Global warming will push fish stocks more than 200 kilometres towards the poles by mid-century in a dislocation of ocean life, a study of more than 1,000 marine species projected.

Tropical nations were likely to suffer most as commercial fish stocks swam north or south to escape warming waters, the report said. Alaska, Greenland and Nordic nations would be among those to benefit from more fish.

"We'll see a major redistribution of many species because of climate change," said William Cheung of the University of British Columbia and the University of East Anglia in England, who was lead author of the study.

"On average, fish will change their distribution by more than 40 km per decade in the next 50 years."