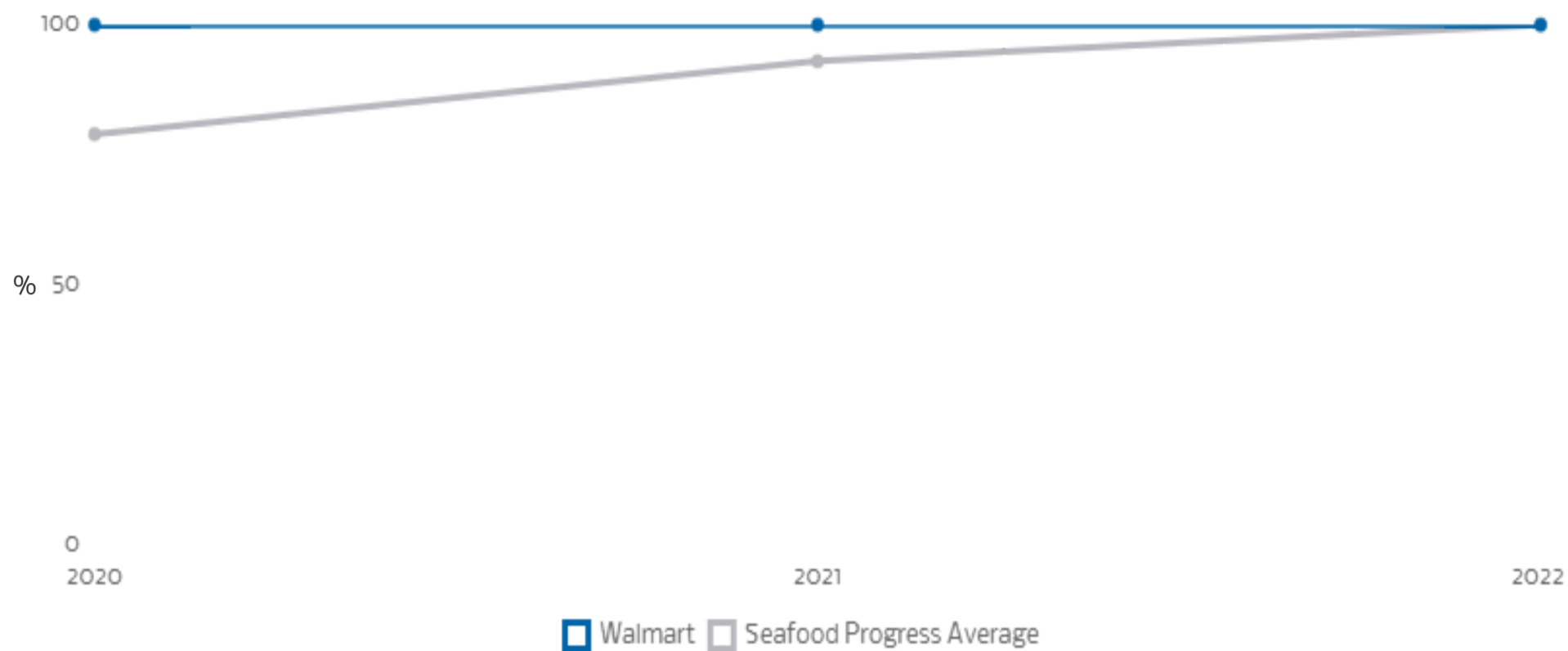
Scoring

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.



Walmart collects data on country or region of catch for all seafood products covered by its sustainability commitment (personal communication, K. Novak, 24/03/2022).

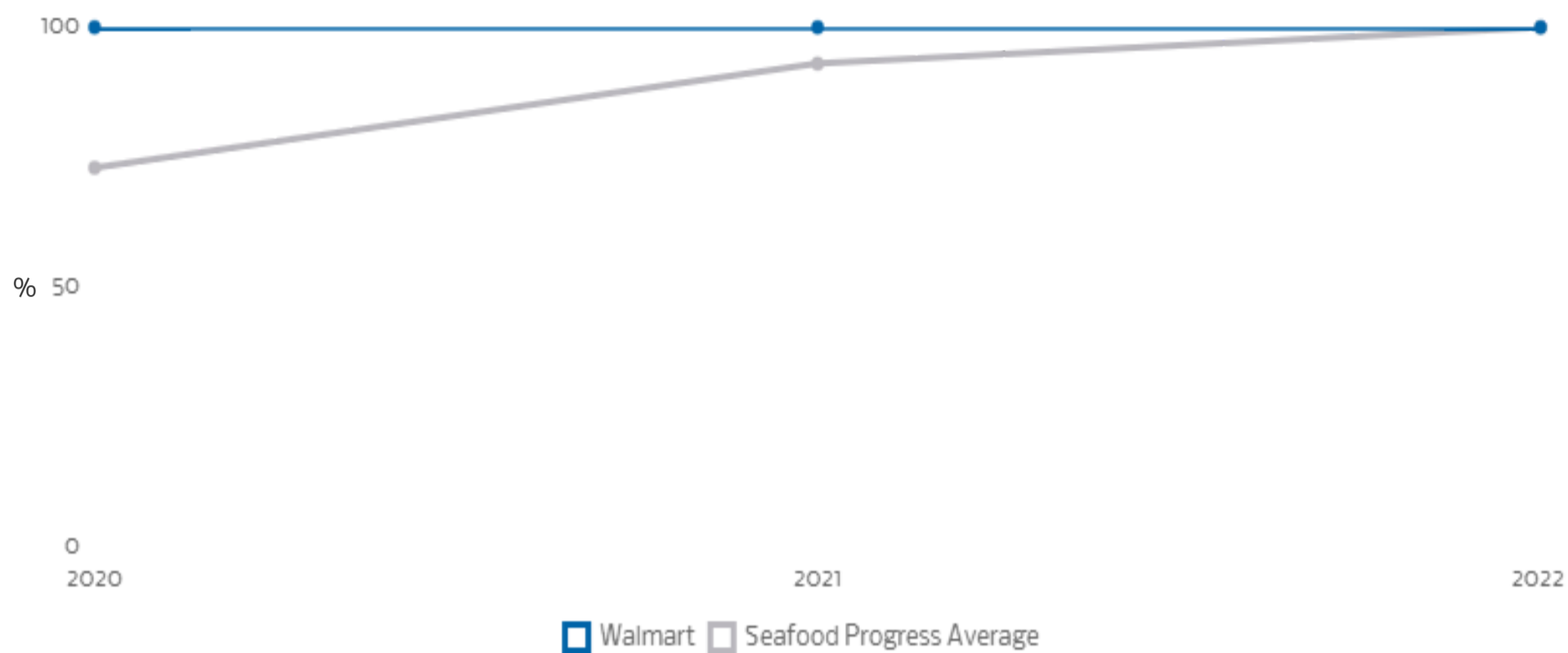
Scoring

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.



Walmart collects data on whether wild or farmed for all seafood products that are covered by its commitment (personal communication, K. Novak, 24/03/2022).

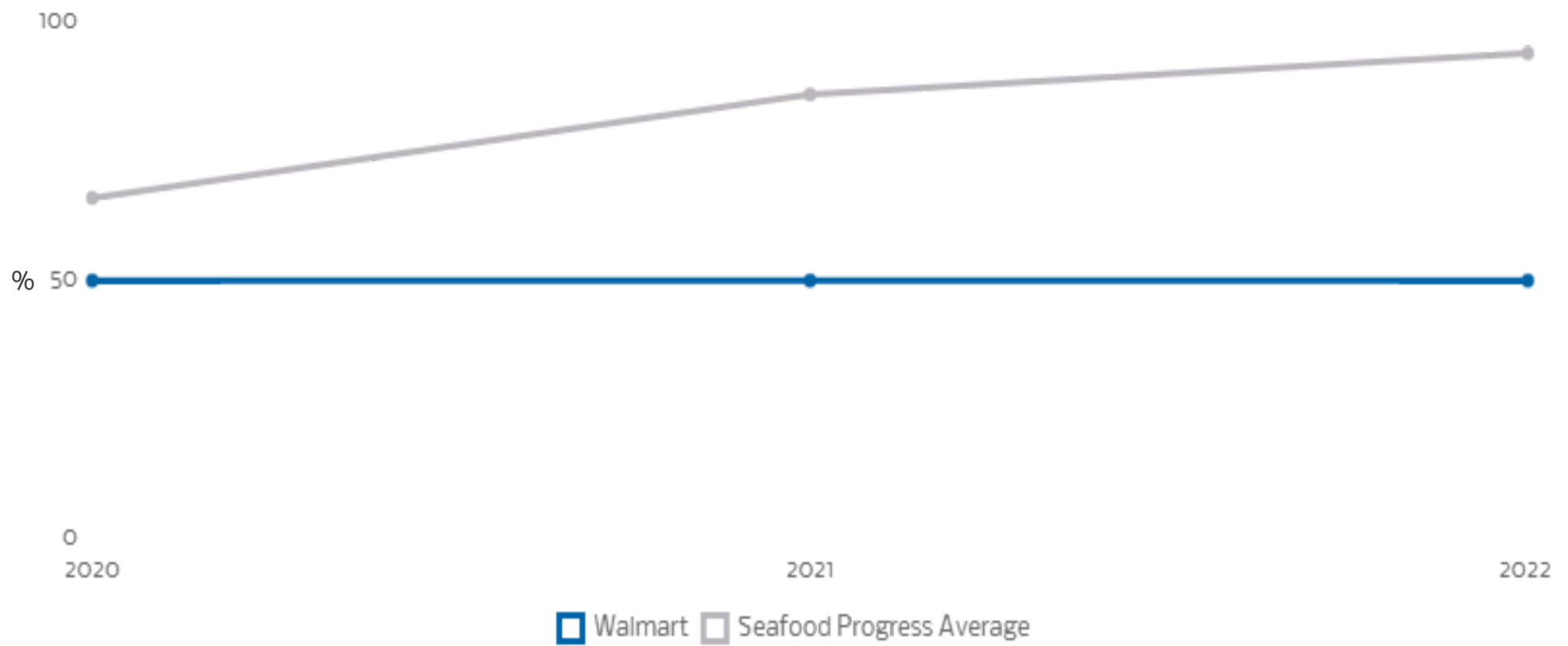
Scoring

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.



Walmart collects data on gear type for all wild-caught seafood products and farming method for some farmed products that are covered by its commitment (personal communication, K. Novak, 24/03/2022).

Scoring

100% Collects data for all products.

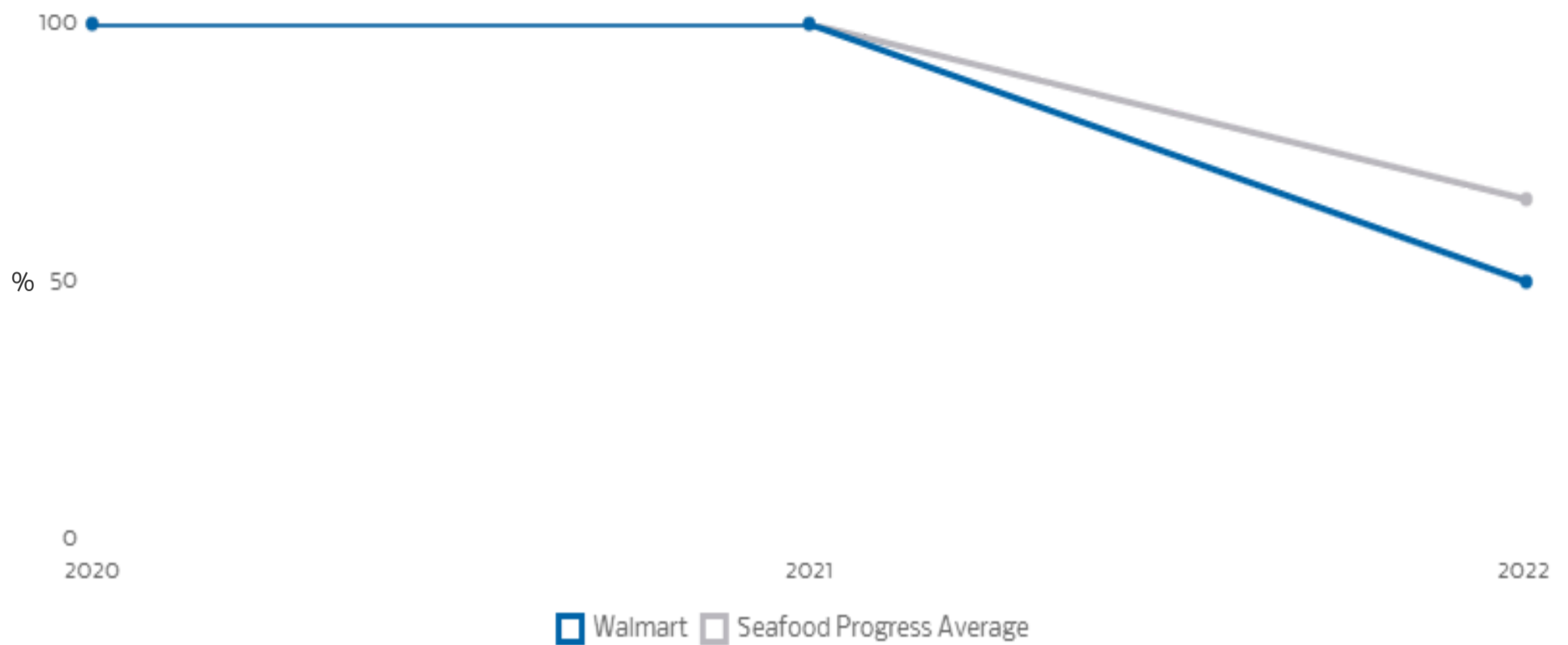
50% Collects data for some products.

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

STEP 3: SOURCING



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



Walmart publishes a clear hierarchy of sustainability standards used for sourcing its fresh and frozen (farmed and wild) seafood products, and canned tuna, but doesn't identify the standards it uses to inform its purchasing decisions for all other shelf stable products.

Scoring

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

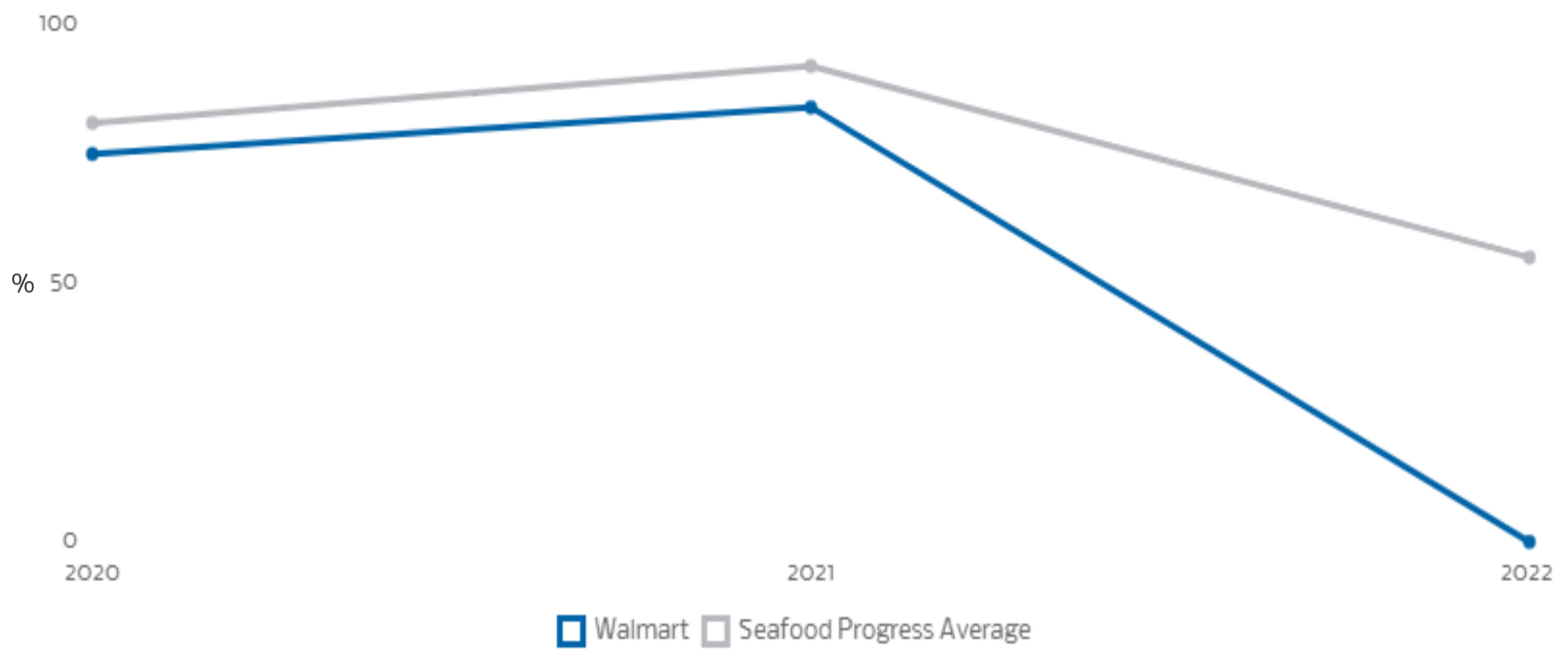
75% Publishes a clear hierarchy of sustainability standards used for sourcing some commodities, and identifies a general list of sustainability standards that it uses to inform its purchasing decisions for other commodities.

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.



Walmart Canada will report on the breakdown of seafood products by category in 2021 that met its commitment through its ESG disclosure in June 2022, but will not be disclosing the overall percentage of all seafood products sold that were in line with its commitment in 2021 (personal communication, Walmart Canada Manager, Sustainability, 06/05/2022).

Scoring

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

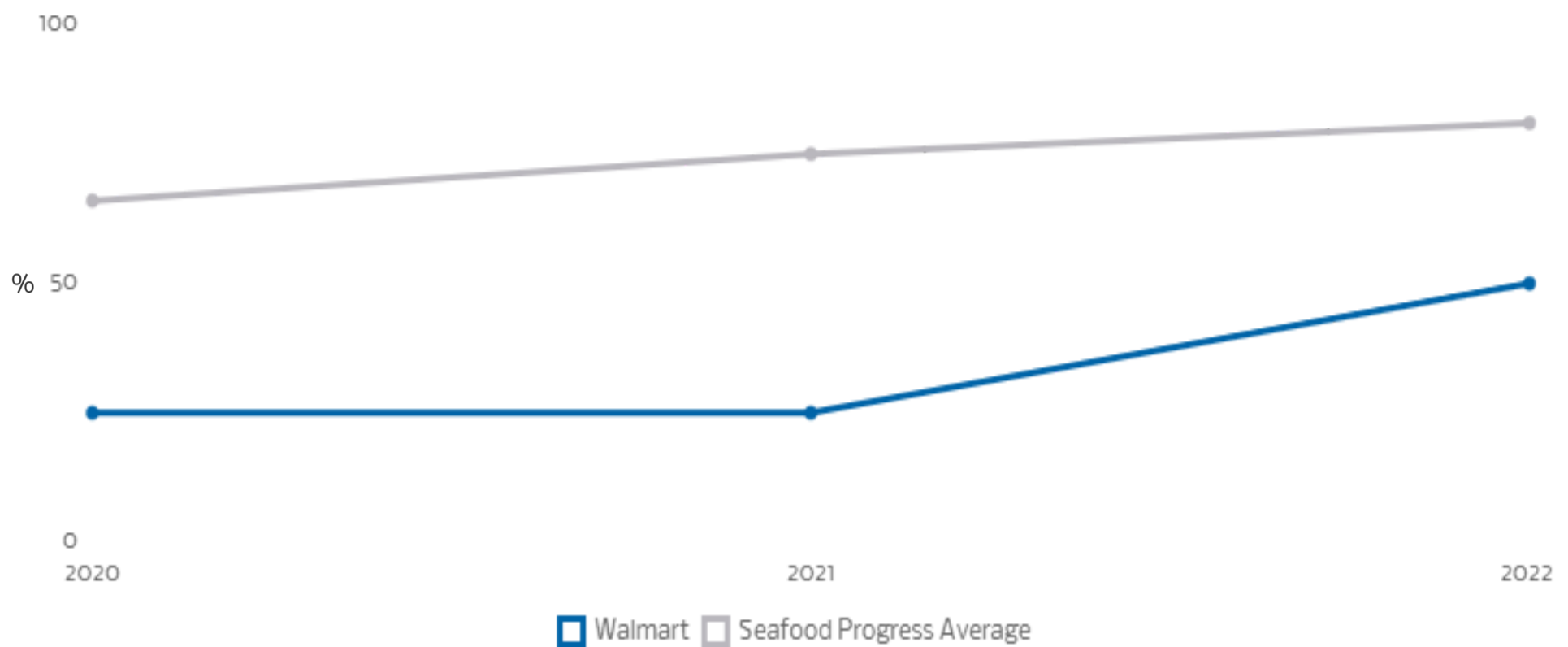
75% Grocery store has reported that 75% or more of its seafood sold meets its sustainability commitment.

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 Walmart's suppliers sign a vendor agreement to ensure they will abide by all of its policies, which includes its responsible sourcing policies. However, only suppliers of its private label seafood products agree in writing to uphold Walmart's seafood-specific standards via a product specification sheet of sorts (personal communication, Walmart Canada Manager, Sustainability, 24/03/2022). Walmart also has a supplier audit program that involves identifying and inspecting products upon receipt to ensure compliance with its commitments, and occasionally conducts DNA tests on its private label seafood products (personal communication, Walmart Canada Manager, Sustainability, 24/03/2022).

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.

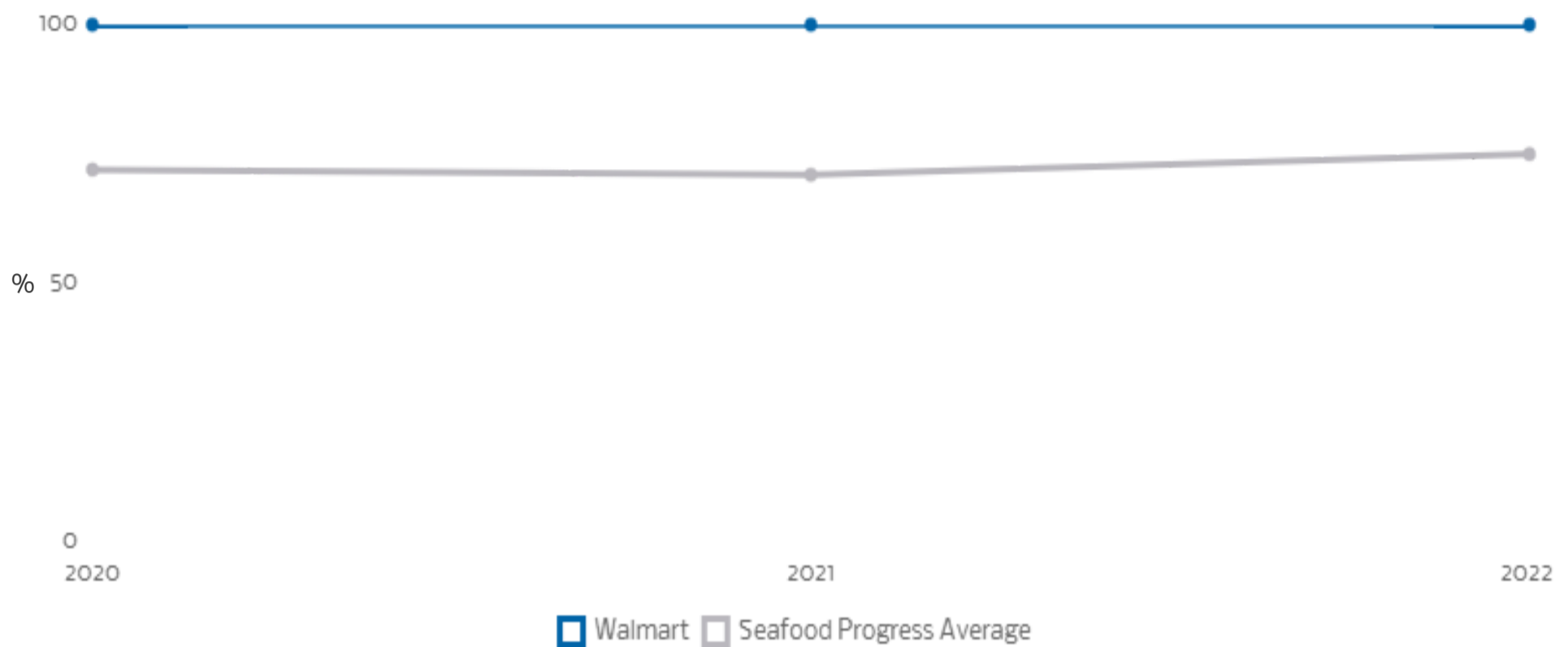
75% Rubric for retailers Feb 17 2022 Rubric for retailers Feb 17 2022 .XLSX 100% 10 B84 All suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct that covers all of the retailer's environmental sustainability commitment. Screen reader support enabled. All suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct that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



Walmart's Auditing and Assessment Policy and Guidance [\[link\]](#) states that suppliers are required to sign a vendor agreement which includes adherence to Walmart's standards and responsible sourcing program, and are subject to audits following a risk-based approach. This means that low risk suppliers are not subject to regularly scheduled audits, but each year Walmart selects a sample of facilities to receive an audit. Medium-risk and high-risk suppliers are audited as dictated by the supplier's chosen third party audit program. Facilities in countries that fall into medium and higher levels of risk are typically subject to regular audits, regardless of the outcome of earlier audits of the same facilities (personal communication, Walmart Canada Manager, Sustainability, 24/03/2022).

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.

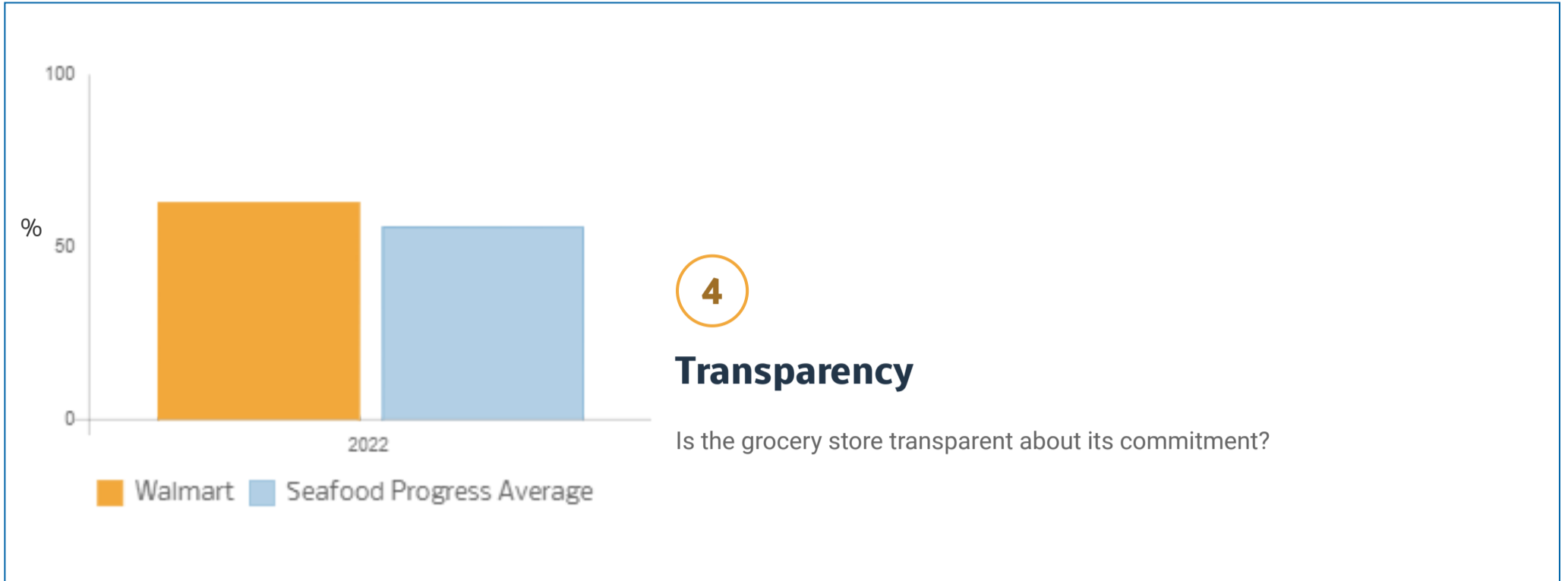
75% Rubric for retailers Feb 17 2022 Rubric for retailers Feb 17 2022 .XLSX 100% 10 B92 All suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct that covers all of the retailer's social responsibility commitment. Screen reader support enabled. All suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct that covers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

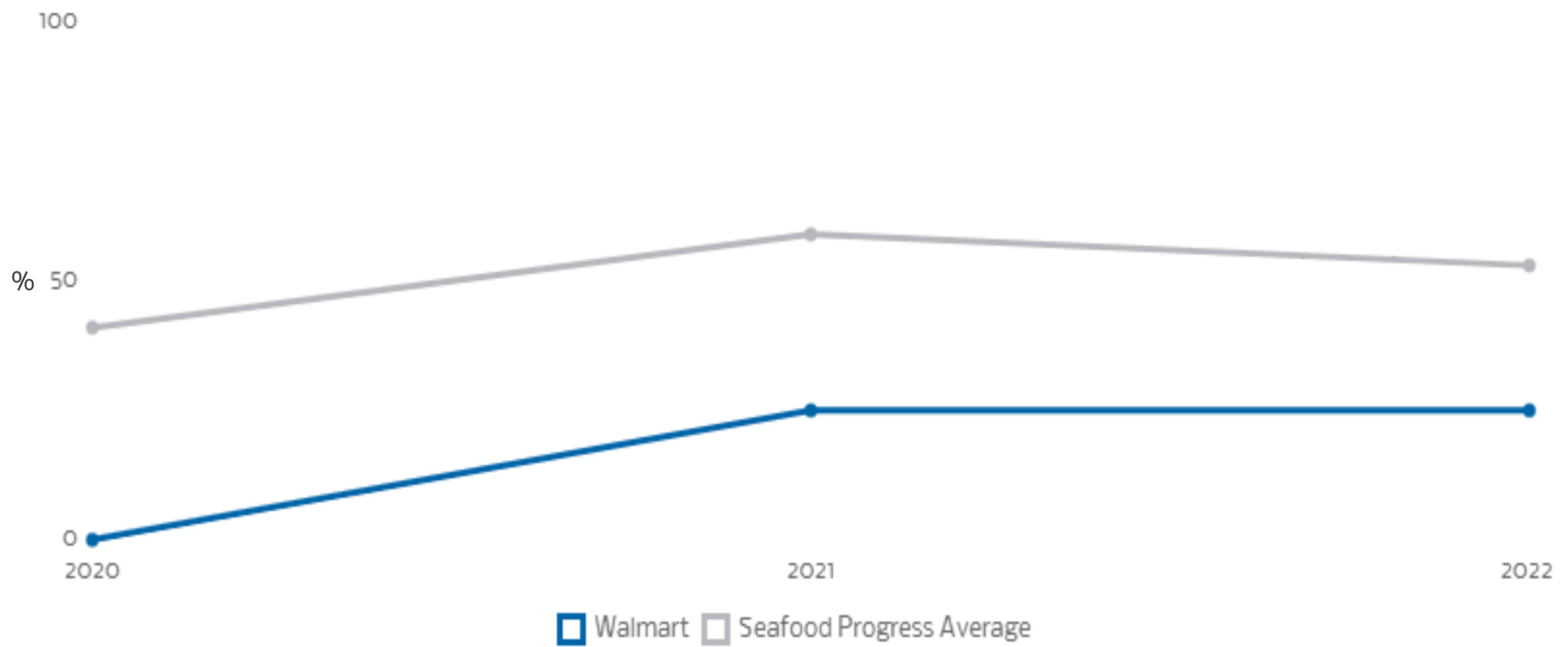
25% Some suppliers are required to sign a code of conduct that covers some of the grocery store's social responsibility commitment.

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.



Walmart Canada labels some of its private label products as wild and with the geographic origin, but does not label any private label products with scientific name, gear type or farming method, or as farmed (personal communication, Walmart Canada Manager, Sustainability, 24/03/2022).

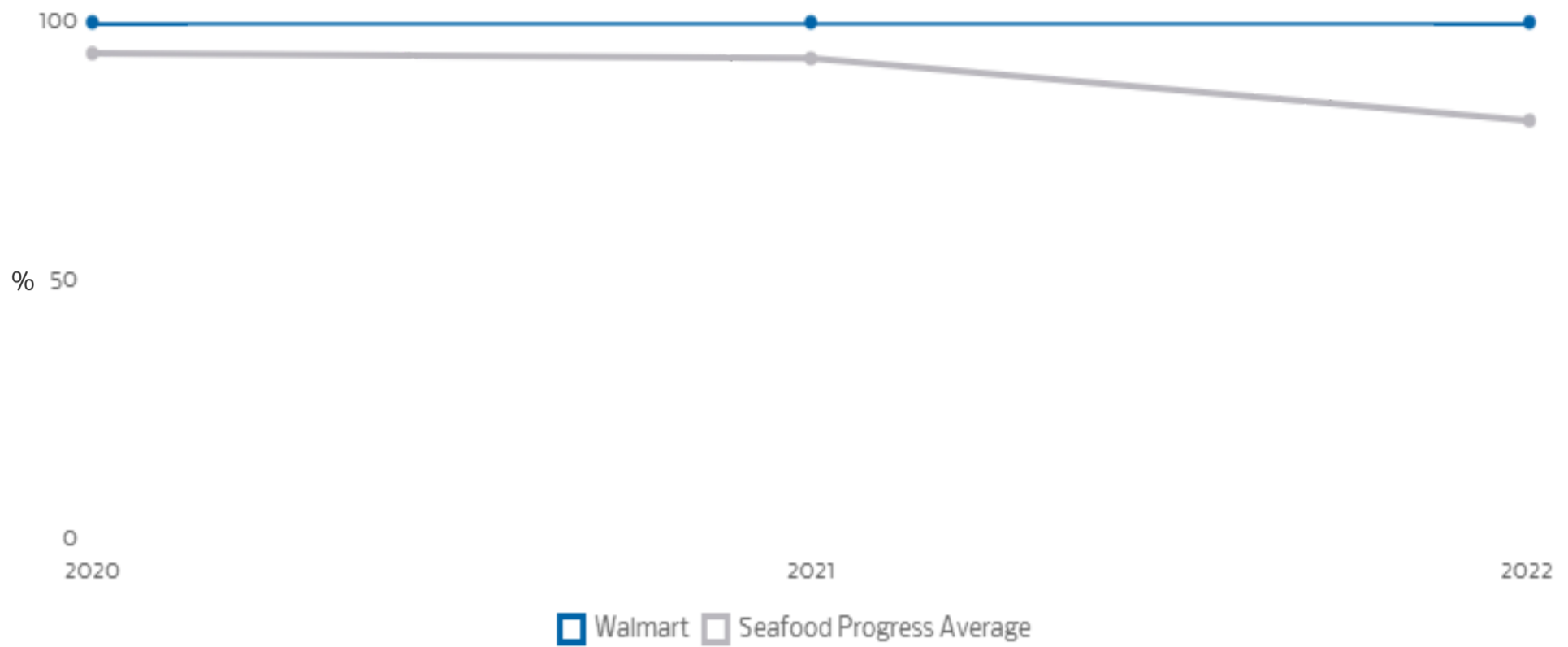
Scoring

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.



Walmart uses the MSC, ASC or BAP eco-labels for all products that are certified under those standards (personal communication, Walmart Canada Manager, Sustainability, 24/03/2022).

Scoring

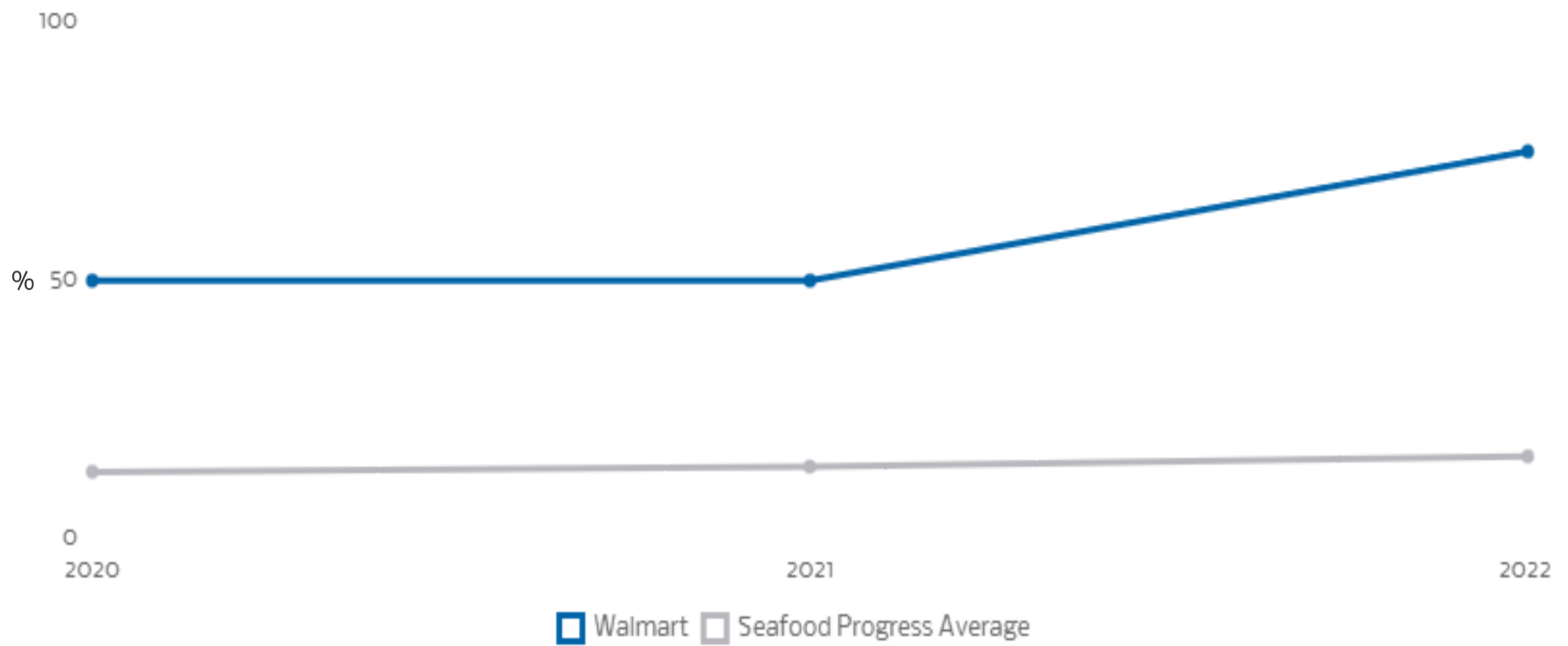


100% Grocery store labels all products with an ecolabel as appropriate.

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.



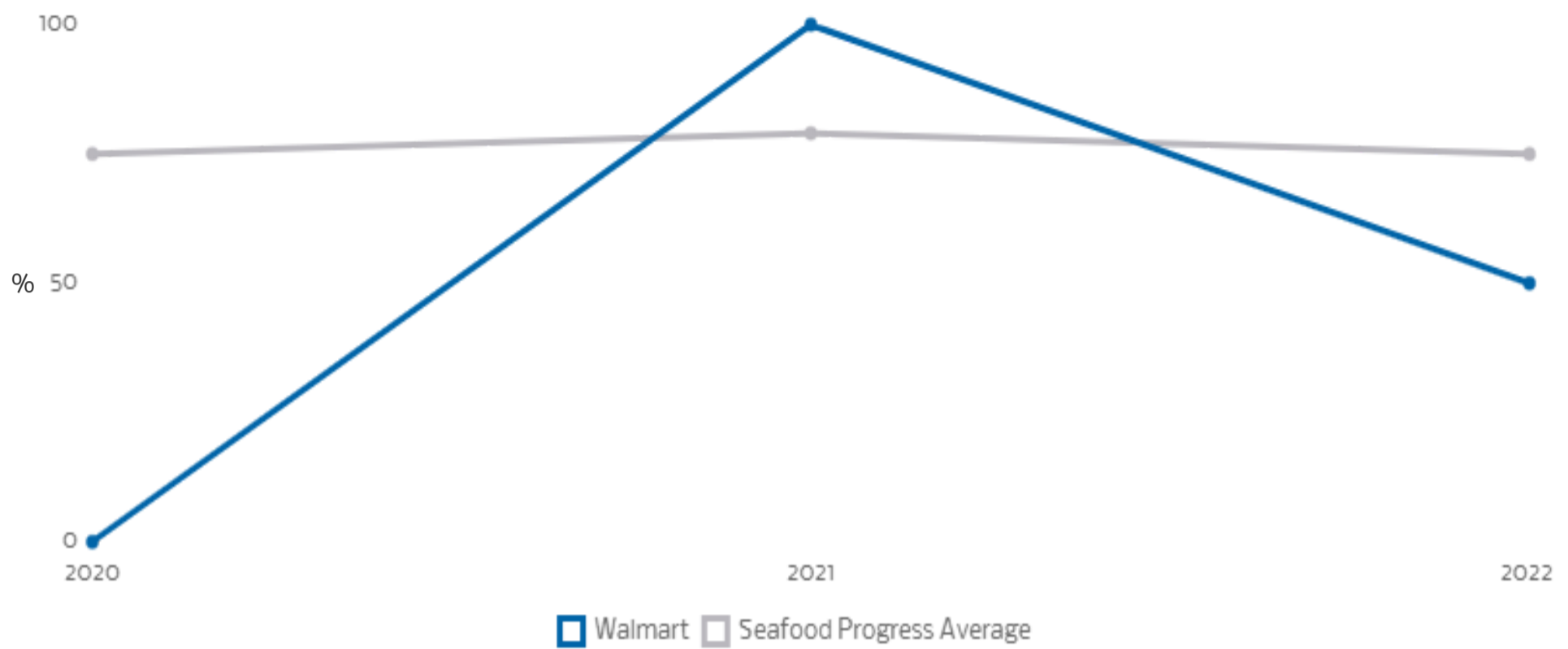
Walmart discloses the geographic origin of all its wild and farmed products, the gear type of all its wild products, and the farming method of some of its farmed products through its 2021 Ocean Disclosure Project (ODP) profile [link] (personal communication, Walmart Canada Manager, Sustainability, 24/03/2022).

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.

Walmart : 100
Seafood Progress Average : 100

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



Walmart Canada reports annually on a breakdown of seafood products sold by category through its ESG disclosures, but has not ever disclosed the overall percentage of seafood products sold (including canned products) that were in line with its commitment (personal communication, Walmart Canada Manager, Sustainability, 06/05/2022).

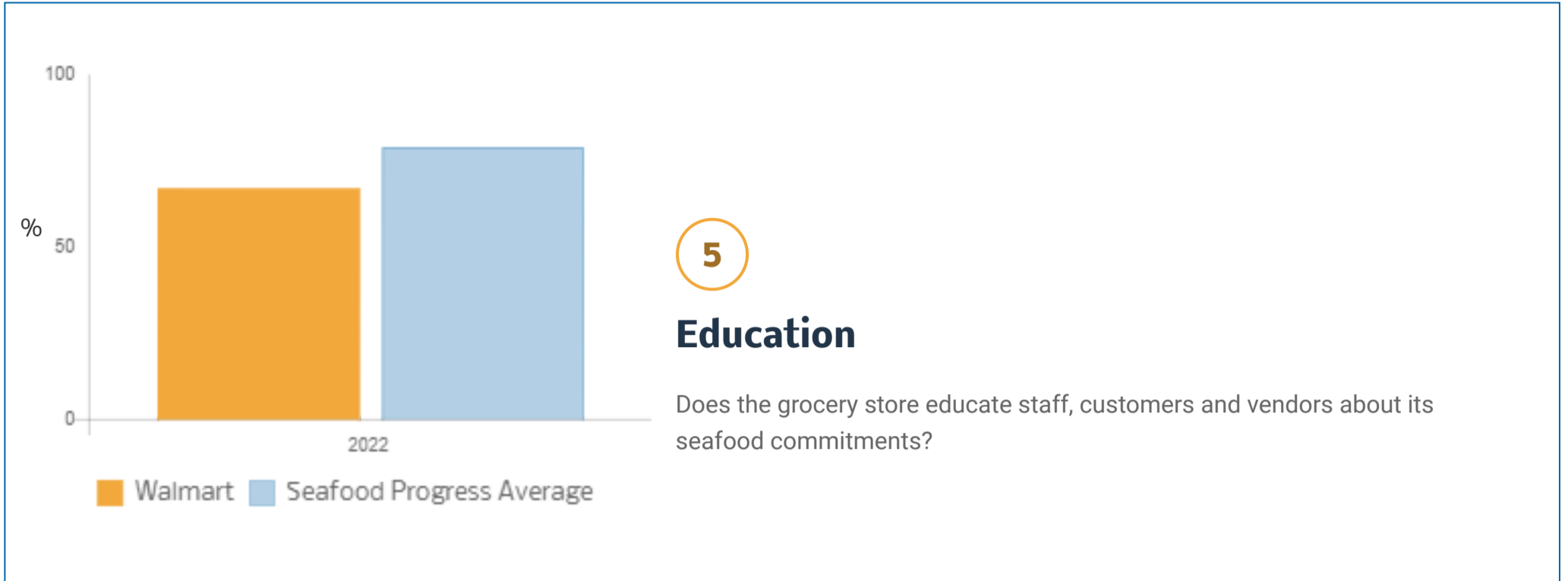
Scoring

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

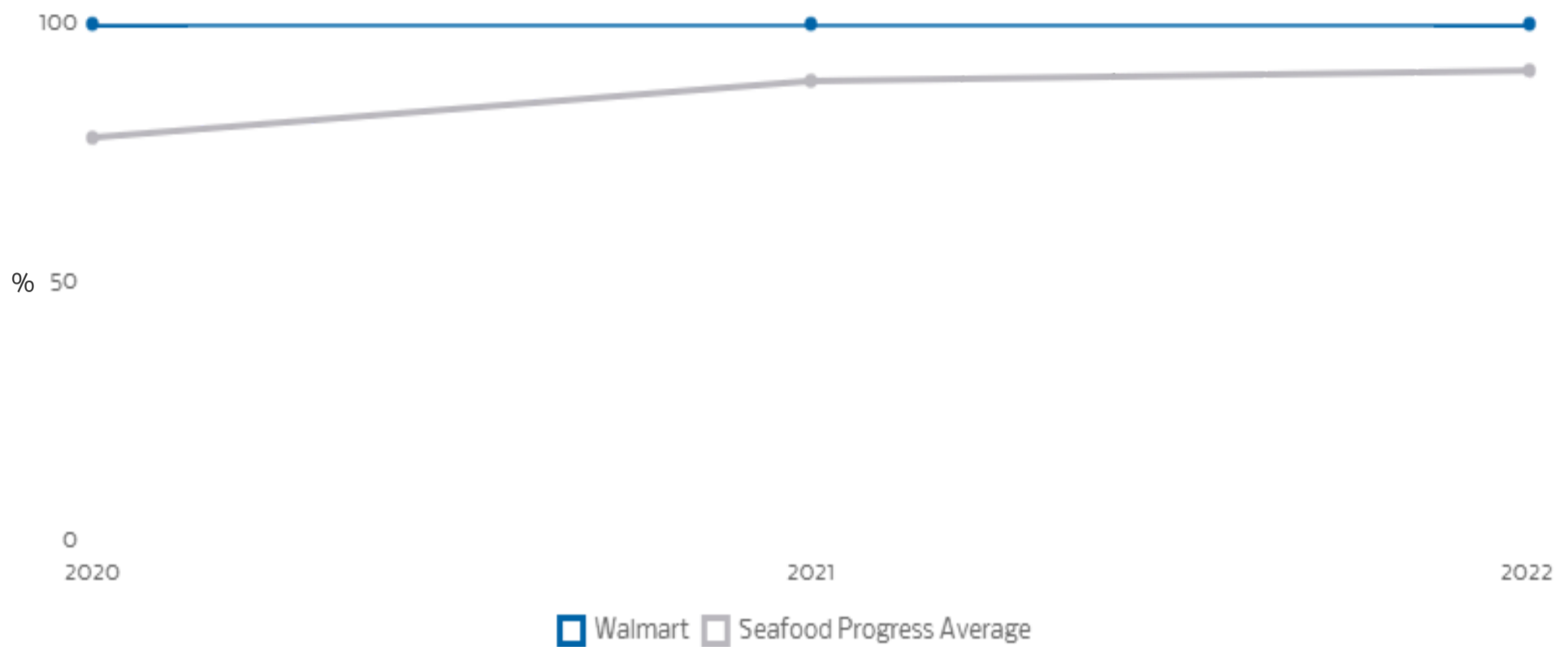
50% Rubric for retailers Feb 17 2022 Rubric for retailers Feb 17 2022 .XLSX 100% 10 B123 Retailer has at one point reported publicly how much of its seafood sold meets its commitment. Screen reader support enabled. Retailer has at one point reported publicly how much of its seafood sold meets its commitment.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

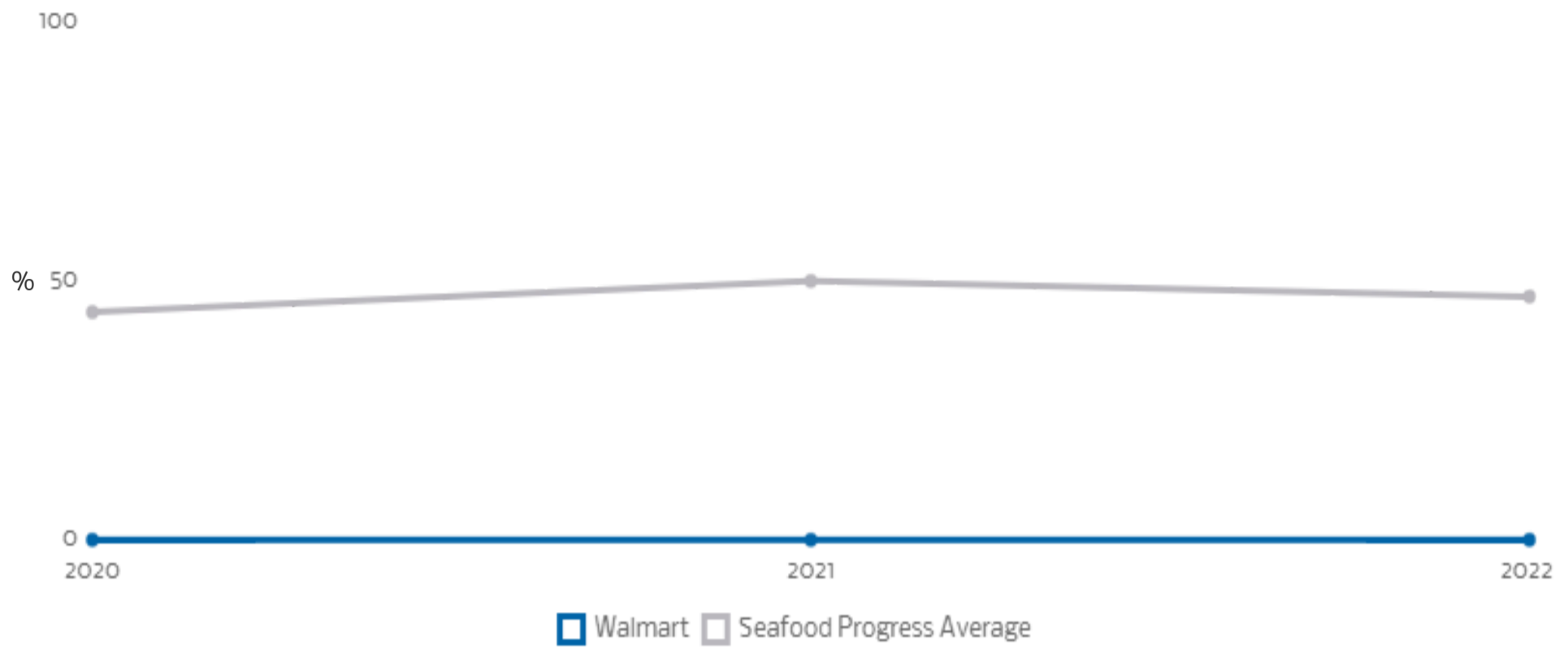


Walmart Canada does not have 'seafood counter staff' in its stores because it doesn't have seafood counters - rather it sells products prepackaged in freezers and coolers. Walmart does conduct training for staff responsible for seafood purchasing on a regular basis to ensure they are familiar with Walmart's policy and progress to goal (personal communication, Walmart Canada Manager, Sustainability, 24/03/2022).

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.



Walmart currently does not have information on its commitment to sustainable and/or socially responsible seafood in its stores (personal communication, Walmart Canada Manager, Sustainability, 24/03/2022).

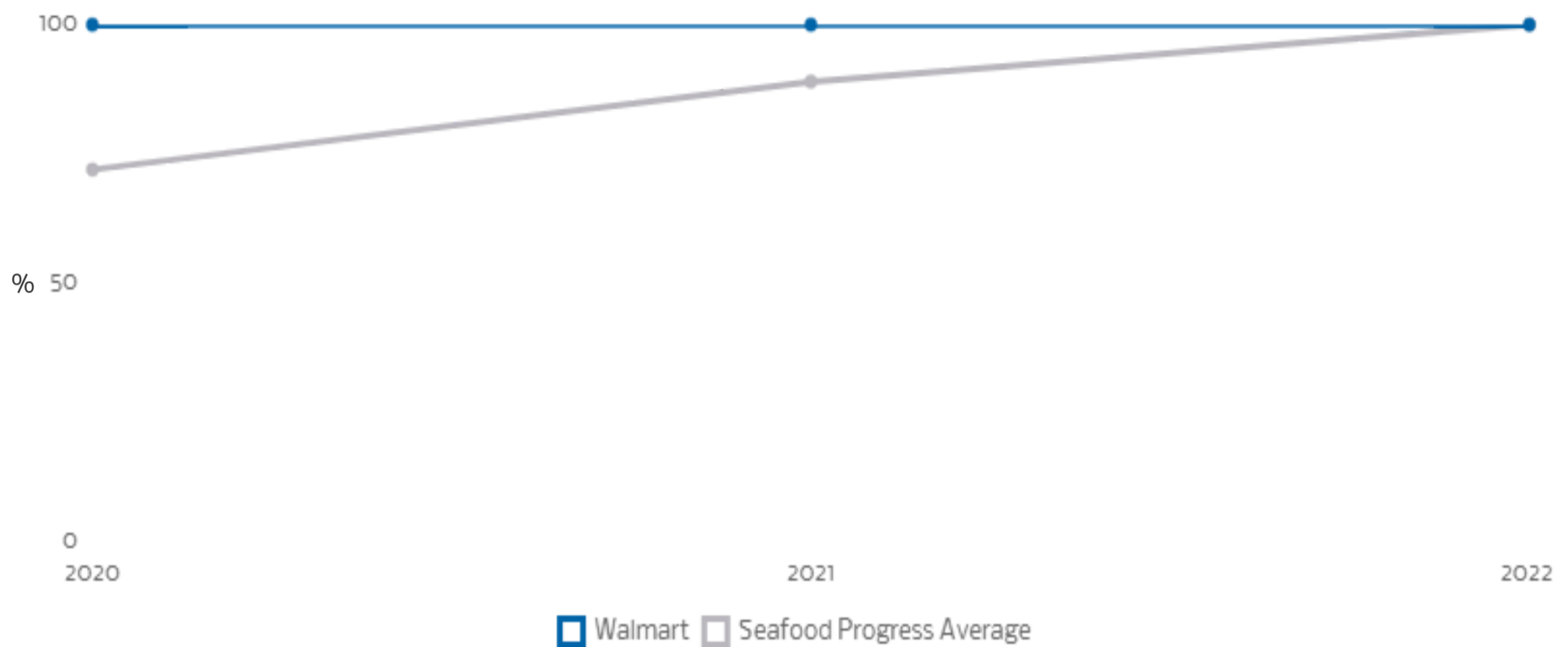
Scoring

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.



Walmart shares its sustainable seafood commitment with its suppliers and requires quarterly updates regarding sourcing information from suppliers to ensure they are tracking toward Walmart's sustainability commitment. Walmart also provides direct support to its vendors through training on its data reporting requirements and seafood sourcing standards (personal communication, Walmart Canada Manager, Sustainability, 24/03/2022).

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.

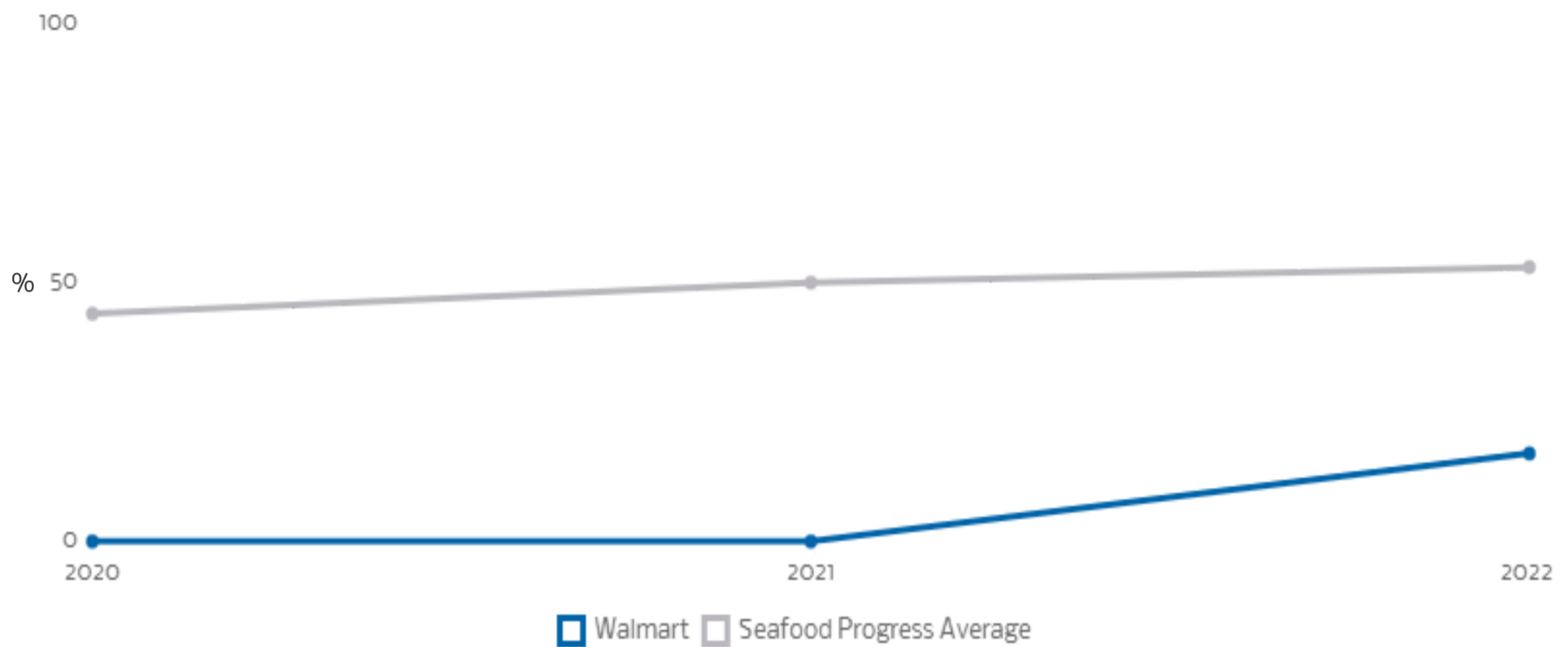
25% The grocery store sends its suppliers or venders a copy of its sustainable seafood commitment.

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

STEP 6: TAKING INITIATIVE



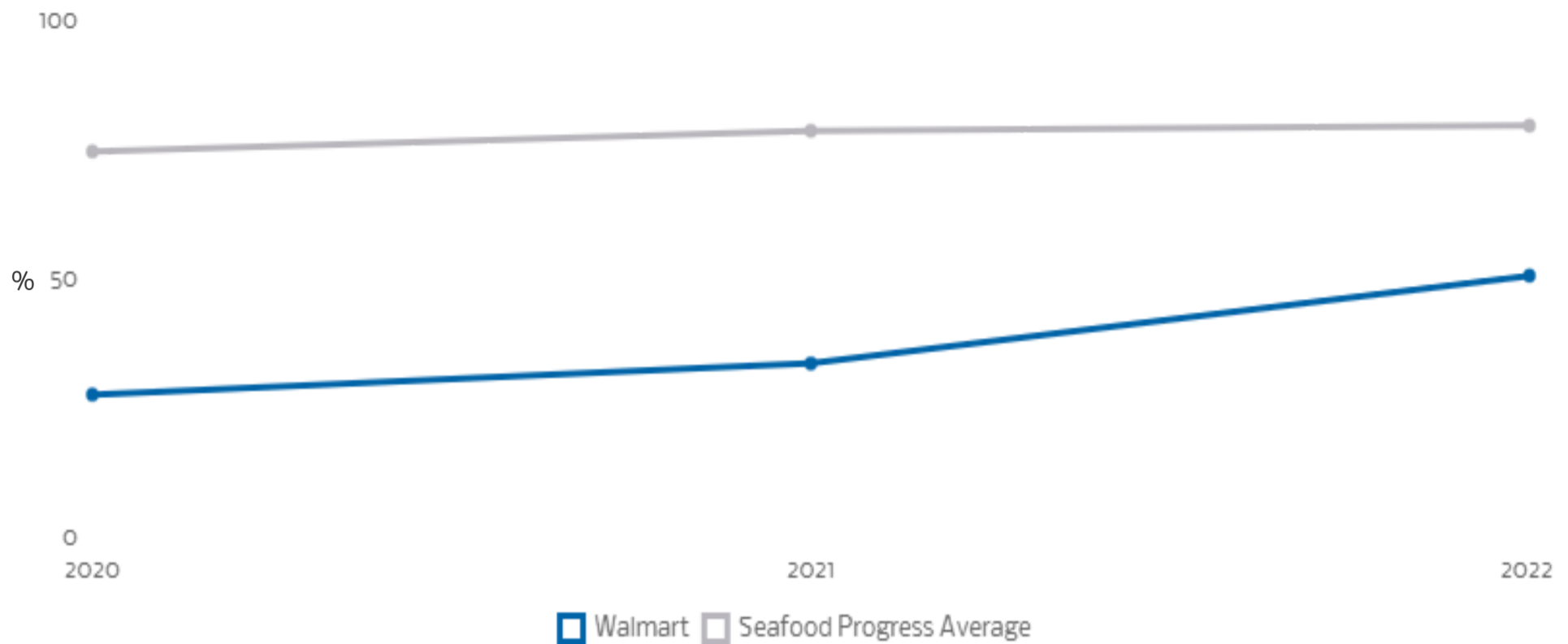
6.1 Farmed Atlantic salmon (either Canadian produced or imported)



As of today, Walmart US and Walmart Canada do not purchase genetically modified salmon for distribution in its stores (personal communication, Walmart Canada Manager, Sustainability, 06/05/2022).

- ✘ 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).

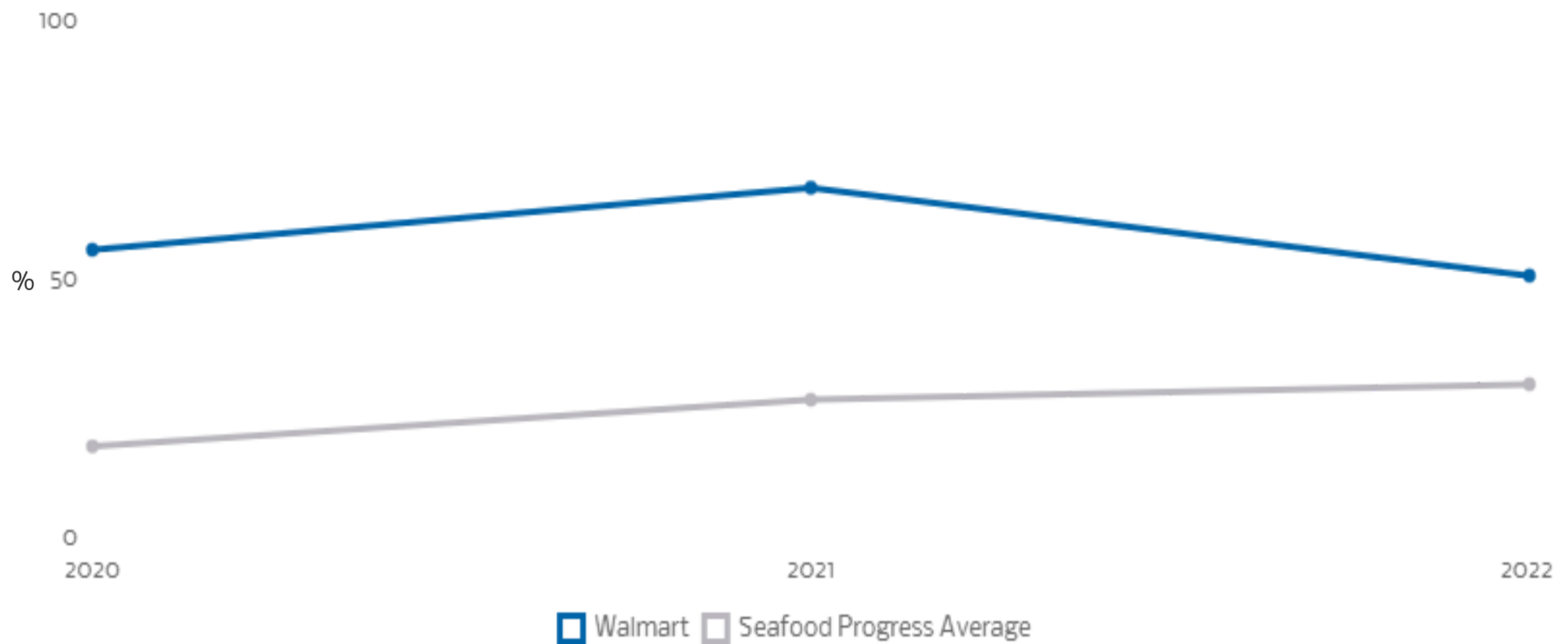
6.2 Farmed shrimps and prawns, Imported - multiple spp.



Walmart is a member of the Seafood Task Force and as such actively collaborates with other companies pre-competitively to improve aquaculture practices (personal communication, Walmart Canada Manager, Sustainability, 24/03/2022). Walmart preferentially sources BAP certified shrimp and prawns which are traceable through chain of custody.

- ✘ 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).

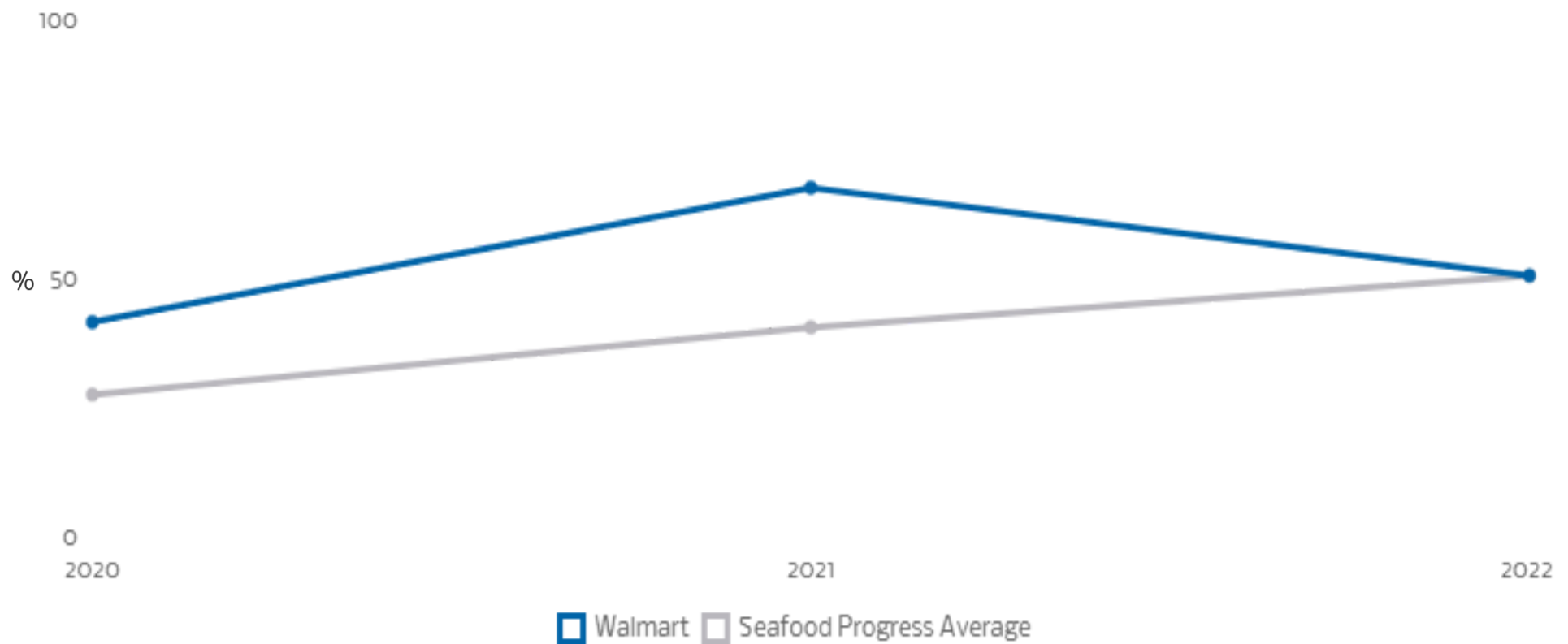
6.3 Skipjack tuna (bonito) - *Katsuwonus pelamis*.



Walmart is committed to, by 2025, sourcing all canned tuna from fisheries that are certified as sustainable by MSC, or in a credible FIP or a program which follows FAO Guidelines on eco-labels and is recognized by the GSSI as such. At the end of 2020, WMC met its commitment to source all private label canned tuna from fisheries certified by MSC. Walmart preferentially sources MSC certified skipjack products which are traceable through chain of custody. In terms of catch method, Walmart does not preferentially source pole and line caught skipjack products, but will offer customer choice in select markets based on local customer preference and market retail norms. Walmart is part of the Retailer Canned Tuna Forum, and in October 2021, it signed on to a [public letter](#) coordinated by the NGO Tuna Forum to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) regarding harvest strategies for tuna stocks (personal communication, Walmart Canada Manager, Sustainability, 06/05/2022).

- ✘ 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.



Walmart Canada collaborates pre-competitively on several Seafood Task Force subgroups as well as on the Seafood Task Force board. Additionally, Walmart Canada preferentially sources products from fisheries and farms that are certified by MSC and BAP, which are traceable through chain of custody (personal communication, Walmart Canada Manager, Sustainability, 06/05/2022).

- ✘ 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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